

"Middle school is kind of like Middle-earth. It's a magical journey filled with elves, dwarves, hobbits, queens, kings, and a few corrupt wizards." — Kimberly Dana

MIDDLE MATTERS



September Recap 2026

Titusville Middle School

Titusville, PA

Welcome Back, Rockets! 🚀

We're excited to kick off a brand new school year with the first issue of *Middle Matters*! There's so much happening at our school right now. Got a spooky story, cool event, or awesome achievement you'd like to see in the October newsletter? Email Ms. Prugh at lpugh@gorockets.org to share your idea. Let's make this year one to remember!

Reminders from the Main Office

📷 **Make-Up Picture Day** – October 23rd

💻 **Chromebooks** – Plug them in every day before leaving

📅 **SmartPass** – Be sure to shut off passes when you return to class

🔑 **Hall Pass** – Wear it around your neck (please don't swing it around)

📝 **Excuses** – Turn in all parent/doctor excuses to the office

Meet Mrs. Staub: Our New Assistant Principal!

There's a new face in the halls at Titusville Middle School! Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Staub as our new Assistant Principal!

Mrs. Staub grew up in Oil City and spent nine years teaching there before stepping into school administration. She attended Edinboro University and the University of Kansas. Becoming a school administrator has actually been a goal of hers since high school, so she is excited to finally be living out that dream!

Mrs. Staub has always been a big fan of sports. She played sports throughout elementary and high school and even coached girls basketball for several years. When she's not at school, you might find her traveling, working out, or curled up with a good book.

Mrs. Staub is also a first-time mom to a six-month-old, so she definitely has a busy schedule! At home, she and her husband, who are high school sweethearts, have two English Mastiffs who are also part of the family.



Most importantly, Mrs. Staub says she is super excited for this school year and to be part of the Titusville community. She is looking forward to meeting students, getting to know families, and becoming part of the TMS family.

Welcome to TMS, Mrs. Staub! We are so happy to have you here!

Wilderness Quest #53



Our sixth graders recently headed to Seneca Hills for the 53rd annual Wilderness Quest, and they were ready for an adventure! From the moment they arrived, students jumped into activities, settled into their cabins, and created Catalyst flags to represent their classrooms.

Continued on page 2

Wilderness Quest #53

(Continued from page 1)

The fun continued with a variety of stations, including the water safety station led by Mr. Dawson and his lifeguard team. Students also enjoyed some time in the pool while learning important water safety skills. At another station, students worked together to build boats, putting their creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork skills to the test.

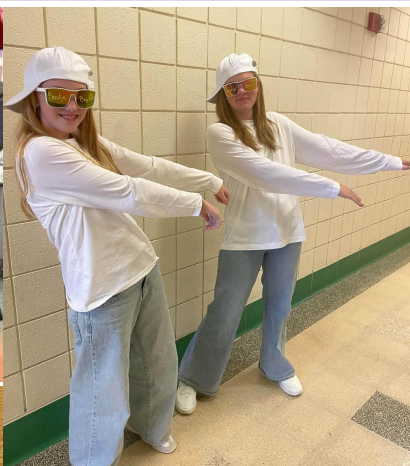
When the sun started to set, it was time for one of the most anticipated parts of Wilderness Quest: the campfire! Students gathered around the fire and enjoyed stories with Mr. Stumpf, who returned for his incredible 53rd year as our guest storyteller! Talk about a Wilderness Quest tradition!

A huge thank you goes to Miss Ledebur and the entire Wilderness Quest team for all of the time, planning, and hard work that goes into making this experience possible each year. We are also grateful to the TASD School Board Directors for their continued support and commitment to Wilderness Quest.

It was a week filled with adventure, teamwork, laughter, and memories that our sixth graders are sure to remember for years to come!



TMS Spirit Week Brings the School



Homecoming Week was full of school spirit, creativity, and plenty of fun at Titusville Middle School! As students counted down to the Homecoming Game on Friday, September 25, they showed their Rocket pride by dressing up each day for a different theme.

Monday – Dress to Impress

Students kicked off the week by dressing their best for Dress to Impress Day. The hallways were filled with stylish outfits and students ready to start Homecoming Week in style!

Tuesday – Color Clash

Tuesday brought some friendly grade-level competition! The 6th graders wore green, 7th graders wore black, 8th graders wore blue, and the staff showed their support by wearing pink. The school was a colorful display of Rocket spirit!

Wednesday – Squad Day

On Wednesday, students teamed up with their friends for Squad Day. Groups showed off their creativity by coordinating outfits and celebrating the week with their favorite people.



Thursday – Throwback Day

Thursday took everyone back in time for Throwback Day! Students and staff brought out their favorite retro styles and had fun showing off looks from different decades.



Friday – Brown and Gold

The week wrapped up with everyone showing their Titusville pride in brown and gold! Students and staff filled the school with Rocket spirit as they got ready to celebrate Homecoming.



The Homecoming Game took place on Friday, September 25, bringing the week of spirit and excitement to a close. It was a great week to celebrate our school, our classmates, and what it means to be a Titusville Rocket!

TMS Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Month

Did you know that Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15th through October 15th? Mrs Kovach's Rocket Block has been learning about it and created posters to share their findings with the rest of the school. Their posters highlight food, sports, dances, and famous people of the various cultures and traditions of Latinx people.

Artists: Greyson Ricke, Mary Lesko, Lillian Strickland, Dominick Wesoloski, Lyra Stack, Parker Sutton, Lukas Miller, Casey Roeder, Carson Peterson, Matilyn Daugherty, Kameryn Riddell



Hispanic Dances

MANBO

From 1940s Cuba, this dance is known for quick, syncopated rhythms and energetic turns. It took New York by storm in the 1950s with the famous Tiptop Ballroom being the center piece of the dance.

CUECA

From Chile, Cueca is known for its lively and flirtatious movements. Dancers often mimic a rooster and hen using handkerchiefs as props, leaving them around.

RUMBA

From Cuba, Rumba is a blend of seductive and subtle known for slow rhythms and sensual movements. It is a story of romance, a pursuit with heart-like sharp hip movements and intricate hand gestures.

FLAMENCO

Coming from the Andalus region of Spain, known for powerful, rhythmic and often deep and slow, flamenco dancing is a blend of song, dance, and guitar playing.

TANGO

Born in Buenos Aires, the tango is a dance of passion and sensuality. It is a global phenomenon.

CHA-CHA-CHA

From Cuba, this dance is known for its lively and flirtatious movements.

REGGAETON

From Puerto Rico, reggaeton is a blend of reggae, Latin, and hip-hop. It is a globally popular dance style.

CUMBE

From Colombia, Cumbia is a dance style that is a blend of African, European, and indigenous influences. It is a popular dance style.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Sept. 15 - Oct. 15

Name: Alex Rodriguez Birthday: July 27, 1995 From: New York, NY Nationality: Dominican Profession: Baseball player Interesting fact: He is the Hispanic base ball player with the most home runs.	Name: Jennifer Lopez Birthday: Sept 02, 1966 From: Veracruz, Mexico Nationality: Mexico Profession: Actor Interesting fact: she received an Oscar nomination for her role in the film Frida.
Name: Roberto Clemente Birthday: Aug. 18, 1934 From: Puerto Rico Profession: Baseball player Interesting fact: He was the first ever inducted into the baseball hall of fame.	Name: Jennifer Lopez Birthday: July 24, 1969 From: Bronx, NY Nationality: Puerto Rican Profession: Singer and actor Interesting fact: She was the first person to have #1 album and a #1 movie during the same week.

TACOS

Tacos are a staple in Mexican cuisine, with roots dating back to indigenous people. The iconic dish typically consists of either soft or hard tortillas - traditionally corn but also flour in some regions - filled with a variety of toppings. Such as beef, chicken, pork, seafood, or vegetables. Commonly garnished with onions, cilantro, salsa, guacamole, and lime. Tacos offer a delicious insight into Mexico's vibrant street food culture and culinary diversity.

CHURRO

Churros are a sweet pastry originating from Spain. This dish comes in a thicker version heavily coated in cinnamon sugar, and sometimes filled with cajeta. Spain churros originated in the Iberian Peninsula and are eaten fresh for breakfast or as a snack dipped in chocolate.

Subarsi

Pau is a 19-year-old colonial Spanish professional footballer who plays as a centre-back for FC Barcelona and the Spain national football team.

At 17 yrs. old he became the youngest player ever in a champions league quarter-final.

He signed a €500 million buyout through June 2024.

He won the World Cup with the Spanish national team at 19 yrs. old.

FIFA WORLD CUP

- Spain won the 2026 world cup.
- Brazil is the only team to play in every world cup.
- In 1966 the world cup trophy got stolen and found in a shop in London.

Spanish Heritage Month

Fall Sports

Girls Basketball



Giselle Gibbons
Mary Lesko
Blakely Evans
Gina Beers
Kylie Yochum
Kaylee Stiglitz
Allison Hummer
Mirabelle Finn
Beatrice Popescu
Amelia Kline
Quinn Rakoczy



Cross Country

Collin Steinbuhler
Cashleigh Huck
Roscoe Droddy
Aubrey Happoldt
Sadie Hart
Janelle Machokas
Nathanial Lund



Cheer Team

Madison Berhous
Gracelyn Byler
Vita Clark
Matilyn Daugherty
Peyton Eccles
Lexus Karns
Kailey King
Chloe Mumford
Dallas Reedy



7th and 8th Grade Football:

Wyatt Beck
Lance Bryant
Joulain Burrows
Braden Evans
Miles Franks
Benett Greathouse
Colt Harmon
Macoy Hunt
Greyson Johnson
Landon Kemp
Parker Kline
Jacob Klinger
Bennet Knapp
Mason Martin
Colin Murphy
Luca Nosko
Karter Oakes
Declan O'Toole
Weston Peterson
Hunter Reagle
Joseph Reed
Jacob Renninger
Bryce Rex
Noah Reynolds
Carter Root
Brandon Shirey
Gavin Smith
Kellen Smith
Miles Smith
Cole Vincent
Colin Wakefield
Dominick Wesoloski
Bryson Williams



6th Grade Football

Timmy Anderson
Daxton Beck
Judah Blinn
Paul Burnside
Kamdien Conkey
Josh Dailey
Cooper Daugherty
Eastin Davis
David Dillemath
Lee Knouff
Emmett McGarvie
Nikolai Raulerson
Kasen Sellen
Chaytum Shaver
Chase Stec
Noah Wolfrath



Marching Band

Anthony Beebe
Hope Bell
Chloe Decker
Leland Bryan
Duke Holcomb
Hadassah Jacobson
Hallyanna Jacobson
Garrett List
Chloe Mumford
Sarabi Orris
Briahnna Rago

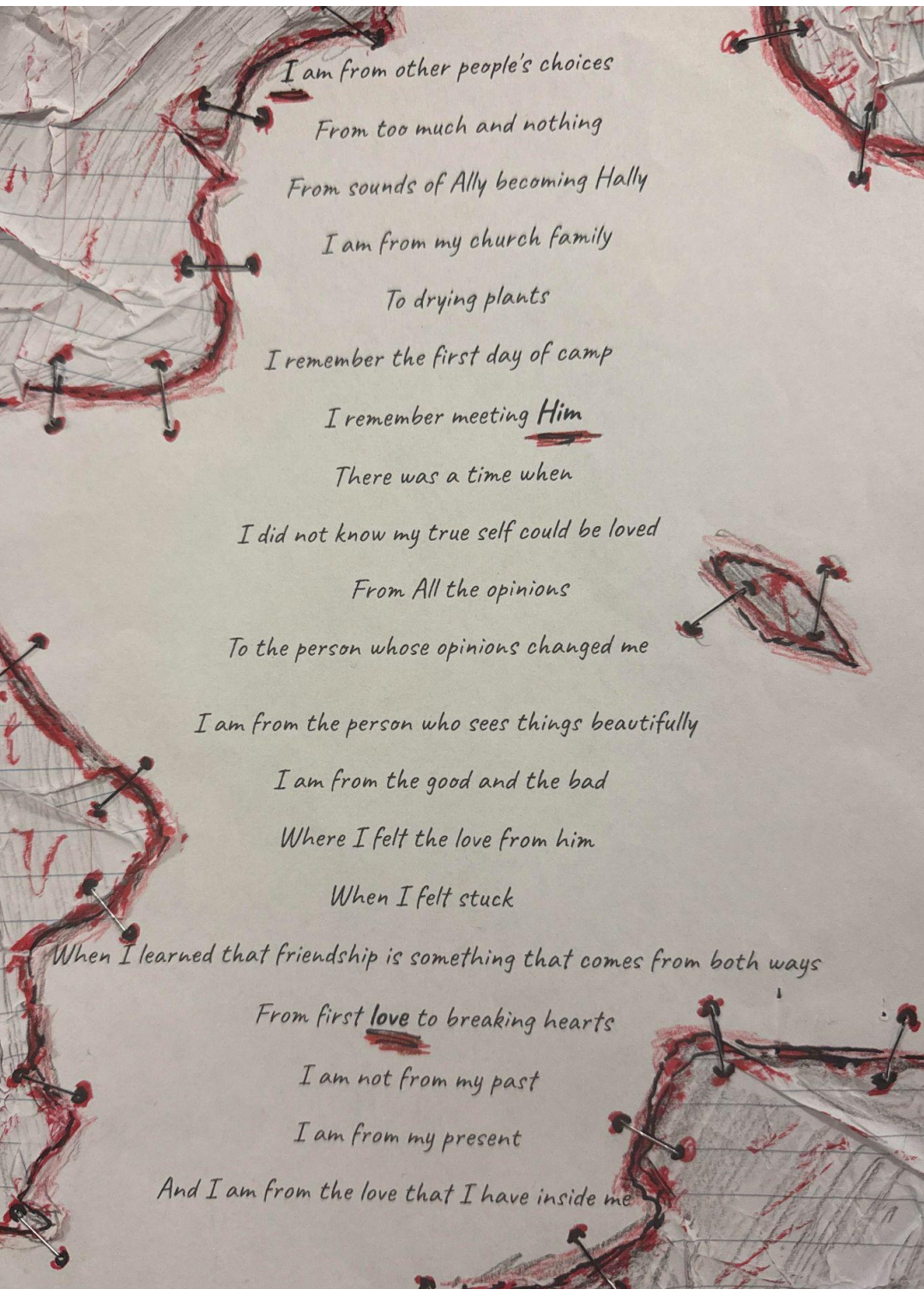
Poetry Corner



Ms. Scher's 8th grade ELA students recently explored "I Am From..." poetry, a creative writing activity that encourages students to reflect on the people, places, traditions, memories, and experiences that have helped shape who they are.

Rather than simply writing about themselves, students used sensory details and meaningful memories to create poems that tell their stories in a unique and personal way. The activity gave everyone a chance to think about where they come from and what makes their story special.

Featured student Hallyanna Jacobson created her own "I Am From..." poem, sharing personal details and memories that help paint a picture of her life and experiences.



I am from other people's choices
From too much and nothing
From sounds of Ally becoming Hally
I am from my church family
To drying plants
I remember the first day of camp
I remember meeting HIM
There was a time when
I did not know my true self could
be loved
From all the opinions
To the person whose opinions
changed me

I am from the person who sees
things beautifully
I am from the good and the bad
Where I felt the love from him
When I felt stuck

When I learned that friendship is
something that comes from both
ways
From first LOVE to breaking
hearts
I am not from my past
I am from my present
And I am from the love that I
have inside me

- Hallyanna Jacobson

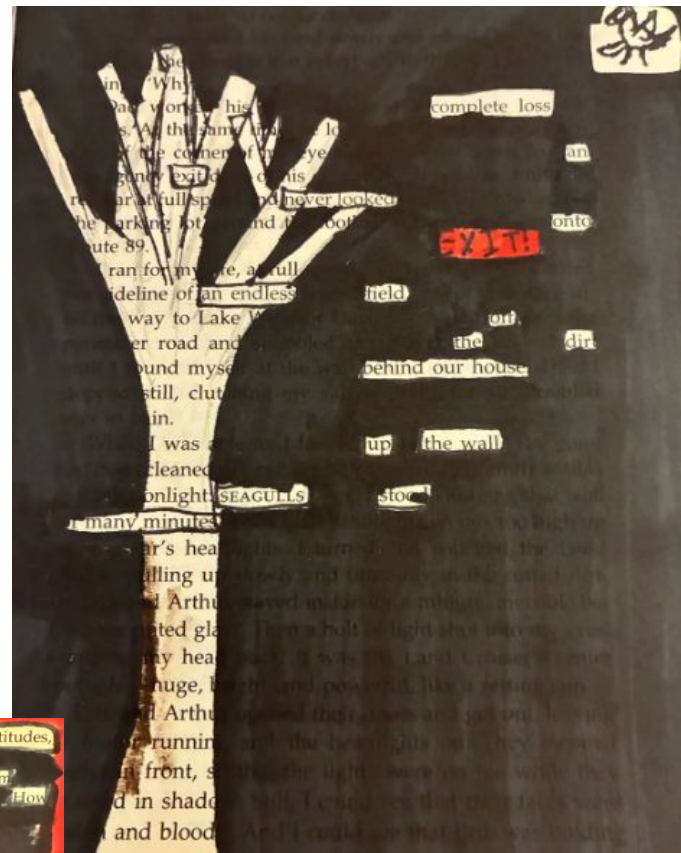
Blackout Poetry: Turning Old Books into New Poems!

Students in Ms. Prugh's Rocket Block got creative with words by trying their hand at blackout poetry! Instead of starting with a blank page, students used pages from old books and transformed the existing words into their own original poems.

So, what exactly is blackout poetry? Students choose a page from a book, read through the words, and select words or phrases that stand out to them. They then use markers, drawings, or designs to "black out" the words they don't want, leaving behind a poem hidden within the original text.

Students had to think carefully about word choice, meaning, and creativity as they turned ordinary book pages into something completely new. The finished pages became unique works of art, with each poem telling its own story.

Who knew old books could have so many new stories hiding inside them?



Blackout Poem

By: Liam Watkins

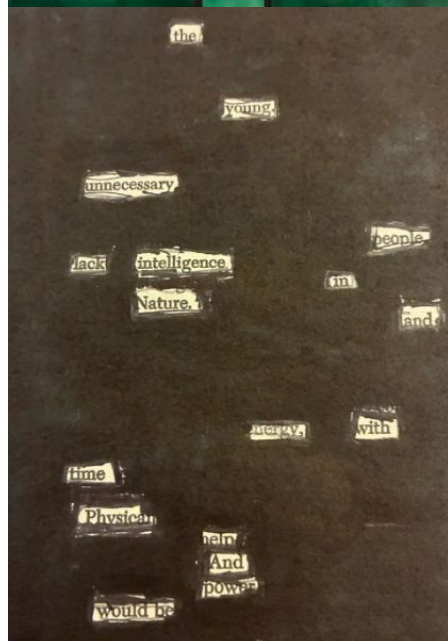
The young unnecessary people
Lack intelligence in nature and energy
With time
Power would be no danger



Blackout Poem

By: Maddie Peeples

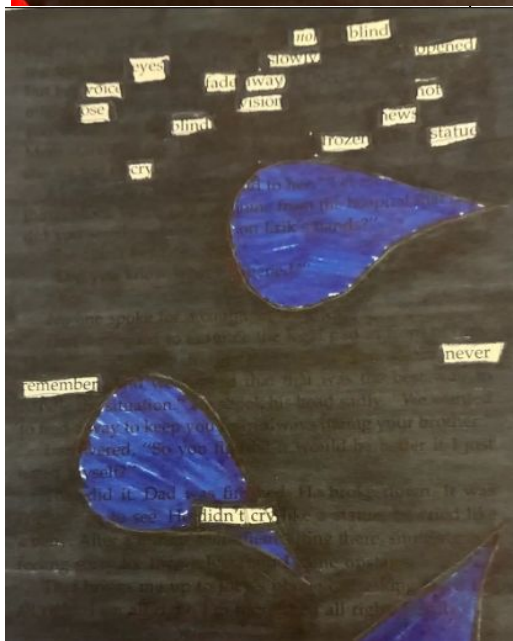
Swirling
Smoke
What happened to you?



Blackout Poem

By: Kylie Yochum

No blind eyes
Slowly opened
Voice faded away
Lose vision
Not blind
Never Remember
Didn't Cry



7th Grade ELA Turns *The Outsiders* Into Newspaper News!

Seventh-grade ELA students in Mr. McGinnis and Mrs. Fry's classes took their reading of *The Outsiders* to the next level by becoming reporters! After reading the novel, students created their own newspaper articles based on important events from the story.

Students reported on the action, developed headlines, and included details from the novel to make their stories feel like real news. This creative project gave students a chance to show their understanding of the characters and events while practicing their writing and reporting skills.

The Tulsa World

Vol. 197 Tuesday, October 9, 1964 By The Tulsa Printing Press

KIDS RESCUE CHILDREN

FROM FLAMES (Continued)

All the kids from Allen Bowden Elementary School, came out generally safe and unharmed. The two young boy heroes, who saved those young kids, ended up being none other than the criminally wanted Johnny Cade and Ponyboy Curtis, two young greasers from the same gang of Dallas Winston. Ponyboy Curtis only resulted in small burns, bruises, and with significant smoke inhalation. Johnny Cade resulted in multiple burns across his body, significant smoke inhalation, and a possible broken back. Dallas Winston's one arm is badly burned.

The cause is unidentified, but it's suspected that the reason of the fire is either, the old electrical lines catching water or discarded cigarette butts from trespassers.

It is unknown if Johnny Cade will be discharged for the act of murder, or be sent to prison for life. Nevertheless, Johnny Cade, will be in The Tulsa Hospital until further notice, along with the other boys. The phone number to the hospital is (918) 599-1000. The boys' room numbers are 112 (Johnny Cade), 113 (Ponyboy Curtis), 115 (Dallas Winston).



PONYBOY CURTIS JOHNNY CADE

THE CORNER

NEED TO COOL OFF AFTER A RUMBLE? DON'T LET THE SOCS HAVE ALL THE FUN. IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A TUFF PLACE TO LAY LOW, GRAB A SNACK, AND WATCH THE WORLD GO BY, WE'VE GOT EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED.

Corner of 4th and Sheridan Open Daily till 9



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The Tulsa Gazette

GROUND BREAKING NEWS!

Juvenile Delinquents Turn Heroes!!!

Two boys run into a burning church fire to save the lives of many children!



Mr. Potato is back in stock!! Get yours now before Karen gets them all!! Call: 476-893-046



The names of the boys are Johnny and Ponyboy. The children were thankfully all safe but the boys are in the hospital alongside their gang member Dallas who saved Johnny from the fire. To get more information call the hospital's number:

789-267-8456



The True Story:

The Jay Mt. Church caught on fire on 9-12-1963, around 1:00pm. The boys Johnny and Ponyboy ran in to save the children from a near death experience. No one is sure how the fire sparked to life or why. The following were involved in the tragedy: Johnny C., Ponyboy C., Dallas W., and Jerry W. All are in the hospital with minor to fatal injuries. If you know anymore about this tragic event please call: 834-964-784

Tulsa's Theatrics

Oklahoma, Saturday, October 7, 1967

New Scientific Discovery!

Scientists are domesticating foxes into tame dog-like canines, causing their ears to flop, shorter snouts, and they began barking and wagging their tail when greeting humans.

Juvenile Delinquents turn Heroes

On Thursday, there was a massive fire at the abandoned church in Windrixville, atop Jay Mountain. Earlier that evening a school of children came to the church to have a picnic, when a fire, of an unknown cause, broke out, trapping five pupils in the back with flames engulfing the entrance. Then three teenage boys, Dallas Winston and the murders of Bob Sheldon, Johnny Cade and Ponyboy Curtis, broke the window and jumped in. After getting to the children Ponyboy Curtis and Johnny Cade picked up the kids and gently but promptly set them outside one by one. Shortly after, Johnny pushed Ponyboy out just before a wooden plank toppled Johnny breaking his back. One of the parents were reported saying "If it hadn't been for them, the children would have burned to death."

Buy your domesticated fox today! Starting at \$70 dollars! "Just a preorder"



The Murder of Bob Sheldon

Johnny Cade, a former student of Rogers High School, is charged with manslaughter after killing Bob Sheldon in self-defense. If Johnny recovers, he and Ponyboy Curtis will be summoned to court.

The "Curtis" Brothers

Darry Curtis, a hardworking older brother to Soda and Pony Curtis, works two jobs to accommodate for his brothers. Sodapop Curtis, a supportive brother, who dropped out of school to be with his brothers. The last, but not definitely least, the hero, Ponyboy Curtis, an honorable student on the A-star track team, and maybe a future track star. Also, please at all costs don't separate them!



Darry Sodapop Ponyboy

Tulsa Tribune

Hoods or Heroes?



For Sale

1953 Cadillac Luxury Fleetwood Limousine. This iconic automobile has less than 950 miles. Asking at \$3800. This rare beauty is in great condition. Call if interested (123) 456-7890 ask for Jerry.

Yesterday noon, 3 greasers identified as Ponyboy Curtis, Johnny Cade, and Dallas Winston, unexpectedly rushed into a burning church on Jay Mountain. A school picnic had been hosted on the same day, children were playing in the church until it broke out in flames, leaving the children trapped in the burning building as it nearly collapsed. The 3 boys moved through the smoke to find and carry the terrified children to safety. All children, one age nine, and the others under the age of nine, have been confirmed to not have any sustained injuries. Cade and Winston on the other hand, remain hospitalized with serious burns from the heroic rescue. The cause of the fire remains unknown.

Robert "Bob" Sheldon, a Soc, found dead at a park near a water fountain. His friends claiming it was the same kids who saved children around 9 years old and younger from the burning church on Jay Mountain in Windrixville.



Life Savers has officially launched 'Fancy Fruits'. This iconic treat is hitting marketplace. It includes apple, pear, pink grapefruit, and black raspberry.



Stay gold, Ponyboy, stay gold.

S.E. Hinton, *The Outsiders*

Girls PE Takes on the Low Ropes Course!

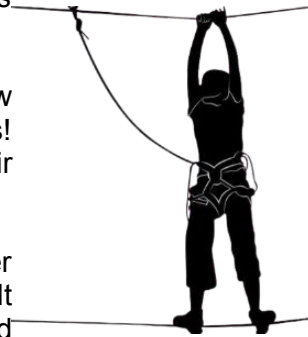


Mrs. Evans' Girls PE classes recently took on a new challenge at the low ropes course! Students had to work together, communicate, balance, and problem-solve as they made their way through the different obstacles.

There were plenty of laughs, teamwork, and a few "Wait...how are we supposed to do this?" moments! Students encouraged each other and cheered their classmates on as they tackled each challenge.

And the fun didn't stop with the students! SRO Officer Miller jumped in and took on the low ropes course, too. It was great to see him working alongside the students and showing that he was ready to take on the challenge!

The Girls PE classes proved that a little teamwork, a positive attitude, and a willingness to try something new can go a long way. Great job, ladies!



Stitching Up Some Creativity in FACS!



The 8th grade FACS students are getting creative while learning some valuable sewing skills! Students are currently working on their very own drawstring bags.

Before heading to the sewing machines, students first added their own personal touch by embroidering designs onto their bags. The embroidery step allowed students to practice patience, precision, and creativity while making their projects unique.

Next up, it's time to hit the sewing machines! Students will learn how to put all of their pieces together as they work toward completing their final drawstring bags.

We can't wait to see the finished products! Great job, 8th grade FACS students!



A Letter from Mr. G

Welcome back, team!

I hope you all had an incredible summer filled with plenty of sunshine, rest, and maybe a *little* bit of late-night video gaming or sleeping in. I am beyond excited to welcome you back to a brand-new school year as your new Principal! While my office door might be in a slightly different spot this year, I'm still the same Mr. Guerra who's always ready with a high five, a bad dad joke, or a quick chat in the hallways.

Middle school is the best place to be because you get to try new things, make amazing friends, and discover what you're capable of (even if that's just opening your locker on the first try). My main goal for us this year is simple: work hard, take care of each other, and have a ton of fun along the way.

Get ready for an awesome year—let's make it the best one yet!

See you in the halls,

Mr. Guerra
Principal



Meet New TMS Staff



Titusville Middle School is excited to welcome Mr. Haywood to the TMS family! Mr. Haywood has been teaching for 16 years, with experience teaching both middle school and high school students.

This summer, Mr. Haywood, his wife, and their son moved to the area from West Virginia to be closer to family. He is looking forward to getting to know the TMS students and staff and having a great school year!

When he isn't in the classroom, Mr. Haywood enjoys staying active. Some of his favorite activities include running, hiking, and mountain biking.

Welcome to TMS, Mr. Haywood! We are glad to have you here and hope you have a fantastic first year as a Rocket!



TMS is excited to welcome Mrs. McLellan to the 7th grade team as a Learning Support teacher! This is her 14th year in education. She began her career teaching 4th and 5th grade and Emotional Support in Duquesne City Schools before spending the past seven years as an Emotional Support teacher at Slippery Rock Middle School.

Outside of school, Mrs. McClellan enjoys reading, gardening, hiking with her dogs, and traveling. She lives in Grove City with her husband, two children, and plenty of pets. She is excited to meet her new students and work with her new team this year!