



# TRAVILAH KIDS POST



Written by students, for students!

## Two Important Holidays in December

By: Aishlinn Kivlighn



### Christmas and Hanukkah

By:  
Aishlinn Kivlighn



#### Christmas

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is celebrated by Christians everywhere. It is celebrated by decorating the inside and outside of their homes, especially a Christmas tree, and giving gifts to loved ones. Most Christians go to mass on this special holiday. Also, a man called Santa Claus brings presents to kids all over the world.

#### Hanukkah

Hanukkah, also known as Chanukah, is the celebration of the miracle oil that was supposed to burn for one day, but burned for eight. It is celebrated by Jewish people everywhere. Most people who celebrate this holiday have a Menorah, which holds nine candles. On each night of Hanukkah, one candle is lit for each night. Also, people give gifts and play fun games.

#### Black History Month

Black History Month also known as African-American History Month is celebrated every February. It is an annual observance in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom for remembrance of

important people and events in the history of the African American people. It was created in hopes that black history would become an important part of American history. Schools, individuals, organizations

join in and pay tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship including equal rights in American society. We learn about courageous and strong people during this month.

February 2013

Editor: Mrs. Egan

Volume 5, Issue 2

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We're now on the [Travilah Website!](#)

#### A Look Ahead:

##### March Schedule

March 1: Bingo Night  
March 8: PTA Movie Night  
March 13-PTA Family Fun Night  
March selected dates:  
MSA Reading and Math for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders  
March 22: Third Marking Period Ends  
March 25-April 2: Spring Break  
No school for students



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## Fiscal Cliff

By: Shiteng Wang and Muhammad Hashmi

In the United States, the fiscal cliff is the sharp drop in the budget deficit that may have occurred beginning 2013, due to increased taxes and reduced spending. The deficit—the amount the government spends more than it receives in revenues—was projected to be reduced by roughly half in 2013. Revenue is money coming into the government, mostly coming from taxes.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that the sharp decrease in the debt, deficit, would have likely lead to a mild recession in early 2013 with the unemployment rate rising to roughly 9 percent in the second half of the year. A recession is a time when business activity is slow and some people are unemployed. The fiscal cliff was largely avoided by the eleventh-hour passage of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012.

The laws leading to the fiscal cliff had been predicted to result in a 19.63% increase in money and 0.25% reduction in spending from fiscal years 2012 to 2013. Those laws included the ending of the 2010 Tax Relief Act and planned spending cuts under the Budget Control Act of 2011. The 2010 Tax Relief Act extended the Bush tax cuts for two years, while the Budget Control Act of 2011 was put in place as a compromise to resolve a debate concerning the public debt upper limit, ceiling, and deal with the failure of the 111th Congress to pass a Federal Budget. Under the fiscal cliff situation, some major programs like Social Security, Medicaid, federal pay (including military pay and pensions), and veterans' benefits, would have been excluded from the spending cuts. Spending for federal agencies and cabinet departments would have been reduced through extensive, shallow cuts referred to as budget sequestration.

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 was signed into law by the President on

on January 2 and got rid of most of the tax side of the fiscal cliff, with the (CBO) projecting a 8.13% increase in revenue and 1.15% increase in spending for fiscal year 2013.

Adjustments to spending were expected to be debated out in early 2013. The Act resulted in a projected \$157 billion decline in the 2013 deficit relative to 2012, rather than the sharp \$487 billion decrease predicted under the fiscal cliff.

The increase in revenue came from increased low income and capital gains tax rates; a phase-out of certain tax deductions and credits; an increase in estate taxes; and expiration of payroll tax cuts. These changes would all be made permanent. A reduction in spending was delayed for two months under the act and the debt limit was not changed, leading to further debate during early 2013. The House of Representatives passed the bill without changes by a side of 257–167 around 11 pm on January 1, 2013, and President Barack Obama signed it the next day.

Because of the predicted short-term effects on the economy, the fiscal cliff had stirred a lot of debate and radio coverage toward the end of 2012. But thankfully, they cut off the fiscal cliff result at the last second of 2012, and we are safe from a change in the economy of the United States.





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### North Korea Profile

By: Meera Barochia and Nadia Lee

North and South Korea are located in Asia. They used to be Korea, which long ago was a kingdom. In 1910, Korea was taken by Japan and was held as a colony until the end of World War II in 1945. Korea is bordered by: China to the NW, Russia to the NE, Japan to the east (across the Sea of Japan) and Taiwan to the south (across the East China Sea).

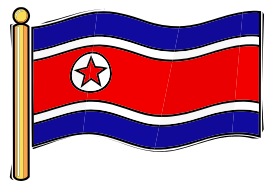
After World War II ended, Russia and the USA agreed on the surrender of Japanese troops in Korea, but they couldn't agree on how Korea would gain independence from Japan. Russians took control of North Korea, and the USA of South Korea. North Korea became a one-party, socialist state, while South Korea became a multi-party state with a capitalist economy. North Korea is not a democratic state. It is one of the most militarized countries in the world. It also has a very poor human rights record. Western countries like the USA have placed sanctions against North Korea because of this. (This means that ...).

Recently, on December 12, 2012, North Korea launched a missile, supposedly to put a weather satellite into orbit. This gives North Korea an advantage and the opportunity to build nuclear weapons. This action was condemned by the United Nations.

North Korea has carried out many missile and nuclear tests before. Some of the other efforts were not successful (for example one in April 2012). However, this last one was successful. Although this gives North Korea an advantage, it would need more allies and more military support because it is probably not powerful enough to handle the USA and other countries of the United Nations.

How is the UN trying to control this problem and resolve this peacefully?

**What would happen if North Korea used a nuclear bomb on other places?**



### Twinkies: Gone From the United States?

By: Aishlinn Kivlighn

People all over the USA have been questioning what happened to Twinkies. Some people say that they were banned from America, but the truth is, Hostess, the company that owns Twinkies, went bankrupt. Bankrupt is when the company can't pay the bank, and the bank shuts them down. The effect of the bankruptcy was that 18,500 workers were fired. But this isn't the first time Hostess has filed in for bankruptcy. The first bankruptcy was in 2004, and the second time was in 2011. But not all hope is lost. The first time Hostess got bankrupted; they worked hard, set a goal, and re-opened. Even though it's been 2 years, Hostess might bounce back. We'll just have to wait and see.



### Mustaches

By: Alice Bennett, Kelly Kimbis and Stephanie Geng

Mustaches are the new fashion of the year. You can see them on shirts, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, sweatshirts, sleep wear, and more. It seems weird, doesn't it? Yet it seems like mustaches are taking over all other fads. A mustache is hair grown above the upper lip. At one time mustaches were considered eccentric and were forced to be shaved by law. But, some 400 years later, an English law was passed that English soldiers were forbidden to shave their mustaches. Some children grow mustaches for people to have hair. Even some animals have mustaches. We may never know how this fad got started, but it sure is funny!



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## SPORTS IN THE NEWS



### National Football League By: Lindsey Somwaru and Danielle Tauber



Let's go back in time for our two favorite NFL state teams! Both the Ravens and the Redskins have had many victories. Here's a fun short quiz to get your mind going.

**How much do you know about our two state teams?**

#### Redskins

Who is the coach? - Mike Shanahan  
What are their colors? – Mustard and Burgundy  
Have the Redskins ever won a super bowl? - Yes, the Redskins have won four Super Bowls.  
What is the Redskins mascot? - The Hogget's  
Who is the most recent quarterback? - Robert Griffin III

#### Ravens

Who is the coach? – John Harbaugh  
What are their colors? – Purple, Black, and Gold  
Have the Ravens ever won a super bowl? – Yes they have.  
What is the Ravens mascot? – Poe  
Have they ever won a playoff game? - Yes, they have won two.



### Australian Open By: Lindsey Somwaru



The Australian Open has been an exciting tennis tournament for 101 years! The first Australian Open was in 1912, and since 1988, the Australian Open has been held on hard courts in Melbourne, Australia.

The Australian Open has tournaments for women's singles and doubles, men's singles and doubles, and mixed doubles. This year, the Australian Open men's singles winner was Novak Djokovic, and the men's doubles winners were Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan. The women's singles winner was Victoria Azarenka, and the women's doubles winners were Sara Eranni and Roberta Vinci. The mixed doubles winners were Jarmila Gojdosdova and Matthew Ebden. If you win this tournament, you get \$30,000,000.

**Here is a table who is playing each other.**

#### Men

Seeded	Player	Opponent
1	Novak Djokovic	Andy Murray
2	Roger Federer	Andy Murray
3	Andy Murray	Novak Djokovic
4	David Ferrer	Novak Djokovic
5	Tomas Berdych	Novak Djokovic

#### Women

Seeded	Player	Opponent
1	Victoria Azarenka	Na Li
2	Maria Sharapova	Na Li
3	Serena Williams	Sloane Stephens
4	Agnieszka Radwanska	Na Li
5	Angelique Kerber	Ekaterina Makarova



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## Book Reviews

### Ghost of Graylock

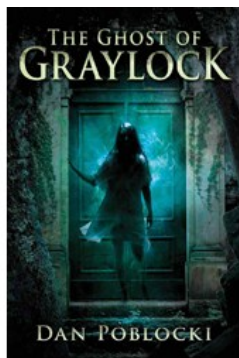
**By: Alli Arner**

If you like excitement, adventurous ghost stories and, a book that pulls you in to the story. Then Ghost of Graylock is an amazing book for you to read! Ghost of Graylock is a story about two kids named Neil and Bree who goes to their aunt's house for the summer. They meet friends named Wesley and Eric and, they go on an adventurous hunt to find Nurse Janet in Graylock Hall, not knowing the dangers they'll find there.

Graylock Hall was meant to be a place of healing, a hospital where children and teenagers with mental disorders could be cared for and, perhaps cured. But something went wrong. Several young patients died under mysterious circumstances. Eventually the hospital is shut down, the building abandoned and left to rot deep in the woods.

The patients that die drown by someone or something that leaves behind no tracks or traces but, only the kid's bodies. At the hospital when the incident happens, a nurse named Nurse Janet is working the night shift at Graylock Hall and is said to be the only person that could have done such a thing, so the police get her arrested and eventually, she is killed. Everyone says that she now haunts Graylock Hall and if anyone goes there they will get killed!

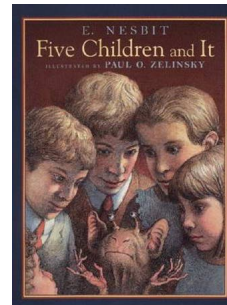
Neil, Bree and their friends are prepared to go to Graylock but, they are not prepared for what follows them home.



### Five Children and It

**By: Meera Barochia**

The book "Five Children and It" is an interesting book to read if you are bored. It is about five children (Cyril, Anthea, Jane, Robert and the baby) who are digging in the sand and find a mysterious creature, the sand fairy, or Psammead. The Psammead can grant them one wish every day, but the wish wears off at sunset. They come up with the most interesting wishes, some including wishing to be as beautiful as the day, wishing for a gravel pit full of gold, and a wishing for wings. You will never want to put this book down. "Five Children and It" is a great book to read.



### Emily Windsnap

**By: Kavya Mishra and Nadia Lee**

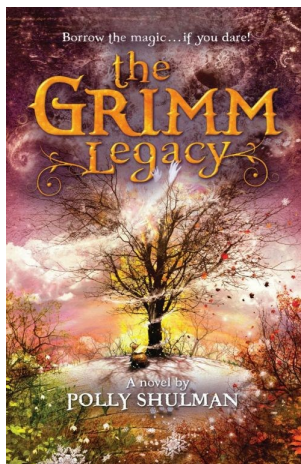
Swish swish. Ready to dive into a mermaid tale? If you are into mermaid tales then this could be series. Liz Kessler puts the classic mermaid tales into a modern twist. Emily Windsnap never knew she was part mermaid, not to mention that she didn't know her father. She lives with her mother, on a docked boat, who was afraid of the water below. On her first swimming lesson she shockingly realizes something is wrong. She sneaks out at night to find out what had happened during the swimming lesson. She realizes that she is a mermaid! On other nightly visits to the water she meets another mermaid her age named Shona. With the help of her new friend and her mom she begins to uncover the family secret. Will she discover the family secret? , Will she meet her father? Find out in the exciting adventures of Emily Windsnap.

## Book Reviews -continued

### The Grimm Legacy

By: Pardiss Kaviani

Are you looking for a good to read? If so I recommend reading The Grimm Legacy. It's about a girl named Elizabeth who has a mean step mother, two step sisters, and a dad. One of the two step sisters went to college so Elizabeth gets pulled out of ballet and her private school to help pay for the college. Elizabeth transfers schools and had no friends. Soon enough Elizabeth gets a job and quickly makes new friends. The only problem us she doesn't land any normal job... There is something called the Grimm collection that contains... Magic! All the stories that the Grimm brothers wrote were in there, the flying carpet, witches pot, a magic mirror! The only problem is that people are stealing items and creatures are after the items. It's hard to keep them safe. This book is filled with mystery, adventure, and magic. It's hard to STOP reading! If you want to find out what happens next, read to find out.



## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

### FUN FACTS

By: Keely Sellman and Nicole Parent

- A person once hiccupped for 68 years.
- Cheetahs can change directions in midair when chasing prey .
- Girls have more taste buds than boys.
- The tallest known snowman was higher than a 12 story building.
- Some honey bees can quack.
- The most overdue library book was 288 years old.
- Peanut butter can be converted into diamonds.
- A woman hand delivered a pizza from England to Australia.
- A sneeze travels 100 miles an hour.
- A man knotted 39 cherry stems with his tongue in 3 minutes.
- Mountain lions can whistle.
- Some sand dunes can bark.

### FUN FACTS

-Part 2

By: Lainey Morris, Anna Baldwin,  
and Sabrina Shah

- The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.
- The voices of Minnie Mouse and the voice of Mickey Mouse got married in real life.
- The tongue of a blue whale is the same amount of weight as an elephant.
- If you sneeze too hard. you can fracture a rib.
- Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue has a different print.
- An average strawberry has about 200 seeds.
- Apple is 25% air that is why it floats on water.
- 84% of a raw apple and 96% of a raw cucumber is water.
- Bananas contain a natural chemical which can make a person happy.
- Women blink nearly as twice as men.
- Men can read smaller print than women.
- Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
- The longest movie is 30 days long.



# Mystery Staff



## Who Can It Be\* Mystery Staff # 1

By: Mainee Schleret and Allie Chen

Favorite color: pink

Favorite movie: The Sound of Music

Favorite part of working here: Every day is different and exciting

Siblings: one older sister

Favorite kid book: Corduroy

Pets: none

Children: one son and daughter

Favorite sport: ice hockey

Favorite thing to do in the summer: travel

Favorite candy: Reese's Cups

Favorite food: spaghetti

Favorite fruit: oranges

Favorite season: spring

Favorite animal: horses

Favorite hobby: gardening and seeing musicals

## Who Can It Be\* Mystery Staff #2

By : Erin Frost, Leah Kellert,  
Jessie Grinspoon

Birthday- January 9

Free Time- likes to play with her new puppy

Inspiration- from her favorite teacher in 4<sup>th</sup> grade

Favorite food- chips and salsa

Favorite color- red

First job- worked at a flower shop

Favorite book- "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn"

Movie/television show- "Because of Winn Dixie"

Lucky number- 7

Favorite animal- lion

Favorite experience while being a teacher- seeing past students at Travailah activities

Favorite ice cream flavor- mint chocolate chip

Favorite Vacation spot- Italy

Fun Facts- likes to sing and dance with her friends, her birthstone is the Garnet, and if she could choose any power it would be magic

***\*Guess who these two mystery staff members are. Then check to see if you are right when you find the answer on the next page of this edition.***



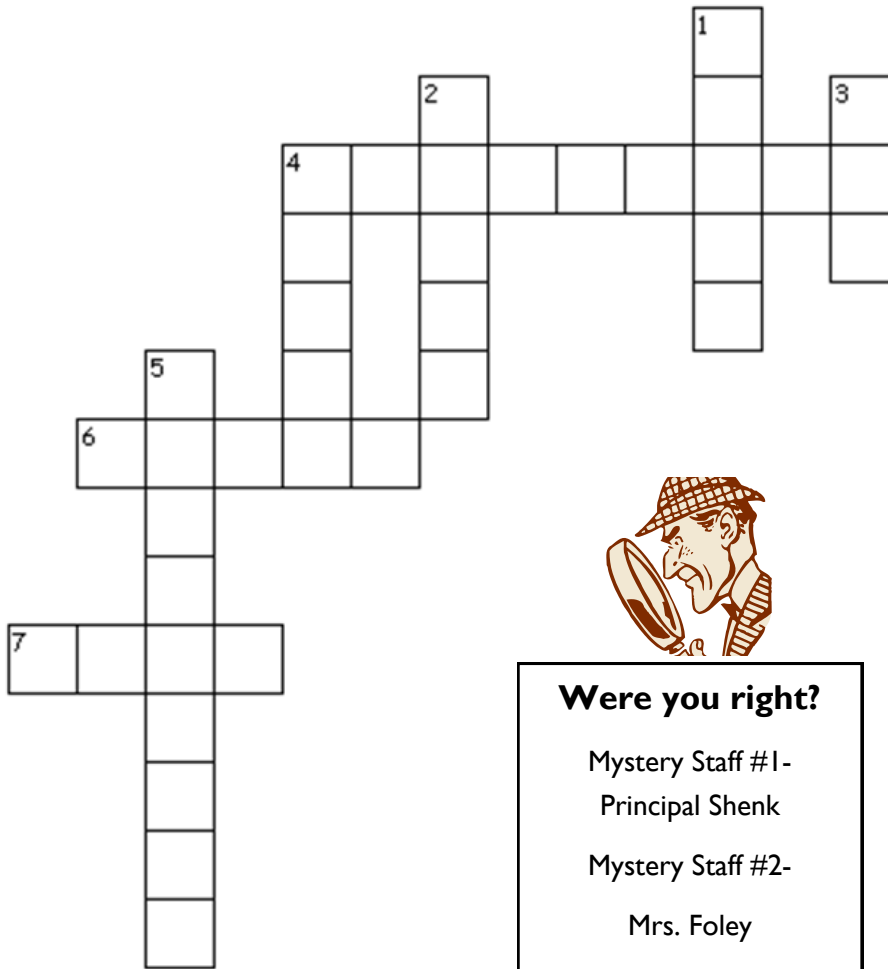
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## KIDS CORNER

Valentine's Day

By: Ashley Slud and Saera Jang



### Were you right?

Mystery Staff #1-  
Principal Shenk

Mystery Staff #2-  
Mrs. Foley

#### Across

- 4. a yummy dessert many people enjoy
- 6. delicious little treat
- 7. a pretty color that represents love

#### Down

- 1. an organ in our body
- 2. red and white flowers that show love
- 3. the color of most hearts
- 4. someone who shoots love arrows
- 5. something that people give to their loved ones

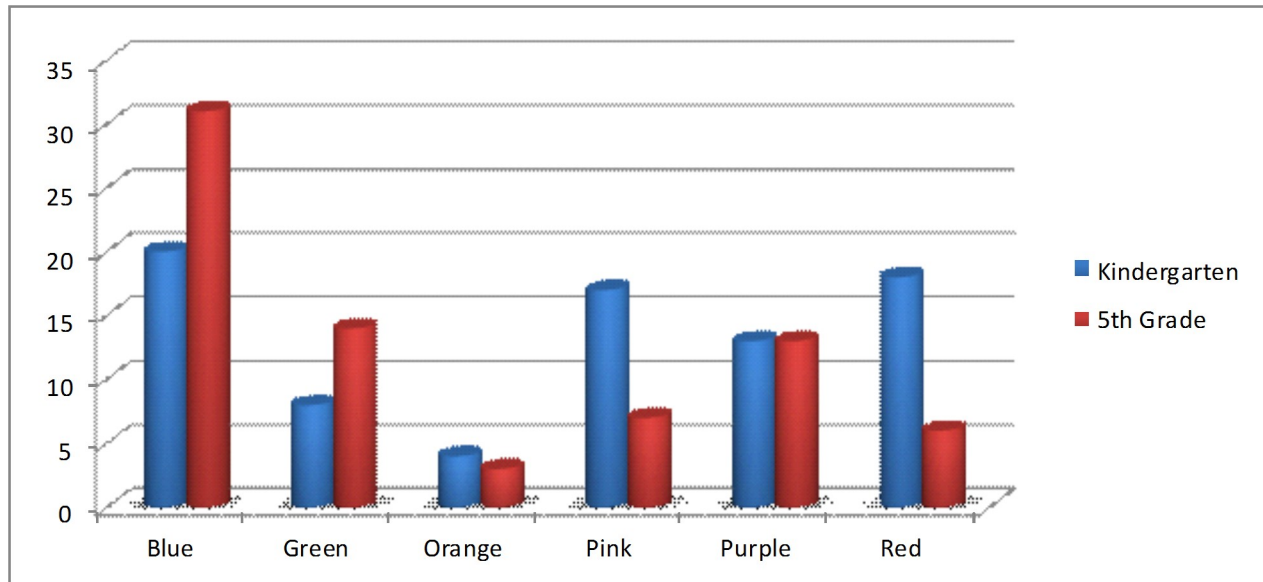


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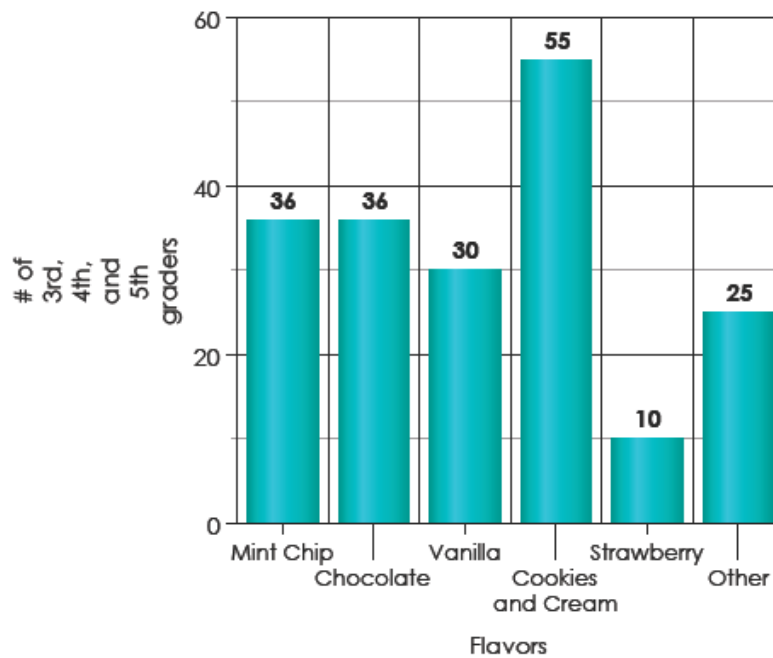


## Favorite Color Survey

By: Allie Chen and Mainee Schleret



Favorite Ice Cream Flavor



Kavya Mishra, Ally Nalibotsky, and Nimisha Rangachar