

# Trumansburg Troubadour

## Healthy Food vs. Nachos: Tackling Cafeteria Food

By Sophie Isacks

When I first moved to a public school in third grade, I expected what I saw in cartoons: mean teachers who yelled every four seconds, cafeteria staff who served slop and were secretly lizard people, and the cafeteria to be anything but nice and bright—in most cases, I imagined dungeons. Almost all of my expectations were proven to be incorrect.

Instead, there's a nice, inviting cafeteria and nice cafeteria staff (the lizard people theory has yet to be proven) and pizza instead of slop. Four years later, I still sometimes think about lizard people, but I rarely think about slop being served on the red lunch trays.

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## Interview with Michael Levine, founder of Harmony Bridge

By Lilly Covell, Grace Sturdevant

Hi! This is agent Because789 (you might remember me from the Youth Art Month article in the last newsletter) and agent Flivver106 with another news story!

Michael Levine is a famous trombone player who is in Dallas Brass which is a brass band formed in 1983. But just recently, he came to our very own middle school to listen to our music, and help us improve. So, we decided to interview...Drumroll please...Mr. Levine himself!

### What inspired you to play music?

"I started out in school band in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I liked it OK, but it took several years before I really fell in love with it. Every year it got more fun and the better I got, the more fun it became. By the time I got to high school it was my favorite thing to do. And that's one of my goals of Harmony Bridge that it will make playing more fun for kids at a younger age."

### When you were younger what did you want to be when you grew up?

"As a little kid, I really loved baseball. I didn't think I was quite good enough to be a professional baseball player so at one point I thought I wanted to be an umpire."

The *Trumansburg Troubadour* welcomes your feedback!  
Please contact us with comments and story leads at  
[contact@tburgedfoundation.org](mailto:contact@tburgedfoundation.org)

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### *Interview with Michael Levine (con't)*

But when I realized that people were always yelling at the umpires, I decided it would be more fun to be a baseball announcer!”

#### **What gave you the idea to connect younger and older players?**

“The idea of having the younger and older students play together really came from your band directors. I thought it was great. I hope it was inspiring for the younger kids to sit next to older players and maybe pick up a few tips. It’s a good experience even if the younger kids couldn’t keep up completely because the music might be a little hard for them. I think the older kids liked it too because they could be role models.”

#### **What gave you the idea to connect band kids with senior citizens?**

“The idea of connecting kids with the older generation came from realizing that we have millions of elderly people that are no longer able to go out to concerts and other fun things like movies, and sports games, etc. Plus they might be a little lonely. To have kids from the band come to them and play some familiar songs — songs that they remember from their childhood — would be a really nice thing to do for them, and fun for the kids. Plus, then they get a chance to visit with each other and for kids to realize that these older people were once kids, too! It’s the kind of thing that might normally happen at Christmastime, but the idea of Harmony Bridge is that it could happen every month of the year!”

#### **How did you come up with the idea of the Trio Book?**

“We have three different Harmony Bridge Books. The TRIO book is my favorite because it was written especially for younger kids and I really want to see kids involved in playing in their own little groups at a younger age. Actually, I wish that I would have had the Trio Book when I was starting out!



I wanted to have the kids see the other parts being played so they could eventually understand everything going on in the music. And since they have to skip to different lines, I highlighted each part with a different color which the kids seem to like. We also have red brackets to show where the melody is since it is constantly being passed around and it’s important that people can always hear the melody clearly.

A couple other cool things are that the kids can switch parts and it is written so that you can get together with friends that play any band instruments and play the songs — and it only requires three players! We hope that kids will go to each other houses to play music. They could even play for a family get-together or a party!”

#### **If you hadn't been a musician, where do you think you would be now? Are you happy with your choice of being a musician?**

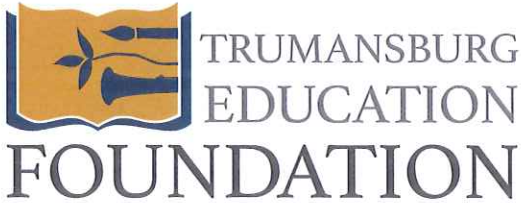
“If I hadn’t been a musician, I think I would have wanted to become a full-time teacher, but probably a band teacher! The thing I love most about my job is that I get to play music *and* to help kids discover how cool it can be to play music.”

*(continued on page 6)*



## *A note from TCSDF..*

The TCSD Foundation has a new name and look! We are now the Trumansburg Education Foundation, with an updated logo and a brand new website.



Why a name change? We feel that our new name:

- Reflects our mission to enrich education throughout Trumansburg by supporting educator-led initiatives that would otherwise go unfunded by school budgets.
- Clarifies that while we are parents and neighbors that interact with the school district, we are a volunteer-run non-profit, independent of the school district, and dependent on support from the community.

Our new website is full of photos and descriptions of the many projects we and our grant recipients have provided to students in the arts, music, science, technology, literacy, wellness, sustainability, and more. Come visit to learn more, volunteer, and donate at [www.tburgedfoundation.org](http://www.tburgedfoundation.org). Follow us on Facebook and on Instagram @tburgeducationfoundation.

## *Brad's Journey*

*By Mia DiLuzo*

A few months ago a man named Brad Hertig came to the Trumansburg High School auditorium. Brad had been in a horrible accident and lost half of both of his arms. At the assembly Brad called up a few volunteers to try to take a drink from a water bottle, without using certain body parts.

## *Brad's Journey (con't)*

For example one of the volunteers could not use their hands. Another could only use their mouth. Hertig used that experiment to show how hard it is to not be able to do things easily.

Later, Hertig told the story of what happened to his arms. He told us in great detail about when he and his friend got offered a nighttime job at his friend's father's factory he didn't think much of it. He thought it was just a simple night time job, until they arrived at the factory.

When he went inside the factory he found himself standing in front of a 500 ton power press. A power press is a machine used to bend and form metal into car parts. Everything was going well until halfway through their shift when Hertig realized one of the pieces wasn't aligned correctly. Then, he went to adjust it without realizing that his friend had already turned his back and set the machine to press the metal. He had both arms under the press. When the press lifted, Brad realized that basically up to his elbow he had no arms.

After being in the hospital for awhile, Brad tried to return to his normal day to day life. Hertig went to football practice. His teammates had been holding his water for him because he couldn't. When he asked his coach for help he said, "If you're thirsty enough, you'll find a way." His coach was trying to teach him an important life lesson, that he would need to remember forever. That right there was what inspired him to travel and share his story.

Once the presentation was over, I asked one of my close friends, Rory Budney, how the presentation moved him and how it made him feel. Rory's response was, "It was really eye opening how an accident like that would really impact someone's life forever." He also said, "It made me much more aware of how a little thing like going to help out a friend could make a huge difference in someone's life."

Brad Hertig had something horrible happen to him. Now he shares his humbling experience with others. While he could be just sitting around and wishing nothing had ever happened to him, he uses it as an advantage. Brad is traveling around the



## *Power of Words*

*A Column by Billie Plumlee, 6th Grade*

According to an article by Katie Kerns Geer, only 10% of the world is left-handed! Many people have different views on this subject, and you will hear all about it today with Agent FD569!

In the fall of 1990, 6,902 individuals applied to a medical school in England. All individuals that had postal addresses were sent a questionnaire. One of the questions talks about handedness. The question was, "Which hand do you write with?" The answer choices were: Always Right, Usually Right, Either, Usually Left, Always Left.

5,146 people answered. 4,457 people out of 5,146, or 86.6% picked answer a. Only 466 people (6.8%) answered e. So if you think about it, that's only 500 people (rounded) out of 5,000 people! That's 10 times less! Meanwhile, 4,500 people out of 5,000 people can't even be divided into one group. The world just leans toward right handers subconsciously ... The question is, why?



It turns out this idea goes really far back. According to Briana Pobiner who works at the National Museum of Natural History, "It goes way back—hundreds of thousands of years. Early stone tools indicate a right-hand preference, and so does paleolithic art. Most prehistoric handprints are of the right hand, while painted hand silhouettes are usually of the left, suggesting they were drawn with the right. Today, about 90 percent of humans are right-handed. A lesser pattern of right-hand dominance has been observed in some other living primate populations, too, such as chimpanzees!"

So, if you read that boring looking paragraph, you'll know that handedness can be traced back to Paleolithic times!

But did you ever realize how that affects the modern world? Because the majority of the world's population is right-handed, companies just mass-produce right-handed products. To name a few, there are scissors, doors, corkscrews, can openers, etc.

Now, if you are not a left-hander, imagine being one. Almost nothing works for you properly, simply because you have a hand of the opposite dominance! Even a heartless person with a dark, evil soul might feel a little sympathy for us. And yes, I said *us*. People tend to automatically form a group when they all have something in common, right? Well, maybe not with something as common as brown hair, but in a left-hander's case, when they're so rare, then it just feels weird not to band together.

So, to the small group of left handed people out there, unite! May you become a small group of creative, unique, people! I wish you luck!

*Although this article may be biased, I am in no way saying that there are not creative right-handers.  
Agent out*



## *Thoughts on 5th Grade?*

*By Clara Walker*

Last year I was a 5th grader, and I had a lot of opinions, on how the school should be. However, us 5th graders aren't allowed to join student council, so I found myself often frustrated. Here I decided to give the new middle school students a say. I also interviewed two teachers.

*Do you prefer Middle School or Elementary School?*

**Boden B:** Middle School  
**Brayden D:** Middle School  
**Jake H:** Middle School  
**Jacob T:** Middle School  
**Arlo P:** Middle School

*What is your favorite thing about Middle School so far?*

**B.B:** I like band, I play trumpet.  
**B.D:** I like band, I play percussion.  
**J.H:** My favorite thing about Middle school is P.E.  
**J.T:** I like switching classes.  
**A.P:** I like switching classes.

*What would you change about Middle School?*

**B.B:** Longer lunch, but doesn't cut into recess.  
**B.D:** Longer lunch, but doesn't cut into recess  
**J.H:** Longer periods.  
**J.T:** Bigger lockers.  
**A.P:** Bigger lockers.

*What is your favorite thing about your teachers?*

**B.D:** They give us candy.  
**J.H:** They're happy.  
**J.T:** They are inspiring.  
**A.P:** The teachers don't make you feel stupid.

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## *Mrs. West the Marvelous Music Teacher*

*By Ellie Ouckama, Ella Simoneau and Bea Heise-Cuddeback*

After the retirement of our long time music teacher Mrs. Frost, Trumansburg Elementary School is welcoming a new one, Mrs. West. Mrs. West been teaching for over 15 years; she started teaching when she was 23. She's taught for two other schools before Trumansburg.

As well as teaching the students of Trumansburg Elementary music, she has a family of her own. Her time is often consumed by her young daughter, Emma and her dog, Trucker. She's lived many places in both Minnesota and New York. Mrs. West has loved music since she was a kid. She learned to play the piano in the 5th grade. Her favorite instruments are the clarinet, piano and the ukulele.

She was inspired to be a music teacher by her own teachers, her High School band director and her college professor.

Besides her work as an everyday school teacher, Mrs. West is also The director of the 3rd and 4th grade chorus and Elementary School Musical.

We hope Mrs. West will have a good year!



*Trumansburg Kids Discover the Trail! 2018 6th grade trip to Cayuga Nature Center.*



## Michael Levine (con't)

**A: 6. What were your top 5 favorite things in Trumansburg or around Trumansburg?**

M: "This is an easy question".

- 1) **The kids.** Without a doubt, my favorite thing about Trumansburg was the kids! They were super nice, enthusiastic, polite and appreciative. They made me feel very welcome in their school. A lot of kids even asked me for my autograph! Plus the kids sounded really good on their instruments.
- 2) **The band directors.** They were all awesome and I was so happy that they wanted to bring Harmony Bridge to Trumansburg.
- 3) **New York Pizzeria.** This was the best pizza I ever had (and I've had pizza all over the country and even in Italy)! I went there every day I was in Trumansburg
- 4) **Purity Ice Cream.** The Boomberry flavor was especially AWESOME!
- 5) **Scenery.** I found the scenery to be absolutely breathtaking. The Finger Lakes area is amazing, and with the fall colors it was even more beautiful. I hope I can come back soon!"

Well, that was very entertaining. Now, as a follow up, we asked Mrs. Posegate, the 5th and 6th grade band director, what she thought of the visit from Mr. Levine. Here's what we got.

**A: Did you learn anything new while Mr. Levine was here?**

Posegate: "One new thing I learned was that Go Tell Aunt Rhody is known all over the world and is a very old folk song. I was reminded of the importance of sharing our music with others and what a joy it can be. Mr. Levine also had some funny, memorable ways to say things that I often try to teach.. I will definitely be using them in my lessons."

**A: What is your favorite song in the *Trio* book?**

P: "I am still getting to know the songs in the *Trio Book* but so far I like *Go Tell Aunt Rhody* the most."

**A: Why did you and Mr. Burgess want to have Mr. Levine come to teach us?**

P:" We wanted to have Mr. Levine visit to bring us the Harmony Bridge program for all the benefits to our students and community. As teachers, we love that the program encourages students to organize, collaborate and perform and do it mostly on their own. We also love that we can help bring joy to senior citizens by having our students share performances with them. Also, it was the only way to get those awesome *Trio books!*"

Alright, thanks for tuning into our latest story from agent Because789 and agent Flivver106! Also, if you want to listen to some of their music (which is REALLY good by the way), check out "The Dallas Brass: An American Musical Journey" on Youtube. Ok, bye!

## Little Blue Raider's Football

By Eamon Herman & Boden Baier

After going undefeated last year, there were high expectations for the Little Blue Raiders Junior Tackle football team. Several players from last year's squad moved up to play on the Senior team and a fresh group of 3rd and 4th graders joined the returning 5th graders to form this year's team.

The team is composed of mostly Trumansburg Middle School and Elementary School students. The football team is coached by Rick Dann, Scott Sherwood, Chad Doolittle, and CJ Griffin. Last year they won the championship. They played Dryden. The weight to run the ball was under 85 pounds. The weight that players had to be under to be eligible to play was 130 pounds. The team is composed of 8,9, and 10 year olds.

This year the football team did well. They won 4 games and lost 3. Everyone had a lot of fun and learned a lot. The team learned how to wrap up. when they tackle.

(continued on page 9)





## *Healthy Food vs. Nachos: Tackling Cafeteria Food (con't)*

The food that I can have is good, and I always ask my friends for a nacho when they have them. I always steal fries. I don't eat the lunches, though. I'm celiac (allergic to gluten) so I wouldn't know if the pizzas are *good*, because they would make me sick. I've heard people complain about the fries or the crust on a grilled cheese. But they don't seem as bad as slop.

It is, well, down to the opinion of a person. Just because someone doesn't like it doesn't mean it's inherently *bad*. But I wanted to answer some questions, and see what we can build on and how the school lunch program intertwines with our community in the Trumansburg School District.

*What effect do you think the school lunches have on the community? One student, who wished to remain unnamed, answers.*

"They try to make the kids healthy."

Ben Griffin, a seventh grader who regularly buys school lunches, also answers.

"Um, I think...it affects the schools budget and how people think about the school. Like, if you're a student and they're looking forward to a good lunch they're more likely to be happier and in a better mood at school."

He's right--if students are fed a healthy, good tasting, sustainable lunch, they're more likely to give more energy to school, and be *happier*. *Most kids I asked say that they're more energetic after lunch, and that they're happier after lunch. That's not surprising--food gives you energy!*

When the cheese changed (the nacho cheese was different one year) or they stopped selling ice cream, I always heard the same grumble:

"They're trying to make it healthy,"

Though the concept of trying to make things healthy isn't bad, the outcome of no ice cream, or richer, organic food, always ends up in grumbles and whines, earning complaints from a lot of kids.

There's also the problem of allergies—there's barely any gluten free foods, other than a yogurt parfait without the granola and a salad. Though there's sandwiches and grilled cheese and pizza and pasta all full of wheat and barley and rye. As someone with serious allergies, it's worrying when

I go to eat the thing I know I can eat but there's a layer of uncertainty—did they cook the meat with contaminants? Did they change their gloves after making the gluten foods? Sure, gluten free food is more expensive, and there's a lot more gluten foods than gluten free ones.

The school lunches and breakfasts are some kids' only meals, too. Which means the schools try their best to make it healthy, and good. With healthy, good meals, there are healthy, happy kids.

Sadly, most of which are wheat based.

I interviewed Rose Hanson, the food service director, about the program. I asked her some questions.

*What effect does the food service/school lunch have on the community as a whole?*

"In terms of the school community, I think that when school breakfast and lunch is a positive experience, it has a profound effect on the attitude of the school as a whole, and a positive effect on individual student's ability to learn. A well fed child feels cared for. In terms of our greater community, the Farm to School Movement is all about connecting the Cafeteria to the Community and the Classroom. When we serve local foods in the Cafeteria, we are supporting not only our local farmers, but the businesses that they then support in our community."

*What do you think you could improve [in the lunch program]?*

"I think ideally, we want to serve food that is appealing, delicious, and healthy, in a pleasant, calm, welcoming atmosphere, as quickly and efficiently as possible. Of course, we have a limited amount of time and money, and we have strict rules on what we can and must serve. *What's your favorite thing about the program?*

"I like that lunch is the one time during the day that students can relax and have a bit of a break."

*What do you think about the idea of more gluten free/allergen friendly foods?*

"I can't wait to hear some of the students' ideas on how we can better accommodate the dietary preferences and limitations of all students.

*(continued on page 9)*



## Trumansburg Girls Soccer Club

By Ellie Ouckama, Penelope Cassidy and Ella Simoneau

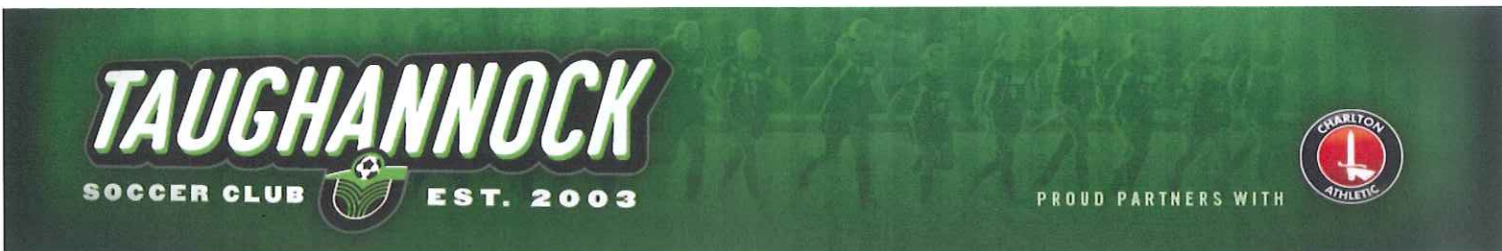
Trumansburg soccer club happens every Fall and Spring! We're going to tell you about the girls' side of the program. We have both a recreational program and a travel program. From the club website: "Our goal is to provide soccer opportunities—both recreational and competitive—for youth in our area, fostering technical and tactical training at levels that are appropriate for a player's age. We are committed to the development of the values that promote teamwork, fair play, sportsmanship, and concern for others, both on and off the field. We welcome players from all backgrounds, abilities, and talents who have a desire and passion to play. We also appreciate all those who generously give up their time to support our players and coaches, and help support the growth of Taughannock Soccer Club."

All ages from girls U10 soccer to girls Varsity soccer are welcome to participate! The fields are behind the high school up near the football field.

If you are interested you can sign up online and you will also get a jersey for the season. There's also an online store where you can buy Trumansburg soccer club sweaters, t-shirt, hats, water bottles...etc. We also have a winter indoor soccer session that begins in January. Here is more information from the Club website:

### Registration opens Nov. 1.

Winter indoor soccer will begin in January. Players ages 4 to 13 years old will be welcome. The program is held at the Trumansburg Middle School gym on Sunday mornings 11-2, starting January to late March.



## Thoughts on 5th Grade? (con't)

*Any additional comments?*

**B.B:** The small library.

**B.D:** The library is small.

**A.T:** You get a lot of exercise walking up and down stairs.

### Questions For Teachers

*What is your favorite thing about the new Middle School students?*

**MH:** The class sizes are smaller because there are only 68 students. I can get to know each student better. It is nice working with these students.

**MK:** Because each class is small I can get to know each student better.

*Why are you a 5th grade teacher?*

**MK:** These students are new to the building and they can learn so much in the first weeks.

**MH:** I enjoy helping students develop ELA skills because it is a key time in a student's middle school experience. I like helping them tap into their curiosity.

*What is your favorite book that the 5th graders read?*

**MH:** *Freedom Crossing* by Margaret Goff Clark because it's exciting to see all students become involved with the characters Laura, Martin and Bert.

**MK:** *Esperanza Rising*—I like how it links with ideas from social studies.



## *Healthy Food...(con't)*

The top five most popular dishes according to the 7th grade class are: 1. Pizza, 2. Grilled cheese and Tomato Soup, 3. Breakfast for lunch, 4. Mac and Cheese, and 5. Roast Turkey and Mashed Potatoes. Three of these dishes are wheat and dairy based. These dishes aren't ideal for those with allergies, but they are in demand. While we always offer alternative lunches and have gluten free bread available, there has been talk among the students of a Chipotle style taco bar, where you could have options for vegans, vegetarians, and people who can't eat gluten or dairy. We could have gluten free grains on the salad bar as an option, also."

During the interview, she brought up a very interesting question:

"How can our community affect school lunches?"

"We are unique among most schools in that we have a wealth of farmers, chefs, and food producers in our town and school community. Not all students have access to these resources currently, so I would like to bring the Chefs into schools and the students out to farms to learn about where their food comes from," she adds.

The impact of the community on the school lunches is a big, yet important reversal on the question. We are lucky to have so many farms and chefs in our area, making the school lunches more organic. Ithaca, and its culture, always prides itself on its organic, healthy foods—that's the appeal of Corelife, and Green Star. That's what makes Trumansburg and Ithaca unique, just like Rose says.

The effect that school lunches have on the community is vital, and for that to thrive, students should have a say on their lunches—maybe a monthly survey where the kids enter their three favorite lunches, and the lunches with the most entrees are on the menu. Maybe a vote. Allergy-adhering foods (like substitutes for wheat, or dairy) could make an appearance.

The questions aren't "are the lunches good or bad?" or "are they lizard people?" but "what could we do to build on the system that we already have?"

## *Little Blue Raider's Football (con't)*

Wrapping up is when you put your arms around who you are tackling and keep your head up. They also learned how to put their arms when taking a handoff. The most important thing they learned was respect and discipline. The coaches taught them that it is important because it is not just in football, it is in everything you do.

Logan Hair is a player on the team. His favorite part of football is tackling. His favorite NFL team is the Eagles. He plays offensive tackle and defensive guard. He wanted to play football because it looked fun. He used to play 2 sports but he does not anymore.

Brayden Dan is another player on the team. His favorite part of football is tackling. His favorite NFL team is the Bears. Brayden plays tight end/outside linebacker. He wanted to play because it was a contact sport. Brayden also plays basketball and baseball. Brayden's football number is 51.

One of the best games was when the team faced Newfield. They won 26 to 0. On one play Newfield was on the one yard line and Trumansburg forced a fumble. Also Trumansburg did great on offense. They scored four touchdowns! All the players had good sportsmanship.

Another good game was their last game against Moravia. It was a very close game. The final score was 6-0 Trumansburg. Trumansburg had two defensive stops within the fifteen yard line. With 20 seconds left Moravia had a 4th down and were stopped inches short of the first down. If they got the first down Trumansburg would have lost because if they scored they would probably gone for one and tried to win the game seven to six. They had played Moravia before and Trumansburg won 24-7. Last time Trumansburg had scored on the last play. It was a great game. Trumansburg and Moravia are two evenly matched teams.

Connor Sherwood plays for the team. He is the quarterback and he wears number 3. He thinks his team did well against Moravia. Connor's favorite part was when he forced a fumble. He believes Moravia got better the second time they played them. Connor's favorite game the whole season was the first time they played Moravia.

Which was your favorite game?



## *Christopher Miller, 4th Grade Teacher*

*By Annabelle Ferrell, Logan Hair and Samantha Zifchock*

Samantha Zifchock, Annabelle Ferrell and Logan Hair sat down and interviewed the new fourth grade teacher Mr. Miller. So if you want to hear about Mr. Miller, read this article!

**Samantha Zifchock: How many kids does he have?**

Mr. Miller has 1 son named Ian. Ian is 24 years old at the moment. His son, Ian, graduated from Wells college in 2016. Mr. Miller also has one step daughter and one step son.

**Annabelle Ferrell: How many kids are in his class?**

He has 17 kids in his class. During the week of school he is renting a room in Trumansburg. Over the weekend he goes back to his house in Auburn.

**Logan Hair: Does he have a pet?**

No he does not but, at his house in Auburn his brother has a pet cat, which is black.

**SZ: What is his favorite book?**

*Into the Wild*

**AF: What is his favorite movie?**

*School of Rock.*

**LH: What is his favorite thing about being a teacher?**

When he sees students years later that are older and smarter.

**SZ: What is his favorite animal?**

His favorite animal is a dog.

**AF: What's his favorite thing about this school?**

He really enjoys the people.

**LH: What is his favorite book to read to fourth graders?**

*Charlotte's Web.*

**SZ: Will he be entering the STAFF SLAM?**

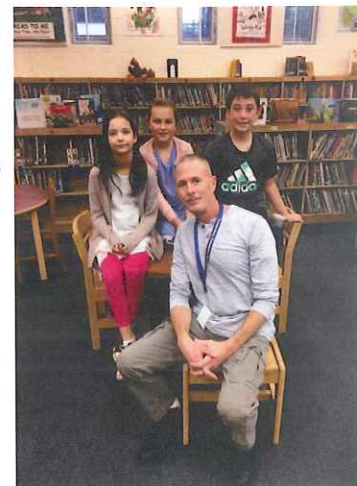
Yes, well at least he hopes so.

**AF: What are his favorite sports?**

Frisbee golf and hiking in the Adirondacks.

**Fun Fact!**

He keeps fake garlic (that his friend made) in his classroom to keep the vicious students away.



## *Mrs. Dawson's Class Thanks the PTO*

*By Maren Friedman with editing by Ellie Storm*

Calculators are a must have in seventh grade math class. Mrs. Dawson has math classes all throughout the day, and has found a system for making sure that calculators are always available when you need them. The students had been asked to buy calculators, but the PTO kindly bought enough for everyone to use during class. They are a part of our shared bins on every table, which also includes highlighters, pens, sticky notes, scissors, pencil sharpeners and erasers. Most of these items the students were asked to help supply the classroom with, and they are definitely being put to good use.



The calculators in particular are a very important aspect. Students borrow calculators from the bins when they need them, use them during class, and put them back at the end of the period. This system has been working so nicely that bringing calculators to class is no longer a need. Mrs. Dawson is even planning on removing calculators from the supply list next year. Thank you so much to the PTO for helping give us this opportunity!



## *Too Many Letters!* *By Penelope Cassidy*

Did you know that there are 932 towns and 62 cities in New York and all of those towns and cities have mayors? Well, you can send a letter to one of those towns or cities right now, and the mayor of that town or city will get it! Speaking of mayors, the 4th graders at Trumansburg Elementary school are sending letters to mayors in New York.

There are 509 pieces of mail delivered each day in the U.S. The 4th grade class is writing some of those letters! Before the 4th graders write their letters, they must study places in New York, and have a test on where lots of the places are. Next, they choose a place (it can't be Trumansburg or Ithaca) and study that to get a lot of information. Then, they make a poster, slideshow, or brochure about the place and show their project to the class.

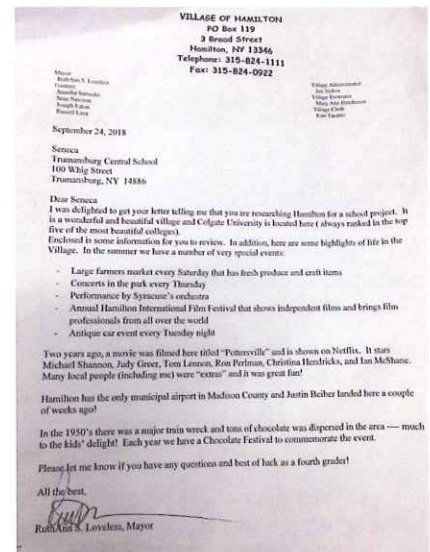
In the letters, the 4th graders write about how many bodies of water there are and how popular the place is. They also ask what are some of the best places to visit.

After that, the letters go to the mayor you choose and you get a letter or pictures back. The mayor might even come visit your school! So, next year don't be surprised when your 4th grade teacher says you have a test about New York State!

## *Trumansburg Chorus*

*By Leah Washburn*

Did you know that T-burg does a chorus program during the school day? Trumansburg is a very nice school, with very nice programs. One of the programs is chorus. Chorus is an hour long. It is located at the Trumansburg Elementary school's choral room, right across from the library. And the teacher of chorus is the new music teacher, Mrs. West! She is a really good music teacher and knows a lot of music. You might be wondering, what do you do in chorus? Well, you practice your singing voice and do holiday performances in front of the school and in front of your parents too. I hope you join chorus! Here is some feedback from people in chorus.



*Letter provided by Seneca*



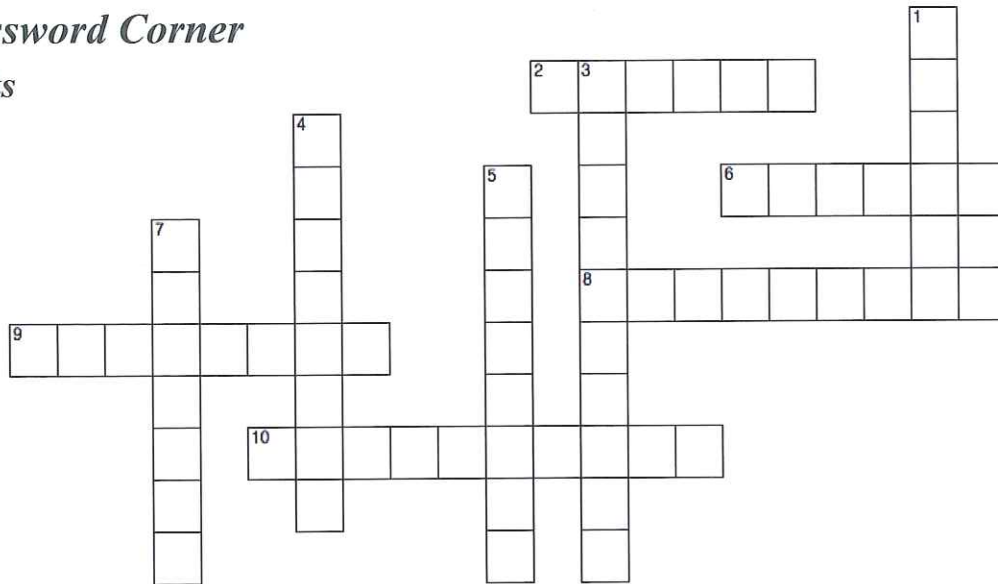
**Annabelle Ferrell:** Annabelle is in fourth grade and wanted to join chorus because she likes to sing. Annabelle likes the new way Mrs. West quiets down everyone and gets the students back on task. Annabelle likes the time span because it is just enough time for everyone to practice. Annabelle likes the performances because some people can show off their musical abilities in a group.

**Abby Arco:** Abby wanted to join chorus because she likes to sing and wants to improve her voice. Abby likes Mrs. West's way of doing things and now she has 2 experiences of chorus. Abby likes how long chorus is because it is just the right amount of time to practice a song. Abby thinks that we should have chorus concerts because some students can show how much that they have improved their voices.



## Comics & Crossword Corner

By Ryder Isacks



### ACROSS

- 2 you sing in this in-school program
- 6 called "football" in Europe
- 8 the school lunch program impacts this
- 9 the New England Patriots are a team that plays this sport
- 10 upgrading a home, or place

### DOWN

- 1 someone who can sing "Part of the World"
- 3 an instance of returning home
- 4 the new fourth grade teacher
- 5 Seth Kotler is the specialist in this subject
- 7 the fourth grade class is writing these to mayors



### Meet Our Editor

**Katja Krieger** is a junior Culture and Communications major at Ithaca College. She is the founder of an Ithaca College social justice research group called the Drop Knowledge Project. She also works as a School District Liaison between Ithaca College and Ithaca City Schools. In her free time, she likes to hike the gorges in Ithaca and spend time with her dog Django.

### Join us for our annual COMMUNITY ART AUCTION March 29

The Trumansburg Education Foundation once again will be celebrating the district-wide Youth Art Month with a Community Art Auction. **Join us Friday, March 29 7pm - 9pm** at the Trumansburg Conservatory of Fine Arts for appetizers and wine (sold by the glass). \$10 entrance fee.

Silent and live auction items. Door prizes.

All proceeds go to funding innovative teacher-inspired programs like Youth Art Month.

**We are seeking donations from community artists!**

Are you a local artist looking to build your network and support art in our schools?

Email [contact@tburgedfoundation.org](mailto:contact@tburgedfoundation.org). Deadline for art donations March 15.