

Trumansburg Troubadour

Trumansburg Homecoming 2019

by Mia DiLuzio, 9th grade

Homecoming week was extra special this year. Trumansburg Central School District has its own Varsity football team for the first time since 2014. The decision to merge teams with South Seneca and Trumansburg started in 2015. Three schools merged because Trumansburg, Romulus, and South Seneca were too small to each have their own team. Now, Trumansburg Football is back! Homecoming week consisted of a spirit week full of interesting dress up days. Monday was America day; Tuesday was twin day; Wednesday was color wars; Thursday was blue and gold day; and Friday was Hawaiian shirt day. On Wednesday, color wars day, the freshman

(continued on page 3)



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Meet 2018 Community Service Award Winner, Emily Jackson!

An Interview by the Troubadour Writers

Describe the community service you did in high school.

In high school I volunteered at the Trumansburg food pantry through my church, as well as volunteered at church events such as the holiday bazaar, Easter egg hunt, and when I was in my early teens I helped lead a group at our summer vacation Bible camp. For the past 5 years I have been involved with a club through the Ithaca Police Department, and through that club I have the opportunity to volunteer with organizations such as The Special Olympics of New York, where I have participated in events such as Cops on Top, and the Torch Run. Through this program I also have volunteered at numerous department sponsored events such as National Night Out, The Polar Plunge, and Earth Day cleanups in the park. On top of these I am also a volunteer in the Trumansburg Fire Department, which I joined shortly after I turned 16. Through the fire department I participate in county trainings, where I have received three certifications, local department trainings, respond to calls, and attend events such as the demolition derby and open houses.

What inspired you to do community service?

I was inspired to do community service through various family members. I grew up helping my grandmother and mother

(continued on page 5)

Inside this issue

Eye Colors	2
Norwex Wipes	3
Afterschool Hangouts	4
LGBTQ Education	4
Backpacks in School	5
Morse Chain Co.	6
Smith Woods	7
USWNT Soccer	7
Climate Crisis at School	8
4th Grade Thoughts	9
Climate Change	11
More on Climate Change	13
Mushrooms	13
Llama Adventures	14

Eye Know How This Works, But Do You?

Billie Plumee, 7th Grade (a person with brown eyes)

Do you know how eye colors work? Well if you do, most people don't, which is kind of surprising. They are such an important thing in your first impressions of people. Like, "Oh look, they have bright green eyes, that's interesting. I bet they're a pretty daring person." If you are describing someone, you will most likely list their eye color. That's why it is important that you gain this knowledge quickly. Luckily, I have come to enlighten you! Now, the basic knowledge of your eyes. First, the part of your eye that has all the color in it is called the iris. They get their color from cells in your eyes called melanocytes, which produce the pigment in your eyes (otherwise known as melanin). There are two different types of melanin. Eumelanin is the brown-black colored melanin, and red melanin is called pheomelanin. The way that the colors appear is based off of the light that shines through your eye and bounces off the back of it, but not before interfering with the melanin and making the colors that you see. "Eye" really do hope this knowledge prepares you for the rest of this article. Now, let me explain everything you'll need to know about all our amazing eye colors. I could just make a list, but for the sake of the article and proper writing format I won't. Anyway, as I was saying, the most common eye color is brown. Around 80% of the world has brown eyes, which makes it the majority, and therefore not rare. Brown eyes have a nice thick layer of eumelanin, with the occasional different color sprinkled in. That is why people with brown eyes are less susceptible to damage to their eyes because there is more protection to the back of the eye. The second most common eye color is blue, with 8-10% of the world having it. If I may quote Medical News Today, "However, there is no such thing as blue pigment in our eyes. Instead, an individual's eyes are blue because of the white collagen fibers in the connective tissue of the iris. These fibers scatter light and make the iris appear blue." Hopefully that should explain how blue eyes work, but I will paraphrase it for you anyway. Basically there is no such thing as blue pigment; instead the light shines through the fibers in your eye. The light scatters and makes your eyes look blue. Basically, any colors in between those (hazel, green, gray, etc.) is some variant on the amount of melanin in the eye. Hopefully, now you will know why Alexandria's Genesis was such a strange occurrence.

A long time ago there was this one time in Egypt where there was a light seen in the sky and everyone who was exposed to it got purple eyes and their skin turned very pale, or so they said. These people were called the Spirit People and they disappeared into Europe. Another story says that there was a girl named Alexandria and after about six months, her eyes turned from blue to purple and she gained "special abilities." The priest called it witchcraft, and claimed that the eyes were the reason why. I don't know about you, but I think that this whole topic is just very interesting overall! It is very fascinating to know that there is a whole series of inner workings and hundreds of different factors that can go into your eye color. If you are ever bored, you should consider researching a bit about eyes and some of the myths surrounding them. Basically, any Google search with the word "eye" in it will bring up a whole myriad of interesting stories about strange occurrences with eyes! If you are looking for interesting stories and cool facts, this could be the topic for you to get infatuated with! Have fun!

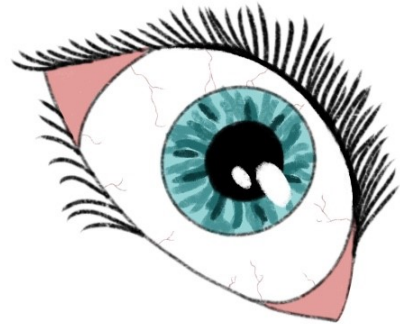


Illustration by Mary Cassidy, Grade 7

Homecoming 2019 (continued)

wore orange; the sophomores wore red; the juniors wore black; and the seniors showed off their white outfits!

On Friday, the whole school participated in wearing Hawaiian clothes in honor of our fallen Trumansburg alumni soldiers. James G. Johnston, a Trumansburg high school alumni, died from injuries he received in a small arms fire during a combat operation on Tuesday, June 25, in Afghanistan, according to a release from the Department of Defense. Another Trumansburg Alum, Ethan Carpenter, was killed in free fall training.

Friday night was the long awaited homecoming game! Trumansburg played Newfeild. Our Varsity Trumansburg team put up a hard fight to Newfield, but were defeated with a crushing 6-38 score. Our team had a large audience with many parents and supporters! There were members of the Trumansburg High School band playing in pep-band, and there was also our very own Trumansburg cheer team! Much support was going out to our hardworking team.

Norwex over Clorox

by Amalie White, 6th Grade

In every classroom there can be found: students, teacher, paper, pencils, and Clorox wipes. Five-star rated Clorox wipes take away germs, but also bring along a whole new set of them. Clorox says their wipes get rid of 99% of harmful microorganisms while making your surfaces look cleaner at the same time. I wonder though, are Clorox wipes doing more harm than help?

Clorox wipes can be damaging to your health and skin. According to Caleb Backe, mild reactions to Clorox wipes include things like red, itchy, or peeling skin. You might break out in hives or suddenly find yourself suffering from flu-like symptoms such as watery eyes, sneezing and congestion, or an itchy nose or mouth. There are other ways to safely sanitize not only the school, but your home as well. In our school there are several people who can't use Clorox Wipes for health reasons. In Trumansburg, we use Clorox a lot, but may not realize they are affecting us negatively.

These wipes are found all over TV commercials, stores, and advertisements. A Clorox wipe: "Kills 99.9% of Germs, E.Coli, Bacteria. They kill 99.9% of Viruses, Strep, Salmonella." Clorox wipes also kill 99.9% of the Earth. If each student uses 1 Clorox Wipe for cleaning their desks in an average 18 student class, four classes would already add up to 74 wipes. The district would be around 900-1,000 wipes.

Bjorn Nicolaisen created a cloth that is reusable and can't have any affect on your skin, only on your desk. From that cloth branched a company: Norwex. Norwex is eco-friendly and cleans everything with just water and the cloth itself. Unless you are allergic to microfiber and silver, Norwex can only do harm to your *germs*.

Paper towels are still a "plan b". Paper towels rarely if never have reactions to your skin. They are better than clorox yet worse than Norwex. Paper towels are still good for cat puke and dog poop in the house; so even though they work too, we should still find a way to get a cleaner, healthier alternative for Clorox. Maybe our school can switch to Norwex or another alternative that is more eco-friendly.



LOCAL OPINION: Our After School Hangouts and Why We Need More **by Hana Gavurnik, 7th grade and Ivy McFall, 7th grade**

Salutations, it is Ivy and Hana, and we have a problem. All of our after school hangout places are either gone or were nonexistent in the first place! After school hangouts are a very important part of our social health. Yet, there isn't much variety in our community. We have a basketball court, "*But not everyone likes sports, okay*" says Ivy McFall, with a passion.

Then there's the library, "*but some people have a voice*" yells Ivy McFall! She definitely does.

Well I guess if you were big on caffeine, Gimme Coffee is an option, "*But some people have enough energy as it is. And don't need any caffeine to boost that. It's not a necessity to everyone, OK! Wait, I just had the best idea, I could help write the article! What, no? PLEASE, Please, please, please, please, please! I just want to write a bit, please!!*"

Finally, there is New York Pizzeria. (At this point the reporter realized Ivy was just a way to create filler context and left. Sorry Ivy.)

Anyways, over the course of three days, I went to a few different locations, then documented and interviewed the Middle Schoolers there. First off was the middle school basketball court with a strong average of nine people, the library with an average of twelve people and "Good To Go" (now Main Street Market) with an average of 1.3. We also looked at "Gimme Coffee" and "New York Pizzeria," but none of our fellow peers were there, so we didn't use those. Some students we've asked said that other ideal hangout places that Trumansburg should have are an arcade, pool, paint your own pottery place, and a cheaper, slightly less-healthy food store.

"*In conclusion...*" oh wait Ivy has returned. "*Please let me write some. I'm an aspiring author, Come on! Please! Please! Please!*" (Ugh, lets just give her what she wants.)

"*In conclusion, I think Trumansburg is in desperate need of more places for the middle schoolers to interact with one another after school. That might explain why I was not the refined and under control person I usually am. In my opinion people are too sucked into their screens and can't interact with peers around them. In twenty years people might not be able to talk to people for five minutes without going on their devices. You know what, right now people can't talk for five minutes without going on*

(continued on page 12)

LGBTQ Education In Schools **by Sophie Isacks, 8th Grade**

Content Warning: This article discusses themes of suicide, harassment and homophobia. If you are uncomfortable with any of these subjects, please read with discretion.

In 1977, the Save Our Children campaign was headed by Anita Bryant, celebrity singer, in response to the recently legislated county ordinance that banned discrimination in terms of housing, public accommodation and employment based on sexuality in Miami, Florida. The fact that you could not be fired from your teaching position, or any position based on your sexuality, was something Save our Children was very adamantly against. Bryant pushed the idea that, "homosexuals cannot reproduce--so they must recruit [...] the youth of America." They turned in over 64,000 signatures in favor of taking the repeal of the ordinance to a vote. An ordinance is a county law.

They used words like "indoctrinate" and "recruit" and "perverse," the same words used during the Lavender Scare in the 50's, where people turned the word "gay" into "communist" and fired thou-

Meet Emily Jackson (continued)

in the church, therefore when I became older I was naturally inclined to take on a larger role to continue helping. Other family members such as my father, uncles, and various cousins also inspired me to take on other roles within the community.

What was your favorite part of community service?

My favorite part of community service is being able to help others without expecting anything in return.

How did you learn more about Trumansburg ? How did it benefit the community?

I learned more about Trumansburg through appreciating the different roles people hold in the community. For example, I learned what it took to run a food pantry and put on an Easter egg hunt, and it gave me a deeper understanding of the different roles people have. I believe this benefited the community because it gave me a deeper gratitude for helping others, allowing me to want to help more and therefore involving myself in other volunteer-based programs in Trumansburg and surrounding areas.

Do you have any plans to do more community service in the future?

I currently volunteer at Arnot Ogden Medical Center in Elmira, New York, for my school sponsored community service. At AOMC I help on clinical floors such as the medical-surgical floors by helping other staff members as they see fit. I also am still involved in events through my church and through the Ithaca Police Department, and I am still actively involved in the Trumansburg Fire Department.

What advice do you give to people who want to get involved with community service?

My advice to people who want to get involved with community service would be to find something that you're interested in, and reach out to local companies or businesses that may be looking for help. I would also recommend to stay motivated and goal driven as it will pay off in the long run!

LOCAL OPINION: Get Out Your Jansport Coupon ***by Ivy McFall, 7th Grade***

The other day I fell up the stairs and popped three blood vessels. Not a good time. You might be wondering, how on Earth did you fall UP the stairs? Well, it was simply because I had too much stuff in one of my arms. Almost the whole bottom part of my thumb was purple, and it hurt a lot. If we had backpacks, none of this would've happened, and yes, my shoes were tied. I am upset because I can't comprehend why our school won't let the Middle Schoolers carry around backpacks. In previous years, when my grandfather went to Trumansburg, the Middle School was the Elementary school, Junior High, and High School. The first floor was for Elementary Schoolers, the second one was for Junior High, and High School was the 3rd floor. So, we have a total of three floors. For seventh grade especially, you have to go up the stairs quite often, and you have like three binders with you, and a chrome book that weighs around three pounds. I have asked many fellow peers about what they would think if the principal allowed middle schoolers to carry around backpacks. One of my friends, Hana said, "I would be glad, honestly it'd be quicker." Then she added, "I don't know what the downfall would be." This shows that Hana is for having backpacks in school. Then, I asked another fellow peer, Clara what she would think. She said, "It'd be awesome." So, then I decided to read through the middle school planner that you are given at the beginning of the year. It says that the school is a 'backpack free' school for health and safety reasons, they go on to say that they expect that we'll put all our stuff in our lockers unless we need it for class. If you have never been in our middle school, then you might not know that our lockers are very small. We have three binders and about six folders and then we have to carry that heavy chrome book, and we have about two notebooks. Mrs. Conaway or Mr. Ouckama, I'd really appreciate if you read this article, thus maybe letting us try carrying around backpacks. I understand that it's a health concern because it might put strain on your shoulders, but you let people on crutches carry them around, and they're injured, so why can't we?

A Brief History of the Morse Chain Company

By Tai Boshart, 4th Grade

Looking for a job? Well, you're looking at the right article. This article will give you a good start on finding a job and a career at a 130 year-old global company that started right here in Trumansburg NY: Morse Chain.

Everett Fleet Morse, known as Fleet, was born in Ithaca, NY in 1857. Fleet was a distant cousin of Samuel Morse, inventor of the telegraph and Morse Code. In 1844, Samuel hired Ezra Cornell, who later founded Cornell University, to build the telegraph system. Fleet graduated from Cornell in 1884 with a Mechanical Engineering degree.

E. F. Morse was an inventor, and one of his early patents was for a buggy spring. In 1893, Fleet and his younger brother, Frank Lincoln Morse, started the Morse Spring Company. They rented part of the Gregg Iron Works building which was located in the area of today's Trumansburg Farmers Market.

In the 1890s, bicycles became very popular in America. Fleet developed a frictionless bicycle chain that became the industry standard. In 1898, the Morse Spring Company changed into the Morse Chain Company. One of the leading investors of this new company was H.H. Westinghouse, the younger brother of George Westinghouse, who five years earlier, showcased electricity at the Chicago's World Fair.

The Morse Chain Company was producing about 250 chains per day until June 4, 1898, when a fire burned the company down. They worked quickly to rebuild the building and purchase new equipment.

By 1899, the bicycle market began to slow down. E.F. Morse developed a new type of roller joint chain to be used to transmit power from steam engines and water replacing leather belts. He also patented an optical pyrometer for use in industries requiring high temperature readings. As the operation grew, transportation and delivery of products became a challenge for Trumansburg.

In 1906, Morse Chain moved to a new building on South Hill in Ithaca where it continued to build chains for industries and the automotive markets. In 1928, Morse Chain joined the Borg Warner Corporation. In 2019, BorgWarner Morse Chain continues to build automotive chains from their plant near the Ithaca airport. They also have chain plants in eight other countries.

References

The Morse Chain Company, A History of the Early Years in Trumansburg, New York, by Joe Baldwin.

Ithaca Inventor Honored at Sciencenter, *Ithaca Journal* Feb. 22, 2006, by Larry Klaes.

Welcome to Smith Woods

According to the website Paleontological-Research Institution on Smith Woods, “Henry A. Smith Woods is a 32-acre old-growth forest located in Trumansburg, New York. Henry Atterbury Smith (1822-1891) was a businessman from New York City who had purchased this parcel of land as a summer residence and although he visited the property sparingly, he was a well known member of the Trumansburg community. In 1909, this undeveloped forest fragment was left to the Village of Trumansburg by Henry A Smith’s sons to be preserved as a public park forever.” Smith Woods is an important and beautiful part of our community. Like all wildlife it is our job to take care of it.

Research by Penelope Cassidy, Grade 5



Illustration by Mary Cassidy, Grade 7

USWNT Can't Get Enough Soccer by Eleanor Ouckama, 5th grade

They won!!!! They did it! They won the 2019 Women's World Cup! While traveling to Europe, I saw the two semifinals and the final, and they earned this win! Megan Rapinoe with the first goal off a penalty kick and Rose Lavelle with the winning goal in the final against Netherlands!

But, they didn't stop playing soccer. They are touring the world and playing more! They are doing a VICTORY TOUR!

This was an exciting moment for both Carli Lloyd and Jill Ellis because this victory tour was the last coaching opportunity for USWNT coach Jill Ellis and most likely the last World Cup for Carli Lloyd.

...But, there are still new great coaches and players to come! The current players are: Morgan Brian, Abby Dahlkemper, Crystal Dunn, Julie Ertz, Adrianna Franch, Ashlyn Harris, Tobin Heath, Lindsey Horan, Ali Krieger, Rose Lavelle, Carli Lloyd, Allie Long, Jessica McDonald, Samantha Mewis, Alex Morgan, Alyssa Naehar, Kelley O'Hara Christen Press, Mallory Pugh, Megan Rapinoe, Beckey Sauebrunn and Emily Sonnett. And of course their new coach...Vlatko Andonovski!

Here are some thoughts about what other soccer fans who watched the games think: Penelope Cassidy, 5th grader said, “The most memorable part of the final for me was when Rapinoe scored a penalty kick.” Duncan Gattine, 5th grader, said, “The most memorable part was when it was the end of the game and you could feel the rush of the U.S.A about to win!”

Lena Everhart, 5th grader, said, “The most memorable part of the U.S.A final was when Lavelle scored her goal.” Ilyssa Ford: “The most memorable part of the U.S.A Final was when Rapinoe scored her penalty kick.”

I would LOVE to keep talking about the team (I'm a big fan), but sadly this article has to come to an end, but keep learning more about them and if you have a chance, go support them!!!! Let's go USA!

Confronting Climate Crisis at School: Protests and Civics Classes

by Bailey Trudell, Grade 11

It's frequently said that living in the town of Trumansburg is like living in a protective bubble, where residents are shielded from the problems of the rest of the world. And while it may be true that our crime rate is low and our sense of community is strong, could it also be the case that the same bubble that shelters us from the many struggles urban communities face, also insulates us from participating in social change?

On Friday, September 20, 2019, students from 120 countries and 50 states pulled off the largest climate protest the world has ever seen. Millions of kids took to the streets donning polar bear costumes and holding handmade banners, hoping lawmakers would hear their pleas to save the earth.

Inspired by a 16 year old Swedish high school student named Greta Thunberg, these young protesters wanted the world to know that they are terrified of what the future looks like. In New York City alone, the Mayor's office estimated that approximately 60,000 students marched through lower Manhattan, chanting, "You had a future, and so should we." Many protesters have gone so far as to refuse having children until meaningful action is taken. Thousands of teens are taking pledges online that state: "I am giving up my chance of having a family because I will only have children if I know I can keep them safe." Signs saying, "Our house is on fire," and "There is no Planet B" were among millions seen at the Friday climate strike.

The heightened awareness of the climate crisis has never been so public, and yet not a single student from Trumansburg skipped class on Friday, September 20th, 2019. Nor did any Trumansburg students organize follow-up demonstrations on subsequent Fridays. In a random poll taken shortly after the first Friday climate strike, only one student was even aware of the planned student strikes. When asked why she didn't attend, the student stated that going to class was more important at the time, though she admitted to having anxiety about the future of the planet.

In Manhattan, every school district informed their students that their participation in the climate strike would count as an excused absence, recognizing that students would be more environmentally aware by protesting than by going to biology class. But, in Trumansburg, the students weren't even informed of the option to strike. When asked about why the school district remained silent, Trumansburg's High School Principal, said, "The school district cannot support or get behind any political action... an extracurricular club could get together, plan something, then approach the school and request certain concessions... but as a school we can't promote or advertise anything political." Most of the students who were asked about the protest said that if they had known about it they would have marched. If students aren't aware of an issue, how can they be asked to advertise and plan a protest about it?

Presently, there are no current events or civics classes available at Trumansburg High School. When asked why, Principal Jon Koeng said, "because we are

(continued on page 9)



Illustration by Mary Cassidy, Grade 7

Climate Crisis at School (continued)

so short staffed, there isn't an available or qualified teacher to run a current events class... what has happened in the past, and what I am a big advocate for, are clubs... after school, or during a free period, students are more than welcome to hold meetings and discuss current events."

Unfortunately, clubs require an initial interest or curiosity in the subject. The average teenager doesn't know what they're interested in until they are exposed to it. In other schools around the country, civics/current events classes are offered in addition to social studies. Going forward, a current events class should be made available, if not mandatory in all schools. For the most part, Generation Z along with Millennials do not have a good understanding of the issues that will soon impact their lives. Many get their news from social media in the form of memes, tweets, and headlines which can often misinform readers. Unless they have adults in their lives who discuss current events with them, most young people do not have an inclination to learn about what's happening in the world beyond what they get from social media. If people really do care about educating the leaders of tomorrow, schools around the country need to reinstitute mandatory civics classes. Maybe if Trumansburg followed that curriculum, more students would have known about the climate strike and possibly taken part in it.

Fourth Grade Thoughts: The Mexican Border

Lucia Caraher, Grade 4 and Jaxson Hightchew, Grade 4

You might have heard about the Mexican border in the news or on different channels on TV or even your ipad. It's a very popular subject. There is a lot of new news about the border including people escaping it. As you're sitting home on the couch, be thinking about how this issue affects you. Our country is made up of different people from different countries and there would be no one in our country if people were not able to access the opportunity of migrating here originally.

This border issue has been around for a long time. We interviewed Mrs Fine, our classroom aid, and she said she thinks the issue at our border with Mexico is an unlikely situation that has occurred. She also thinks it is an emotional and complicated topic.

After writing this article, Jaxson and I wonder how we could get together and talk about this as a community.



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[Facebook.com/TburgEducationFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/TburgEducationFoundation)

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LGBTQ Education (continued)

sands of queer people, claiming they were a “security breach.” The fear that people have associated with those words eventually set in. The repeal of the ordinance was sent to a vote, which passed by 70%--the largest response of any election in Dade County.

In 1978, the same thing happened in many other states, and influenced the infamous and terrible Proposition 6, or the Brigg’s Initiative, a proposed state law in California that would have made the firing of openly gay teachers and public school figures mandatory. The failed initiative was fought against by openly gay San Francisco politician, Harvey Milk. Beforehand, states such as Arkansas and Oklahoma banned gay and lesbian teachers from their schools.

Bryant claimed the “ordinance condones immorality and discriminates against my children’s rights to grow up in a healthy, decent community.” This argument continues to this day. On October 6th 2019, the Supreme Court heard two hours of arguments discussing whether or not federal law stops job discrimination based on sexual and gender orientation. It will be the first hearing of the term. We will hear the results around Spring.

In the same vein, in March of 2019, State Representative Darren Bailey voted no on House Bill 246, which calls for mandated curricula teaching about the LGBTQ community, in age appropriate lessons. “Forcing that information on 5 year olds,” he said, “[...] is more of an effort of indoctrination than of learning [...]” He states that he doesn’t agree with the fact that there will be no “opt-out” program for parents, as if sexuality is something you can ignore.

These ideals push the notion that queerness is inappropriate, and somehow not suitable for children. Children that could be LGBTQ may be forced to opt-out of learning about people like themselves who are deemed different from the “norm.” If they are taught that their sexuality and gender identity is okay; that sexuality and queerness is not a lesson you can opt out of, and is not something you have to be saved from, and that it is not indoctrination or perverse or wrong, many lives could be saved, and much hate could be ended.

More education will not confuse; it will help end confusion. The CDC (Center of Disease Control), in August of 2016, conducted a report on the health risks of being LGBTQ in the USA. It found that more than 40% of LGBTQ students had seriously considered suicide in the prior 12 months, and 29% reported attempting suicide, a statistic much higher than their heteroexual counterparts. 34% of LGBTQ students reported bullying at school, verses 19% reported by their straight peers. More than 1 in 10 LGBTQ students reported missing school during the 30 days before the survey, due to safety concerns.

According to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, 59% of 6,450 surveyed participants had reported being bullied in school. 78% reported harassment, and 35% reported physical assault. Of those who were physically assaulted by faculty or students, 64% reported attempting suicide. The results of this study are terrifying and heartbreaking. LGBTQ students have a much higher risk of dating violence, meaning they are more likely to experience physical/sexual assault in abusive relationships, and are five times more likely to use substances.

The CDC states that “focused public health and school based actions and policies that support safe and supportive environments for LGBTQ students are key.” They recommend “outreach efforts and educational programs” for parents and queer youth.

Trumansburg is a safe and accepting community, but we have very little queer education. So, I decided to see just how little we know. I sat down with an 8th grader. “I know nothing,” she says,



Illustration by Mary Cassidy, Grade 7

LGBTQ Education (continued)

preemptively. “Do you know when Stonewall was?” “No.” “The year?” “No,” she says. “I know, like, nothing about it.”

I’m not surprised; we don’t get taught about queer or LGBTQ history. I don’t fault her for not knowing. “Do you know when the first pride celebration was?” “No.” 1970. “Do you know who Alan Turing is?” “No.” Out of the 60 people I asked, 13% knew what year the Stonewall Riots occurred (1969), and 11% knew what year held the first annual pride celebration, which was Christopher Street Liberation Day (1970). 3% knew of Alan Turing, a gay mathematician and the father of modern day computer science, who was outed and who tragically took his own life after.

We have made bouts of progress though, in our county and in the rest of the country. Twenty years after it was repealed, Dade County revived the ordinance. Illinois now requires the teaching of queer education. In our school, we acknowledge queer history month (October), and there are safe signs on most of the doors. Progress has been made since the Save Our Children campaign, but the fight nationwide is not over; queerness is still yet to be taught in all 50 states, and the gay rights movement still has much to go in the way of ending job discrimination and mandating queer education in schools.

So, I urge you, vote. Sign petitions and speak your mind and make a difference. Use your voice and platform and educate yourself. You matter, and what you have to say matters. Write to your congress people. Stand up for what you believe in. Protest and scream and call for what you know is right. With your voice, and all the voices around you, progress can be made.

Our House Is on Fire

by Claire Olney, Grade 5

Climate change is terrible. I’m sure you’ve heard someone say that. But take a moment to think to yourself— do you, honest to goodness, know what climate change is? Climate change is the change of average temperatures. People incorrectly believe global warming is the same as climate change. Global warming is not the same as climate change. Global warming is a type of climate change when the average temperature gets warmer. Climate change is just when the regular temperature changes, warmer or colder.

Why is climate change bad? Why can’t we ignore it and just go on with our lives? Well, do you like seals, polar bears and penguins? They all live in a cold climate. If climate change makes things warmer, they’ll all die! Also, for the animals that live in a hot climate and it gets colder, they will also die. What I say: **SAVE THE ANIMALS!!!**

It’s getting hot in here! That’s because of global warming, the type of climate change we are experiencing, though nobody seems to be doing anything about it. Greta Thunberg’s speech to the UN seems to have the same opinion. Greta Thunberg learned about climate change when she was eight years old, and didn’t understand why nothing was being done about it. Since then Greta has come a long way. She started out with just herself standing alone outside the Swedish parliament. Then, more people joined and they protested every Friday after school. In September, a little more than a year later she riled up around 4 million people to do a strike around the world. This strike showed that climate change isn’t something to be ignored. It’s not small, it’s big. 4 million people big. Climate change won’t affect the government that much, but it will affect the young people. And I’m a young person! So, no offence to the government, but **WAKE UP!!**

I interviewed the middle school principal Mrs. Conaway. She said that she was very worried about climate change, not just for the students that will be affected by it, but for her children and if she ever has grandchildren. She said that action can’t be taken in 50 years, it is important *now*. I also asked her if the school was doing anything to reduce its carbon footprint. She answered “Yes, It’s recycling, composting, starting an environmental club, using reusable utensils, and trying to turn off the lights/devices. We also got a new heating system that’s smaller, more efficient, and takes less fuel.” That’s a lot! This means the school cares about climate change. You should too. Make sure you turn off your lights!

After school hangouts (continued)

their devices. Of course, I'm a bit of a hypocrite, as I'm writing this instead of socializing, but that's not the point. If we don't deter the upcoming screen epidemic, then the world is going to fall into chaos. Therefore, without a proper spot for us to hang out in we're slowly losing our social skills. Is that really what you want? If the people of Trumansburg are reading this, then think about this and consider where the future of Trumansburg is headed. Thank you. Cheers. Don't get mauled by a squirrel, don't trip over a blade of grass, see you in space cowboy, toodahoo caraboo. I'm outie, take care polar bear, be gone, so long, next time bring cookies, after you kangaroo, don't trip over a rainbow. Okay I'm done now."

That was surprisingly strong, Ivy. Well except for the last part. Well, that's a wrap. See you on social media.

Feel the Fear

by Clara Walker, 7th Grade

It doesn't matter where on earth you are. You are in the middle of an apocalypse. You are being attacked. You must fight back. If you don't, well let's just say you wouldn't risk the consequences on anyone. I have a secret, though I suppose it is no longer a secret. I picture us, trapped in a steel palace of our very own. Our own palace, our own prison. All of us. Maybe we bring our dogs. Fallen gods, we stay in our steel palace far below the ocean that coats the Earth like honey. With pipes reaching up, up, up, to the black sky above, from which we draw air, and filter it, and bring it down, down, down, to the fallen gods below. I picture the steel palace rusting, and the pressure destroying it. I picture future alien explorers finding a destroyed palace, where fallen gods used to live.

If you are reading this as a child, then you are most at risk. If you are reading this as an adult, then you have the chance to make the biggest impact. You have to try. The world **is** getting warmer. The seas **are** rising. There **are** ways to help. Small things. Things that you can do, and bigger things. Scientists predict that to keep climate change semi-under-control we have to keep the increasing temperature from increasing by 1.5 degrees C, and even that is extremely dangerous (dw.com). 1.5 degrees C is equivalent to 34.7 degrees F, so it is a lot higher than it sounds.

That all doesn't even start to address plastic! According to the Container Recycling Institute, 60 million plastic bottles are thrown away **every day** in the US **alone**. According to Food and Water Watch, "Bottled water is not typically safer than tap water. In fact, more than half of all bottled water comes from the tap." They also mention that while bottled water can cost anywhere between 89 cents per gallon and \$8.26 per gallon, water from your tap costs, "fractions of a penny for water from your tap." In all forms, it is better to carry a water bottle. You can also buy a bottle online that filters tap water.

Let's take a moment to talk about people who are doing everything in their power to help. Most of you have probably heard of Greta Thunberg, the famous activist who started a school strike against climate change. According to Wikipedia, at 16 years old Greta has given TED talks, presented for the UN, been on the cover of TIME magazine, had documentaries made about her and her movement, and more! All this started with her School Strike For Climate, where every Friday she would openly boycott school in protest of the warming planet. Other climate activists, (credit to cnn.com), such as Isra Hirsi, helped to co-found the US Youth Climate Strike. Autumn Peltier is a water activist, who at **12**, confronted the Prime Minister of Canada about his controversial pipeline projects; he promised to protect the water and since then, 87 long term water advisories in Canada have been listed. Autumn is now 14, and she continues to fight for water conservation.

Mushrooms

by Eleanor Ouckama, 5th grade and Claire Olney, 5th grade

What is this magical mushroom? This mushroom could solve all of our problems, such as littering and the world eventually being made up of landfills. For years and years to come, our landfills have been rotting away, but maybe not anymore. In 2011 a mushroom was discovered. This magical mushroom *eats plastic!*

According to Eleanor Hildebrandt, “50 new plastic eating mushrooms have been discovered in the past two years. We now have 150 million tons of plastic in our oceans, according to estimates; by 2050, there could be more plastic than fish. Every new batch of trash compounds the issue: Plastic is notorious for its longevity and resistance to natural degradation.”

This mushroom could solve all of this! This mushroom is not perfect. There are still some problems.

“We’d need to figure out where these plastic recyclers would live. Could individuals keep a small compost-like heap, feeding in their own plastic and harvesting the mushrooms? Or could this be a replacement for local recycling centers?” questions Hildebrandt.

“In 2017, scientist Sehroon Khan and his research team at the World Agroforestry Centre in Kunming, China discovered another biodegrading fungus in a landfill in Islamabad, Pakistan: *Aspergillus tubingensis*, which turns out to be capable of colonizing polyester polyurethane (PU) and breaking it down it into smaller pieces within the span of two months. (PU often shows up in the form of packing foam—the kind of thing you might find cushioning a microwave or a new TV)” writes Hildebrandt.

“Their biggest problem is perhaps the most common obstacle in innovative scientific research: cash. We are developing these things for large-scale,” Sehroon Khan says. “But it needs a lot of funding to get to the real application of plastic waste.” He and other researchers plan to apply for a patent soon and to publish three new articles about their most recent research, which might help boost interest and secure more grants.

These are only some of the details about this amazing mushroom! Grow your brain, and help this planet out by trying to find more ways to stop pollution! You may not be able to discover a plastic eating mushroom, but you still can help keep our earth clean and you can do it right here in Trumansburg. You can do simple things every day like pick up trash you see on the ground and if everyone pitches in, this earth will look brand new!!!

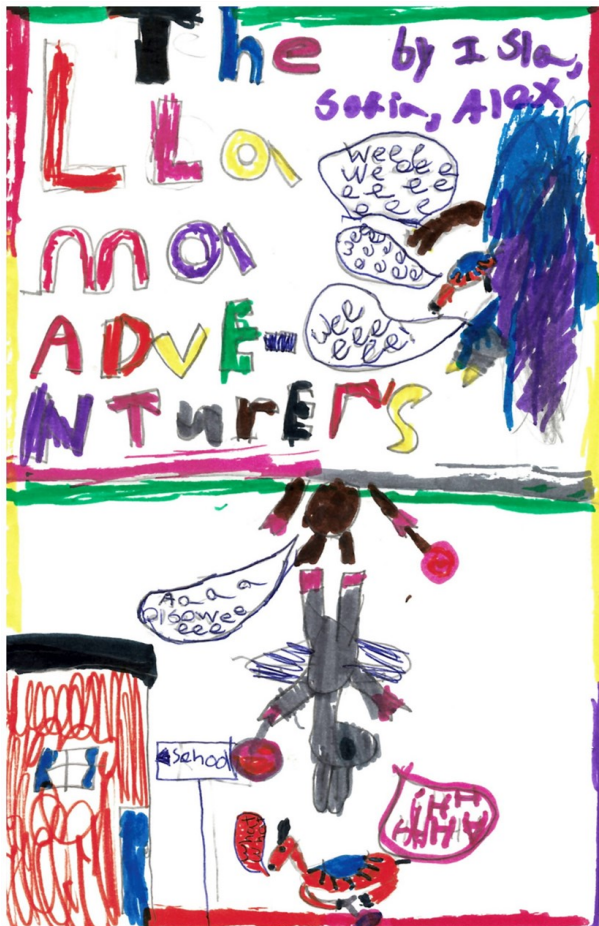


Illustration by Mary Cassidy, Grade 7

Feel the Fear (continued)

What about you? You can help. You have to help. It is the only hope. Greta Thunberg may say no to a plastic straw, but that doesn’t make a difference unless you also say no. And now I hope you will. You can stop using plastic straws. You can adopt an elephant online. You can donate and research and fight. You can become a vegetarian. You can volunteer and buy less plastic and try to conserve water and did you know you can save money by signing up for solar power? You can plant a tree and you can try to drive less and you can work on not using things made with ozone harming chemicals. You can do the most important thing; you can tell people. You can let everyone know that the world is in more danger than anyone seems to realize. This is about you. This is about me. This is about every baby; every single person. Because if you don’t act, and if you don’t act NOW, everyone you love, including yourself WILL perish. How’s that for a happy ending?

The Llama Adventures
by Isla, Alex & Sofia, 4th grade



The comic book we created is about llamas that went through portals to get to Trumansburg School. In this picture the llamas jump through a portal and fall out of their world into another world—ours. They figure out that this new world has a school and they thought it was a llama school, but then they saw people inside through the window. Isla chose to write about llamas because they are her favorite animal. Alex chose to write about llamas because she likes how soft they are. Finally, Sofia chose to write about llamas because her bedroom is llama themed. If you want to know more, come find us and read our comic book.

SAVE THE DATE!

Community Art Auction March 27th

The Trumansburg Education Foundation invites you to celebrate the close of the district-wide Youth Art Month with our annual Community Art Auction.

Join us Friday, March 27th, 7pm-9pm at the Trumansburg Conservatory of Fine Arts for appetizers and delicious Forge Cellar wines (sold by the glass). \$10 entrance fee. Silent and live auctions. Door prizes.

We are seeking donations from local artists! Email contact@tburgedfoundation.org