The week before Thanksgiving, the 3rd graders in Mrs. Hutchins' class had a biography report where we researched important people in history. On the day of our reports, we had to dress up as the person we were. We told the class about interesting information from our chosen book, the early life of our person, educational background, adult life, what they were famous for, and our opinion of the book. Many might have recognized some famous people in the classroom. We had Albert Einstein, Leonardo DaVinci, Amelia Earhart, Famous figures spotted in 3rd grade classroom (continued on pg. 2)

By Kate Unger

6th graders join in Maggie Lee for Good Day

By Rachel Kaplan, Clara Unger, and Jeremiah Mee

On October 29, Mrs. Gillespie and Mrs. Welch’s classes pulled seven wagons filled with over 1,000 canned goods to Braes Interfaith Ministries for Maggie Lee for Good Day. What is Maggie Lee for Good (MLFG)? Maggie Lee for Good is a day to honor Walt Disney, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Derek Jeter, Cal Ripkin, Helen Keller, Neil Armstrong, Steve Jobs, Davy Crockett, Sam Houston, and I was Susan B. Anthony. Some student presenters brought a special treat (continued on pg. 2)

Right: Trafton students were excited to join Mrs. Gillespie in forming a wagon caravan to deliver food contributions.

(continued on pg. 2)

Tiger agenda items...

- Winter Break Dec. 22 - Jan. 5
- Spring semester begins Tues., Jan. 6
- Report cards issued Jan. 9
- No school Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Jan. 19
- Open House/Science Fair Jan. 26
Students have fun researching and presenting historical biographies

(continued from pg. 1)

to represent their person, and sometimes showed a special video about them. For Walt Disney, the class watched an old presentation called *Steamboat Willie*.

Lilian Howard said she studied Laura Ingalls Wilder. “I learned how she and her family lived on the prairie,” Lilian explained. “My favorite part of the project was hearing all the presentations! I also liked making the same cookies that Laura made on the prairie.”

Ellie Pogach, who researched the life of Helen Keller, said, “My favorite part was learning about her. Helen Keller showed that you can always accomplish your dreams when you work hard.”

The 3rd graders agreed it was interesting learning about the people who shaped the world as it is today.

6th graders learn about helping others through good deeds project

(continued from pg. 1)

Maggie Lee Henson, who died in a tragic bus accident in August 2009. She was only 12 years old. In Maggie Lee’s memory, her mom wrote a book to honor her. Leah Harvel, 6th grader, said she would like to read this book because it would be a great inspiration to do good things for others.

On ML4G, you are supposed to do at least one good deed. Our good deed was to donate canned good and toiletries to Braes Interfaith Ministries, a non-profitable organization that collects food to give to the people who can’t afford to pay for food themselves or support their families.

Over the course of one week, the two classes collected almost 1,200 cans and could barely fit them all in six wagons and one wheelbarrow. We walked 0.7 miles to Braes Interfaith to deliver the food.

Ryann Moos said that this project left a great impact on her and it made her feel good to know that she was helping others.

“I enjoyed this experience because I know that one helpful deed can change our community,” said Olivia Dewey-Vetrano.

To conclude our day, we stopped by Mrs. Gillespie’s house to meet her dogs: Hank, Harley, and Rockett, and to have ice-cream sundaes.
By Sophie Walker

On Friday, December 5th, Trafton students attended an optional spelling bee in the band room during lunch. The students participating had been preparing for nearly a month and a half, studying a list that contained words ranging from words like lion and gray to words like wunderkind, zeitgeist, and synecdoche. Finally they filed into the band room, each one being eliminated until only one winner remained. This person happened to be Omar Mohabbat, a 7th grader in Mrs. Saper's class who defeated Aneel Mehra with the word cordillera.

“It was worth the study-ing,” Omar said, “It was fun.”

The word cabal wiped out nearly half the contestants. Several more lost to loquacious, but other than that most other words only eliminated one or two contestants. For the first few minutes Mr. Mehlhoff's class spectated, but after that they left if they wanted to.

“I learned a lot of new words,” says Ariel Wang, another contestant in the spelling bee, “There were a lot of people there, but it was weird because there were only three 5th graders who showed up.”

In the end, the spelling bee lasted just a few minutes after lunch was over, not taking much time out of the next class. We'd like to congratulate Omar for winning, and also all the other contestants for trying their best in the school-wide Trafton spelling bee.

8th graders explore the Depression, harsh choices in Of Mice and Men

By Jamie Tatum and Maya Teller

Recently Trafton's 8th grade English students read Of Mice and Men, a novel written by John Steinbeck. This book tells about two men – George, who is a quick thinker, and Lennie, a very strong, large mentally disabled man. These two travel through California during the Great Depression. They dream of owning a ranch one day. Lennie, who has the mind of a child, wants to tend rabbits. After running from the police because Lennie got in trouble, they end up on a ranch where they work hard every day, carrying heavy bags of hay. There is a woman on the ranch, and she is interested in Lennie. One day, she encourages Lennie to feel her hair. Lennie thinks her hair is soft and strokes it harder than the woman likes. She yanks her head back and yells at Lennie, telling him to stop. Because Lennie is confused, he holds on to her hair. She starts to scream and he covers her mouth, fearing he would get in trouble and not be allowed to tend the rabbits he and George would have on their ranch. She continues to scream and Lennie shakes her shoulders to try to make her stop. Because Lennie is so strong, he accidentally breaks her neck. He runs away, and George finds him. George debates killing Lennie because he knows someone else would kill Lennie if George didn't. He decides to kill Lennie. The book ends at this point, but it asks a question. Was it right to kill Lennie? Eighth grader Sydney Hutchins says, “I don’t think it was right to kill Lennie because they still could have run away.” Another eighth grader, who wishes to remain anonymous, says, “I think George should have killed Lennie because Lennie would have been killed by a stranger or been sent to jail. If he went to jail, he would have been confused and scared.” In conclusion, Of Mice and Men is a great book, and everyone should read it and develop their own opinion on what George should have done.
Middle school mathletes challenge American Mathematics Contest

By Arun Mehra

Sixty of Trafton’s ambitious 6th, 7th, and 8th graders joined tens of thousands of middle school students across the globe in participating in the American Mathematics Competition (AMC-8) on November 18. The AMC-8 is a 25-question, 40-minute, multiple choice exam in middle school mathematics designed to promote the development and enhancement of problem solving skills. High scoring students can qualify to take the AMC-10, the high school version of the exam.

Based on the Trafton students’ reactions, many said it was a complicated test. Aneel Mehra said, “It was a difficult test but studying for the test made me a better math student.”

The primary purpose of the test is to give the opportunity for students to learn problem solving skills and explore math beyond what is normally seen in junior high classes. In the end, the highest three scores in each grade at Trafton earn special certificates, and the school’s highest performing student is awarded a commemorative pen. All students receive certificates recognizing them for their participation on this exam.

Trafton’s results are expected to be received during the winter break, and top scores will be recognized in the next issue. Congratulations to all who joined in this annual math challenge.

Tiger Tastes: West University’s Island Grill will become a favorite

By Rachel James

Have you ever been to Island Grill? Hidden in the corner of a strip center in West University, this restaurant is teeming with business. When you walk in, to your left are bench seats on one side of the table and chairs on the other. On the right is a large counter with the menu written in bright chalk on a chalkboard above it. This Mediterranean-American restaurant is very casual and comfortable and serves a variety of smoothies as well as entrees.

The dish I ordered consisted of chicken, pita bread, french fries, and a salad. The first dish that I ate was the chicken kabobs. The chicken is cooked in an amazing garlic sauce and has a yellow coloring. It is very tender and has a faint lemon aftertaste. This dish is one of my favorites that I order here.

The next thing I ate was the pita bread and french fries. The pita tasted much like the chicken it was served under since it absorbed the garlic sauce. The only bad thing was that it was very doughy and got stuck in my braces. The french fries were good, but quite heavy on the salt and spices.

The last part of the entrée was the salad. The salad is my favorite thing to get when I go to Island Grill. The salad is very fresh and crisp. It contains lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, bell peppers, onions, feta cheese, and an amazing cucumber dressing. My mom likes the dressing as well and ate almost half of my salad.

The wait staff at Island Grill is very friendly, enthusiastic, and nice. After you seat yourself, the food comes in a little over five minutes. The only bad thing about this restaurant is that it is so small and noisy. When I ordered at the counter, I said I wanted rice, but they ended up giving me fries, so obviously the noise is a problem. I would definitely recommend this restaurant, but mainly to younger people and not older people. Island Grill is a warm, friendly place that will definitely make your favorites list.

Upper right: tasty fries, super crisp salads, and homemade pita bread make all meals extra special; right: freshly concocted smoothies are always a popular choice at Island Grill.
The Trafton Academy cheer team is made up of 7th and 8th grade girls, all who tried out before a panel of judges before making the team. The squad includes eight 7th grade girls, plus two 8th grade girls, Marley Price and Jhenna Hillier, who are the cheer captains. The team goes to sports games, and has been to basketball and soccer games to cheer for our Trafton sports teams.

Led by Mrs. Gillespie, the team’s jobs include cheering at games, running pep rallies, welcoming prospective parents on tour days, and spreading cheer around the entire school! Over the previous summer, the team went to Moody Gardens in Galveston for one week to learn new cheers and stunts, prepare for the demands of the year, and to spend time together.

Madison Dodson says her favorite part about being on the cheer squad was getting to go to Moody Gardens over the summer to learn new cheers and to see the other cheerleaders perform their stunts, and also hanging out with her friends.

I recently went to one of the basketball games, and I saw the team perform many different cheers, and they even did a few other really impressive stunts!

Overall, the Trafton cheer team is really impressive, and I can’t wait to see what other cheers the team comes up with and performs!

By Jamie Tatum

For this edition of Tiger Talks, we interview Coach Pat Tatum, the 7th grade Texas History teacher and athletic director here at Trafton.

Q: Where were you born?
A: I am a native Houstonian.

Q: Where did you go to college?
A: I got my regular degree at Stephen F. Austin, and my Masters Degree at Houston Baptist University.

Q: What is your favorite unit to teach and why?
A: In Texas History, I like teaching the unit about Galveston pirates because it was an exciting event in Texas’ history.

Q: What is the most shocking thing that has ever happened to you in class?
A: Nobody had noticed a roach on the ceiling, until it fell down into my shirt while I was teaching.

Q: What class did you enjoy most when you were in school and why?
A: I liked mythology because it was creative and imaginative.

Q: What do you enjoy doing when you aren’t teaching?
A: I like to watch NFL football, play Clash of Clans, and play video games with my daughters.

Q: What is something the students don’t know about you?
A: In high school, I was the #1 bowler in the state in my age group.

Q: If you were not a teacher, who would you be?
A: I would be the National Pastry & Confectionery Inspector.

Q: What is your favorite food?
A: My wife’s famous fried chicken.

Q: What impressions/influences would you like your students to take away from your class?
A: I want my students to learn about the history of the United States and how it has shaped our country today.

Coach Tatum is known for telling great Texas history stories while teaching lessons, and he hopes this helps inspire them to learn and study more.
By Jacob Trachtenberg

Seventh grade students are reading an allegorical novel, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. An allegory is a work of fiction in which characters, dates, places, etc. represent real life people, events, and more. Allegories often have a deeper meaning than the literal meaning of the words. *Animal Farm* certainly does! Therefore, to understand the novel, one first needs to know the historical background that George Orwell was writing about.

It started in the early 1800’s when a man named Karl Marx proposed a way of government called Marxism which eventually evolved into Communism. Many decades later, in 1917, the czar (king) of Russia was cruelly ruling over his country. Everyone was starving, and a violent group of people called Bolsheviks successfully revolted. By November 1917, the Bolsheviks were in power and their leader, V.I. Lenin, controlled Russia and renamed it the Soviet Union. The Bolsheviks were Communist, which means all property was controlled by the government and “everybody was equal”. (The Communists did not actually follow that one!)

The tyrant Lenin ruled until 1924, when he died of a brain hemorrhage. So who would be the next ruler of the USSR? There was a race between two people, Joseph Stalin and Leon Trotsky. Stalin was a fierce person who always got his way. Trotsky was a magnificent speaker who lacked depth of character. Eventually, Stalin took over.

Joseph Stalin was probably the most evil person in history besides Hitler. He executed most of the Communist party including Trotsky in the Great Purge and more than one million citizens for not doing exactly what he wanted. *Animal Farm* was published in 1939 to criticize Stalin and his totalitarian way of ruling.

To begin the book, an old pig named Major gives a speech about life on the Manor Farm for the animals. He describes it as miserable, laborious, and short. He believes that the reason for this horrible life is Man. He goes on to say that if the animals could successfully oust Mr. Jones and his men from the farm, the animals would lead peaceful, happy lives. Then he shows them a song about life without men called “Beasts of England.” The animals are obsessed with the song and even after Napoleon’s death, the animals have a revolution and Jones is cast away. Seven animal commandments are installed, the most important being “All animals are equal.”

Two pigs named Napoleon and Snowball gradually take complete control over the farm. Napoleon is a fierce pig who always got his way. Snowball was a magnificent speaker who lacked depth of character. Eventually, Stalin took over.

Ashley Kennedy added, “It was terrible how Napoleon abused the other animals. Scary pigs like Napoleon are comparable in today’s world to Osama bin Laden and need to be stopped.”

Omar Mohabbat agreed with his classmates and concluded, “Napoleon should have been stopped before he ever came into power.”

Nerd Day winners...

Student Council collected more than $400 from eager nerds and sweat suit fans excited to abandon uniforms for a day. For a small payment of $3, students could dress in sweats or their best nerd outfit.

Mrs. Holmes reported that the free dress events have already paid for this year’s spring dance scheduled for Feb. 13. Grade level Nerd Day costume winners were 3rd - Lilian Howard, 4th - Hannah Stein, 5th - Spencer Gibbs, 6th - Maya Hoffman, 7th - Harvey Gibbs, and 8th - Sam Lee.
By Allison Coale

On November 15, several Trafton students volunteered at the Books Between Kids charity, which focuses on giving books to children who can’t afford them. During this visit, the students helped to sort, move, and ship thousands of books out to their new owners to be read and enjoyed for years to come. According to Mrs. Melhoff,

“Our students performed a valuable service sorting these books,” said National Junior Honor Society sponsor Mrs. Janet Mehlhoff. Books Between Kids, founded in 2012, is a non-profit organization that serves children in Houston elementary schools so that they can build their own home libraries. About 85% of children in the Houston Independent School District are at or below the poverty line, and, for them, books are considered a luxury. With fewer books available, it is less likely for these children to complete a basic education than those with a readily available home library. Books Between Kids wishes to change help Houston children to reverse this fact.

Over the course of the last two years, this charity has given away well over 200,000 gently used books to children in need at 32 different elementary schools. Each child receives 6 books, often the first books they’ve ever owned. By 2018, the charity is aiming to support as many as 50,000 disadvantaged children across the city.

Trafton students were supporting, as 8th grader Graham McFarland explained, "a noble cause."

Hey, Trafton Tigers, happy birthday to you!

By Maya Teller

This month is a very special month for many people in the Trafton community. These people are now turning one year older! December is a very fun month to have a birthday because of the holiday spirit, the cold weather, and more. We wish a happy birthday to:

Hannah Stein  
Abby Herndon  
Kyle Landman  
Jack Bradshaw  
Elise Hay  
Sydney Hay  
Blair Reeves  
Reese Schornstein  
Jack Sinor

Eila Stock-Bordnick  
Chiara Casiraghi  
Caleb Fusco  
Travis Harrison  
Conner Kornmayer  
Juliet Levin  
Max Lew  
Daniel Portugal

Above left: 8th graders Elena Vogiatzis and Jhenna Hillier prepare to load books; far left: Graham McFarland “box-dives” to add books to the sorting pile; near left: Allison Coale and Mrs. Mehlhoff sort book choices for distribution.

Trafton Library Gently-Used Books Drop Box

This new, permanent box is located in our library. Please consider donating any gently used books your children have out-grown or are ready to part with.

Our library and students THANK YOU!
Heavenly holiday treats will please any one with a sweet tooth

By Jake Cosgrove

The holidays are coming and so are the gifts. If you are craving a sweet treat to send, just try this simple one. This toffee is easy to make and easy to enjoy and to eat.

Ingredients:

- 1 pound (4 sticks) of butter (unsalted)
- 2 cups of white sugar
- 6 teaspoons of water
- Nuts (optional)
- Dried fruit (optional)
- 1 bag of Chocolate Chips (preferably dark but milk is good too)

Prepare a cookie sheet with cooking spray on the bottom, and then cover completely with parchment paper. Cover the parchment paper with toasted almonds, pecans, or nothing at all, and set the prepared cookie sheet aside.

All you do to start is to melt the butter, sugar and water in a heavy pot, stirring every couple of minutes until golden brown in color. The mixture should start to pull away from the sides of the pot.

Quickly and carefully pour evenly the golden brown mixture over the parchment paper. I like to then sprinkle chocolate chips over this mixture. The heat from the toffee will melt the chocolate, which should be spread with the back of a spatula. If you like, put dried fruit or nuts over the top and let cool for 20 to 30 minutes so that it is not too hard to handle. After this time runs out, put the toffee in the freezer for 2 to 3 hours or until good and firm.

Lastly, when the long wait has passed, break the toffee up, and spread the joy of this scrumptious holiday dessert.

Dribble, shoot, SCORE! – Tiger basketball teams start the season

By Jamie Tatum

For the first time in three years, Trafton has five basketball teams. For the boys, there is a 6th grade team, a Junior Varsity (7th grade) team, and a Varsity (8th grade) team. For the girls, there is a Junior Varsity (7th grade) team and a Varsity (8th grade) team.

On the 6th grade boys’ team, the players are Jonathon Stein, Jack Johnson, Leor Belleli, Brett Bazarsky, Max Melamed, Duncan Barnes, Jack Bradshaw, Adam Perry, Gavin Mott, Noah, Brezner, and Nico Mur. This team is led by Coach Melhoff.

On the 7th grade boys’ team, Justin Broadfoot, Wade Swan, Ethan Towber, Conner Young, Shaffer Chandler, Ben Mazzoni, Chandler Bodtmann, Morgan Laviage, and Justin Smith are the players. These boys are coached by Coach Tatum.

Coach Tatum said, “I like how my boys are always eager to play.” These boys have been part of a tournament at St. Mark Lutheran.

As for the 8th grade boys’ team, Max Karkowsky, Austin Howard, Daniel Portugal, Ian Holcomb, Harold Weiser, Mark Nylund, Conner Kornmayer, and Caleb Fusco are the players on the team. They are coached by Coach Thompson. They have been part of the Fort Bend tournament and the St. Mark Lutheran tournament.

The 7th grade team has Sully Grubbs, Olivia Howard, Sydney Hay, Megan Perry, Grace Unger, Meera Das, Anvi Desai, Lindsey Peleg, Rachel Barker, and Callie Young.

The 8th grade girls’ team includes Sydney Hutchins, Sydney Wallace, Jamie Tatum, Kelsey Barker, Sarah Dickson, Anjali Patel, Alexandra Couvillon, and Megan Frankel. They are coached by Coach Rockett. So far, these girls have been in the Ft. Bend and Kinkaid tournaments. The girls won consolation in the Ft. Bend tournament.
Trafton is happy to introduce another group of first year Tigers. We thought it would be fun and interesting to learn a little more about some of the newest members of our Trafton family, and encourage you to get to know them better as well.

Q: Whose homeroom are you in?
A: Reagan Duffey is a new addition to Mrs. Janet Mehlhoff’s 7th grade class, 6th graders Lauren Brice and David Adair can be found in Mr. Eric Mehlhoff’s class, 6th grader Matt Munn is in Mrs. Gillespie’s homeroom.

Q: Where did you go to school before Trafton?
A: Reagan transferred from Lanier Middle School, Lauren comes to us from AOS, David completed West University Elementary, and Matt graduated from Horn.

Q: What are your favorite subjects thus far at Trafton?
A: Reagan enjoys math and reading, Lauren prefers reading, writing, and science, while David and Matt both like math and social studies.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time outside of school?
A: Reagan likes to play volleyball and swim, Lauren enjoys dancing and art, David stays busy playing football, baseball, soccer, running track, and hanging out with friends, while Matt prefers video games, basketball or playing with his dog.

Q: What’s something your new friends might be surprised to learn about you?
A: Reagan loves to draw and listen to music, Lauren is a really good at snow skiing, David can throw a football 50 yards, and some might be surprised to hear that Matt sings a lot.

Q: What’s your favorite food?
A: Reagan says her favorite food would for sure be Gardetto’s snack mix, Lauren didn’t share a preference, David will always take pasta, and Matt loves chili burgers.

Q: What’s the most interesting place you’ve ever visited?
A: Reagan most liked New York City because of the shops and restaurants, nature-lover Lauren loves Jackson Hole’s for its skiing and sites, David was impressed by the desert area and trails of Big Bend, whereas Matt loved the calm experience of visiting the Cayman Islands.

Q: Name your favorite book.
A: Reagan recommends Wonder, Lauren liked The Giver, David enjoyed Percy Jackson and the Last Olympians, and Matt preferred Mike Lupica’s True Legend.

Q: Favorite music?
A: One Direction is a draw for Reagan, Lauren listens to One Republic, David doesn’t have a favorite, while Matt is a fan of We are Toonz.

Q: Where would you like to go to college and what do you hope to do?
A: Reagan hopes to go to Rice University and eventually become a veterinarian, Lauren also wants to attend Rice but to study architecture, while David hopes to attend UT and play football, and Matt’s dream is to become a pro baseball player after UCLA.

“Could I just email you a link to my blog, or maybe it would be easier if you would just check Facebook?”
Trafton 8th grader Austin Howard assisted in leading part of the 16th Annual Swing for Kids’ Sake Golf Tournament benefitting Big Brothers Big Sisters which raised more than $400,000 on November 3, 2014. Participants in the tournament’s Big Shot Little Shot contest competed with junior golfers like Austin on par 3 holes for a chance to win a Tempur-Pedic mattress from a tournament sponsor. This was the second year for the Big Shot Little Shot contest, which was created by Austin.

“I always played golf, but I became more interested in helping raise money when my family became a mentor in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, Austin explained. “I talked with my dad about trying to come up with an idea to help raise more money at this tournament, and I had seen contests kind of like this in other tournaments I had attended.”

Thanks to Austin’s work, the contest has raised almost $20,000 to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters, which will help support a match for 20 Houston children in need of caring adult mentors.

Austin said, “Playing golf and working to help Big Brothers Big Sisters - it’s important, and I really like doing this.”

Right: Austin Howard (center) and two golfing friends from other middle schools manage their contest at a golf tournament to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Houston.

Trafton student council gathers donations to help feed community

By Zala Courtin

Led by the Student Council, Trafton Academy completed a three-week food drive on December 5 to serve needy families in Houston. We have collected over 3,000 items, and the class with the most cans contributed was Mrs. Knight’s class with a total of 690 items. This class will receive a prize of an ice cream party. All donations were forwarded to Braes Interfaith Ministries to serve the local community.

Thanks to all for their donations to people who need it the most. Hopefully next year we will collect enough cans to fill the school bus!

Cub Capers: Thanksgiving lessons taught by the Trafton’s youngest

Left: Pre-K and Kinder Cubs perform a couple of songs about Thanksgiving to help 7th graders learn more about the holiday.

Pre-K student Morgan Fridie explained the meaning of Thanksgiving, “We learned that there were pilgrims and they had a feast. We had a feast with the Kinder Cubs. We had M&Ms, marshmallows, pretzels, and cheddar bunnies.

The Kinder Cubs were the American Indians. The American Indians were important because they showed the pilgrims how to plant corns. The pilgrims came over on a ship called the May-flowers.”
Are you looking for some random facts to impress your family and friends with your knowledge of interesting trivia? If so, this is the place to look.

- In the average lifetime, a person will walk the equivalent of five times around the equator.
- There are 10 human body parts that are only 3 letters long. Can you name them? (eye, hip, arm, leg, ear, toe, jaw, rib, lip, gum.)
- Every year about 98% of the atoms in your body are replaced.
- Children grow faster in the springtime.
- The elephant is the only animal with 4 knees.
- Sleeping on the job is considered acceptable in Japan. It is viewed as exhaustion from working so hard. Some people are reported to “fake sleep” at work to look more committed to their jobs.
- The fastest bird in the world is the peregrine falcon. Its flight has been recorded at speeds of up to 217 miles per hour.

Q: Why did the girl make sure to wear glasses in math class?
A: They improve di-vidion!

Q: How do bees get to school?
A: By school buzz.

Q: Why is the mushroom always invited to parties?
A: Because he’s a fungi.

Q: Why should you never toss sodium chloride at anyone?
A: That’s a salt!

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**Tiger Tidbits**—fun to share with teachers, friends, and family

**Tiger teaser word search: finishing up the fall semester at Trafton**

By Tribune Staff

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A C I R E M A H T U O S S Q R Y Z Y D O
S N O I T A U Q E F O S M E T S Y S O F
M D H W V G X L J D E O M T N B K E O M
A T I S I F N A U E T I E O O A A C G I
E N N K T N Y I B G D I I V P S E N R C
I A U M Y E E E A C Z J U H E B L F A
B F D P A I E R R N E A N M Q T R A E N
P H I A L L M W U M M L A C B B E V E D
L T W L M E F F T A U E R Z O A T O L M
M M E W X A R A D E Q S E E W L N C E E
V P Z A U A J A R E B K I X E L I F I N
S P M M E Y Y A P M Z S T C X H W L G P
F B I O G R A P H I E S J O T L O G A B
L L E V I R D D O O F S P W O S W H M R
A M C M A T H C O N T E S T Y B S M E R
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OF MICE AND MEN
ANIMAL FARM
LINEAR FUNCTIONS
WINTER MUSICAL
BASKETBALL
PAJAMA DAYS
FOOD DRIVE
SYSTEMS OF EQUATIONS
BOOKS BETWEEN KIDS
MAGGIE LEE FOR GOOD
MIDTERM EXAMS
PAJAMA DAY
SOUTH AMERICA
IONS
COVALENCE
WINTER BREAK
AMC MATH CONTEST
SPELLING BEE
BIOGRAPHIES
CHEERLEADING
Winter musical closes semester with cheer

The anticipated winter musical was held before a full house of enthusiastic guests on December 11 at the Stafford Civic Center. The performances were coordinated by band director Mrs. Kristen Fusco and Music Director Mrs. J.C. Blaker.

The Pre-K and Kinder cubs led with adorable selections of holiday-themed songs. Dressed in fuzzy robes, the talented 3rd graders followed with fun recorder (flutophone) pieces. Trafton’s concert band then took center stage with traditional favorites, followed by an impressive chair percussion production by the Bucket Brigade. Finally, medleys of Christmas and Chanukah songs performed by the Jazz Band and then the 7th and 8th grade band.

An intermission allowed guests to mingle and view artwork provided by Mrs. Christie Harrison’s program.

The musical program included cheerful songs and choreography performed by each grade in the lower school. The 6th grade kicked off the program with a medley and solos by Charles Barrier, Matt Munn, Megan Perry, Josie Zisman, and Miles Weiss. A nice duet was added by Callie Young and Ryann Moos.

Fifth graders Spencer Gibbs, Benjy Kerrigan, and Will Doyle-Madrid added a trio in Hebrew, and 6th grader Josie Zisman was joined by 3rd grader Jack Applebaum for a nice combination. A final multi-grade selection by 3rd graders Jake Lozano and Geoffrey Barnes, 5th grader Auden Griffiths, and 6th grader Duncan Barnes was well received.

Thoughts turned to a frosty white winter as 5th graders Alexa Fusco and Abbey Herndon added nice solos, before several snow-themed songs performed by the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. As always, a very special surprise appearance was made by our very own Coach Hyland (aka this year as Snowman Dude). To close the show, 6th grader Kat Leverenz added a final solo to join the 3rd-5th graders in their last holiday song.