

Travilah Kid's Post

Written by students, for students!

A letter from the Editor:

It has been a pleasure to work with this year's Travilah Ambassadors and all the contributors to the Travilah Kid's Post. Our little experiment in journalism has blossomed into a quarterly publication. I am pleased with the skills these students have learned and time they have dedicated. This group has taken the paper to new levels and I'm excited to get started with next year's writers!

Sincerely,
Mr. Ryan Menk

Volume 2, Issue 4

June 2009
Editor: Mr. Menk

Inside this issue:

<i>Letter from the Editor, Teaching: The Inside Scoop</i>	1
<i>Animals: Sharks and Fossil Finds</i>	2
<i>Mystery Teacher, Mystery Animal, Global Warming</i>	3
<i>Leatherback Sea Turtles, Rainforests</i>	4
<i>Pluto</i>	5
<i>Surveys!</i>	6
<i>Leopards</i>	7

HOW TEACHERS FEEL ABOUT TEACHING

What is it like to be a teacher? What about a principal or guidance counselor? We've got the inside scoop on how the much-loved staff of Travilah feels about their jobs.

Mrs. Sturm, Mrs. Knoblach, Mrs. Egan, Ms. Cryan, Mrs. Ambrose, Mrs. Heyn, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Shenk, and Ms. Ruthie all contributed to this interview.

Q: What is your least-favorite thing about teaching?

A: Going to meetings, Grading papers!, The paperwork, When students don't feel well or get injured, Not having enough time in the day to answer all of the questions.

Q: What is your favorite thing about teaching?

A: Making a difference in children's lives, Helping students understand difficult concepts, Having old students come back to visit me, The staff and the kids having fun, It's exciting because everyday kids learn something new.

Q: Do you have any advice for kids who want to be teachers?

A: Know what you're getting into, Respect the kids and you'll get their respect back, Never give up and always believe in yourself.

Wow! All the teachers work really hard to help the kids to be the best as they can be. That can really inspire us to be successful people just like they are!

Interviews and Writing By: Denise Lin, Ayushna K., Gracie Gesiskie, Ellie Samuels, and Anna Boring

A Look Ahead

June
16: Last Day of School

July
4: Independence Day

August
31: First Day of School

Sharks

Sharks are the amazing and terrifying creatures that haunt the deep. They have layers of teeth that can have a force of up to 500 pounds. Really aggressive sharks like Great Whites, Tiger Sharks and Bull Sharks can be harmful to humans, but most sharks aren't as aggressive. Some sharks can survive in rivers and lakes that are fresh water but most live in salt water. Sharks are amazing creatures that need to be respected.



Written By: Sophia Teicher
Image From Microsoft Clipart

Our Multi-Million Year Old Relative!!

Scientists revealed a 47-million-year old fossil of a primate in New York on Tuesday, May 19th at the American Museum of Natural History. Dr. Jorn Hurum led a group of scientists who studied the small monkeylike female fossil. He nicknamed her after his six-year old daughter, Ida. Scientists say that Ida is the most complete primate fossil found in history and was probably about 9 months old when she died. One thing scientists agree on is about the quality of the primate fossil. A primate expert, Dr. John Fleagle, thinks that there is a lot more information about Ida than any other primate fossil ever found. The team of scientists thinks that she is a distant relative of apes, monkeys, and humans which means that she could teach scientists more about how modern humans may have developed. Ida was found in Germany at an area called the Messel Pit, which has plenty of historic fossils. The fossil is so well-preserved that the impression of her fur is currently still clear. She also has evidence of fruit and leaves, her last meal, where her stomach should have been. Ida has many characteristics that are humanlike. She has nails instead of claws, opposable thumbs like humans, baby and adult teeth according to an x-ray, and even has eyes that face forward which would have made her capable of judging distance and to see in three-dimensions. Ida's unveiling has created many debates between scientists about how closely related she is to the pre-human animals that evolved after her. Since she was revealed on Tuesday, Ida has gone to her new permanent home at the University of Oslo Natural History Museum in Norway. But if you can't go to Norway, you can visit a plaster version of Ida that is now part of the "Extreme Mammals" exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.



Written By: Cynthia Wang
Information and Image from: <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3751945>

Hodgepodge

Mystery Animal

I can live in the rainforest
I can also be a household pet.
I like to eat insects.
What am I???

By: Sophia Teicher

ANSWER!

(Answer is backwards above. Last issue's answer: Polar Bear)

Mystery Staff

Birthplace:
Washington, D.C.

Of Brothers & Sisters

1 brother

Favorite color: none

Happiest moment(s): Birth of her grandchild, wedding of her son, wedding of her daughter.

Pets/types of pets: had a dog

Favorite food: Salty foods

College: Maryland, University College

of years at Travilah: 24 years:

Children went to Travilah. Started teaching when son was in 5th grade here.

Look in the next issue for the answer!

The answer to last issue's Mystery Staff

(hold it up to a mirror):

MJM



Global Warming

Our earth is in **big** trouble. Global warming is hurting our earth. In Antarctica glaciers and ice are melting. That is causing polar bears to die because they can't hunt. Polar bears use the ice to hunt by sitting on the ice and waiting for seals to jump up. Water levels are also rising. Beaches are not as big anymore because of the melting water. Some ways we can help make our Earth become healthier are by shutting off lights when not using them, recycling, using a bike more than a car, not watching as much TV and by taking cooler showers.

By Sophia Teicher

Image from Microsoft Clipart



Leatherback Sea Turtles

They are of all the sea turtles on Earth and are simply magnificent. What are these turtle I'm talking about? Leatherback Sea Turtles, of course! They could grow up to be seven feet long and weigh well over 2,000 pounds! They are becoming endangered in many parts of the world. The turtles have a rubbery, flexible shell instead of the hard, bony shells other turtles have.



Did you know that the temperature of the egg determines the gender it will be? If the egg is warmer, then it's going to be a girl and if the egg is cooler, then it's going to be a boy. The girl turtles will come back to the same spot they were born to lay eggs while the boy turtles just stay in the sea for the rest of their lives. Right now, the leatherbacks are under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. That means it's illegal to hunt them or kill them. Because of that, the population is increasing or stabilized. Scientists are trying to study their habits and to save them from the brink of extinction.

Written By: Chanel Seto

Information From: <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/reptiles/leatherback-sea-turtle.html>

Rainforest

Did you know that our rainforests are being cut down a fast rate? If people keep cutting down our rainforests soon we will not have any. When people cut down rainforests they're destroying habitats of animals who live in the rainforest.

Written By: Sophia Teicher



Pluto

Ever wondered what Pluto is? Pluto is the second largest dwarf planet. The word dwarf means small so a dwarf planet is very small compared to other planets like Earth and Jupiter.

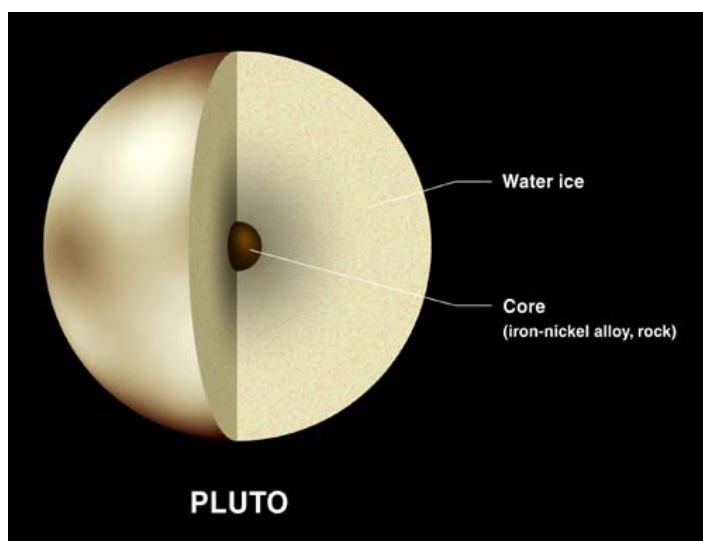
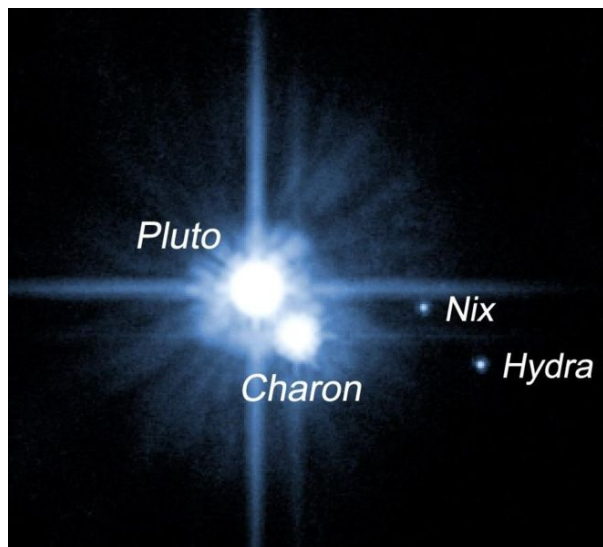
Many planets have moons but some don't. Planets can have many moons like Jupiter which has about 63, or only 1 like Earth has. Pluto has three moons named Charon, Nix, and Hydra.

Planets and most objects in space move in an orbit. Pluto has an eccentric orbit where planets like Earth have an elliptical orbit. This means that the planets have nearly round orbits when Pluto has an oval shaped orbit. Because Pluto has an oval shaped orbit, it is sometimes closer to the sun than Neptune which is the planet before Pluto.

Pluto is located in the Kuiper Belt. It is also the largest object in the belt. Pluto's atmosphere is made of nitrogen and methane. Pluto was discovered on February 18, 1930 by Clyde W. Tombaugh. It was named in March 24, 1930. Pluto is made of rock and ice and a lot of it! Pluto has a diameter of 2302 km. An escape velocity is the speed that you need to break through the planet's gravity and orbit. The escape velocity for Pluto is 1.27 km/s.

Written By: Jason Kuo

Information From: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pluto>

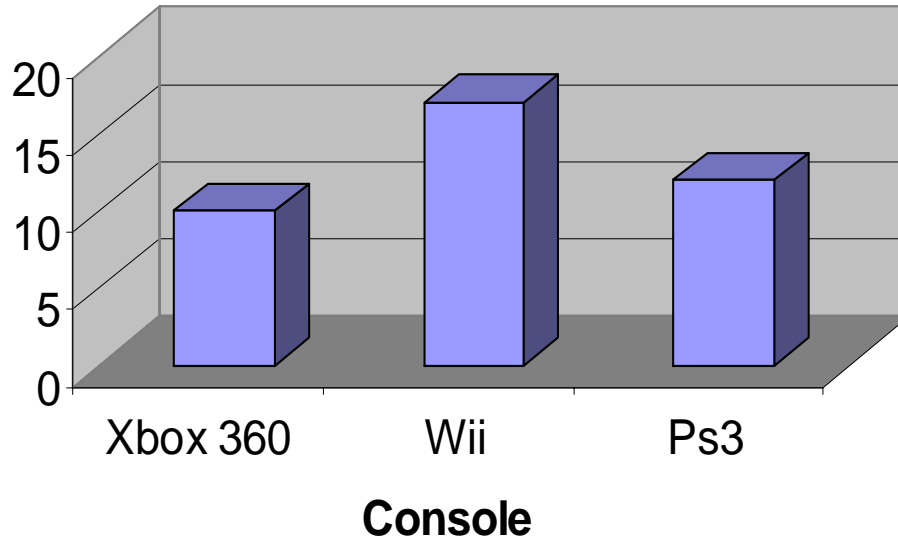


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Pluto_system_2006.jpg

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Pluto_Core-browse.jpg

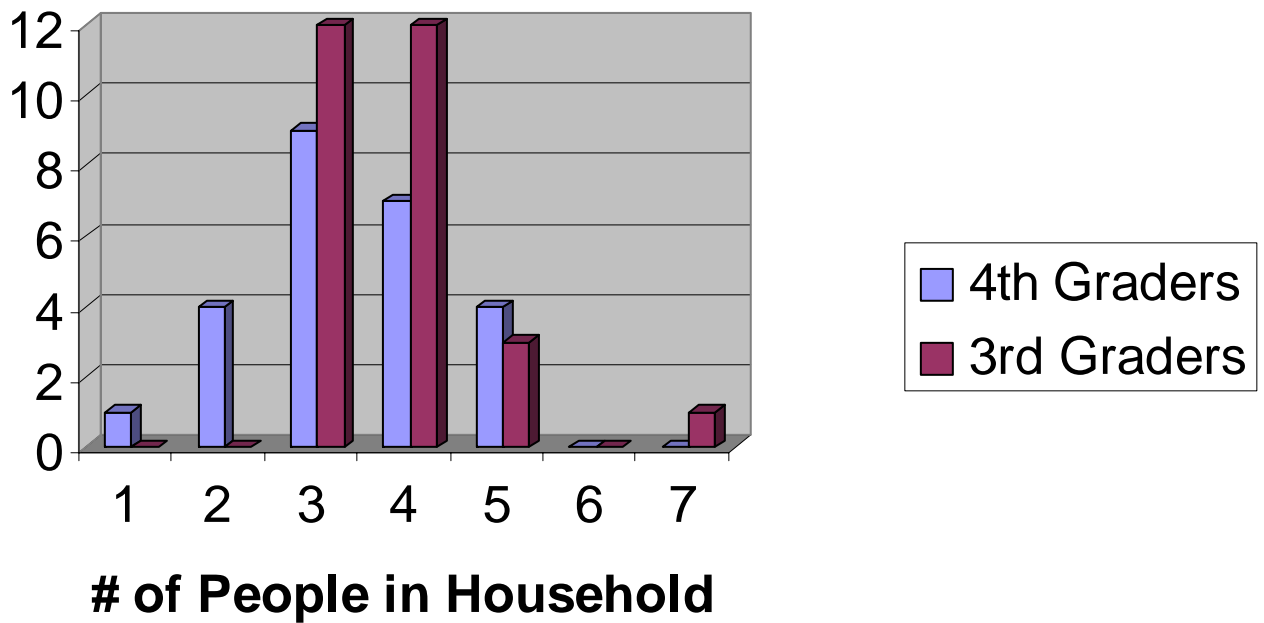
Survey Spectacular!

Favorite Game Consoles



Survey conducted with 3rd and 4th graders by: Tejas Gopal, Jason Kuo, and Raphe Malik

Number of People in Household



Survey conducted with 3rd and 4th graders by: Kyle Perel and Kevin Schroeder

Cool Classic Clouded Leopards

The clouded leopard, named for its lovely spotted coat, lives in Asia. Their habits are quite mysterious because it is seldom seen in the wilderness. The hunting grounds for the clouded leopards are the rainforests of Indonesia to the foothills of the Himalayas in Nepal. Since no one knows too much of them, they are considered to be a vulnerable species. The clouded leopards excel at climbing. They even out climb their bigger cousins. Clouded Leopards can hang upside down beneath large branches, using their huge paws and very sharp claws to have a good grip. They have short, but strong legs with rotating ankles to help them climb safely down headfirst-like a squirrel! Clouded leopards also have very sharp eyesight and long tails which help them balance. Scientists say that clouded leopards have the largest canine teeth out of any wild cat. They eat monkeys, pigs, squirrels, deer, and birds. A litter of baby leopard cubs stay with their mother for about ten months and then leave to lead a solitary life, like most wild cats.



Written By: Chanel Seto

Information From: <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/clouded-leopard.html>

