



Truro Central School's

# PUMA PAGE

February 2020

## BEDTIME IN THE BOOK NOOK

Preschool and Kindergarten students and their families participated in Bedtime in the Book Nook. This year's theme was the night sky. Students simulated why we can't see stars in the daytime using white crayons and watercolor paint, and modeled how craters are created on the moon using flour and marbles in the water table. Students also perused books about planets, the moon, and stars, and made a "gourmet galaxy" snack of planets, stars and meteors.



## A CELEBRATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

Truro Central School held special afternoon meeting celebration Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students learned about how Dr. King fought for the idea that, regardless of the color of one's skin, everyone

deserves to be respected. Megan Amorese, our school's general music teacher, led students in a song called "I Have a Dream" which puts some of Dr. King's words to music. It was a powerful multimedia presentation. The link to the video used as part of the meeting and featuring some of our students can be found at our Truro Central School webpage or at <https://youtu.be/nW-Kaw5GMbA>



## ANNOUNCING THE OUTER CAPE MOCK CALDECOTT WINNER!

As reported previously, students at Truro Central School have been participating in the Outer Cape Mock Caldecott. This year's winner was *The Undefeated*, illustrated by Kadir Nelson and written by Kwame Alexander. Our students completely agreed with the American Librarian's Association, because Nelson's *The Undefeated* was also the recipient of the actual Caldecott Medal, awarded January 27, 2020! The students at Truro Central also voted *Elvis is King* illustrated by Red Nose Studio and *Camp Tiger* illustrated by John Rocco as Mock Caldecott Honor books. We join the Truro Public Library and thanking everyone who participated in this annual event!

## Noticias españolas de Truro Central School

Students continue to improve their Spanish fluency by using the expressions of the week in their classrooms and throughout the school. January focused on the following two expressions: *¿Puedo ir a la enfermera?* (Can I go to the nurse?) and *No me siento bien* (I don't feel well). I am very proud of the students' efforts and thankful for the support of the TCS staff. Spanish is coming alive in this school!

-Alison Waldo



*5th Grade's study of eyes*

## **DIGITAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH:**

### **What is Tik Tok?**

Have you heard of the app Tik Tok? It is currently one of the most popular apps with tweens and teens. It advertises itself as being “Real People. Real Videos.”, and the company states that its mission is to “inspire creativity and bring joy.” Like scrolling through an Instagram or Facebook account, a user scrolls through mini-music videos, created by the apps users.

However, like many social media platforms, Tik Tok is easily abused and its content ranges between suitable for all ages to some videos that are considered sexually suggestive, explicit, or disturbing. Although the app requires that users be at least 13, and have parental consent if they are under the age of 18, anyone can access videos without entering an age. While researching this app, a user encountered videos with obscenities, and graphic footage of a plane crash within the first 10 “swipes” of scrolling through the videos. Some of our students who use Tik Tok have reported videos of news events, including footage of dead bodies.

Although anyone can access the videos, users must enter an age in order to post their own videos on Tik Tok. However, many children fake their ages to get full access. Tweens and teens compete for likes, posting videos of themselves singing, dancing, or participating in dangerous challenges such as the “Penny Challenge” (a dare in which students slide a penny between an electrical outlet and a phone charger, causing an explosion). Once an account is created, it cannot be deleted by the user. The user must obtain a special code from the developer in order to do so.

Common Sense Media, an independent, non-profit group that monitors all types of media, recommends that this app be used for children 16 and up. If your child is using Tik Tok, it is important to talk with them about protecting their privacy, and safe usage of social media.

For more information, go to <https://www.common sense media.org>, and search for Tik Tok or any other digital media you wonder about under the parents tab. For more information about helping your kids protect their privacy online, visit <https://www.common sense media.org/privacy-and-internet-safety>.

