

# The New Trinity Times

- TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL -

JANUARY 2025

Lombard, Illinois



## PRESIDENTS' DAY

by Ariana Mehrazar

Presidents' Day is next month, on February 17, to be exact. Even though it's not February yet, it doesn't mean we can't talk about Presidents' Day.

The story begins in 1800. After the death of George Washington in 1799, February 22 (his birthday) became a perennial day of remembrance. At the time, Washington was venerated as the prime figure in American history, and events such as the 1832 centennial of his birth, and even the start of construction of the Washington Monument in 1848, were the cause for national celebration.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation, stating that February 22 would be a day of celebration honoring Washington.

*[continued on page 2]*

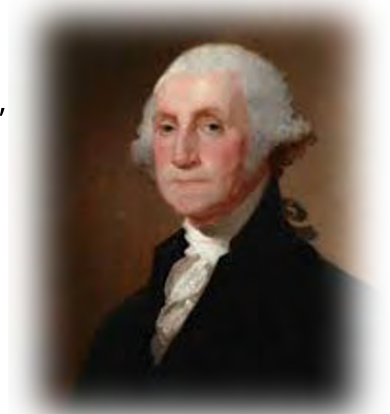
## GEORGE WASHINGTON by Damian Gomez and Kellen Pilny

A large majority of the world is aware of America's first President, George Washington, but a lot don't know these facts about him. As he was first U.S. President, you'd expect people to know more about him!

George Washington was born on February 22, 1732, at Popes Creek in Westmoreland County, Virginia. Early on in his life, when he was 11, his father passed away. There was very little money left to fund George's schooling. At the age of 15, his schooling was over. But he still wanted to learn.

Overtime, George Washington learned how to become a better soldier, farmer, and eventually, President. He had friends who were authors to help excel in politics, and share social news. These things are part of why he was such a good leader, and a person that many others looked up to at the time.

*[continued on page 3]*



*This famous portrait of Washington hangs in the National Art Gallery, painted around 1821 by Gilbert Stuart.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 24: Hot Cocoa \$1
- January 28: Hot Lunch - Mostaccioli
- January 26: Students Sing in Church, 9 a.m.
- January 29: Chapel, 8:30 a.m.
- January 31 - February 14: Roller Skating in School

*[continued on page 2]*

*Trinity News & Views is a monthly newsletter created by Trinity's 5th through 8th grade Journalism students.*

# PRESIDENTS' DAY

[continued from page 1]

A federal holiday on February 22nd was officially passed into law in 1879. Below is an excerpt from the Revised Statutes of the Forty-Fifth Congress.

Four presidents have birthdays in February: George Washington (22nd), Abraham Lincoln (12th), William Henry Harrison (9th), and Ronald Reagan (6th). Some people actually do celebrate these birthdays, but most people don't know that Presidents Harrison and Reagan were born in February, as Presidents Washington and Lincoln are most readily identified with the February Presidents' Day holiday. However, there are three sides to this: one side thinks that we should only celebrate Presidents' Day. Another side believes we should celebrate all four birthdays, along with Presidents' Day. The last one would prefer to eliminate Presidents' Day, but celebrate the four individual birthdays.

Presidents' Day is widely acknowledged as honoring George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We should all honor Presidents' Day, and as well as all four (former) Presidents born in February, no matter what.

**CHAP. 38.**—An act to amend section nine hundred and ninety-three of the Revised Statutes of the United States for the District of Columbia, so as to make the twenty-second day of February a holiday within said District. Jan. 31, 1879.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section nine hundred and ninety-three of the Revised Statutes of the United States relating to the District of Columbia be, and the same hereby is, amended by adding to the days therein declared to be holidays within the District the twenty-second day of February; and such day shall be a holiday for all the purposes mentioned in said section: *Provided*, That this act shall not apply to the twenty-second day of February, eighteen hundred and seventy-nine.

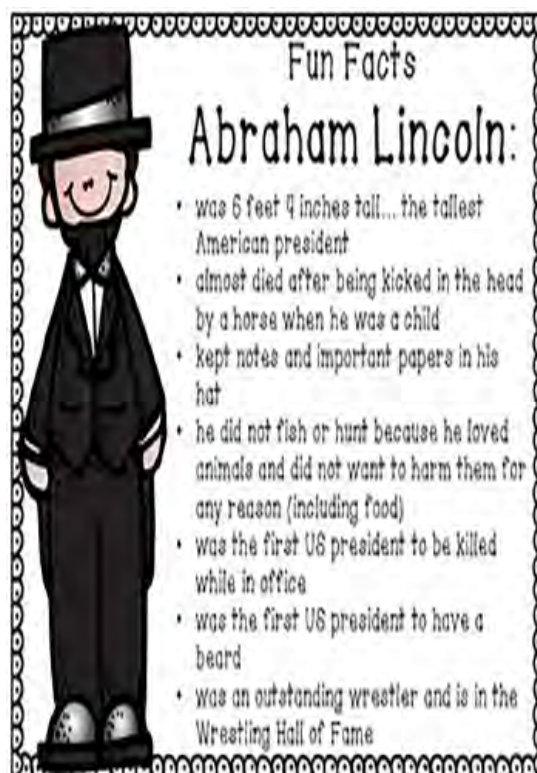
Approved, January 31, 1879.

R. S. D. C. 993.  
District of Columbia.  
Washington's birthday a legal holiday.

[continued from page 1]

- February 4: Hot Lunch - Pizza
- February 5: Chapel, 8:30 a.m.
- February 6: Walther Grade School Band Festival
- February 7: Hot Cocoa \$1
- February 11: Hot Lunch - Mac 'n' cheese
- February 12: Chapel, 8:30 a.m.
- February 17: NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day
- February 18: Hot Lunch - Hot Dog
- February 19: Chapel, 8:30 a.m.
- February 21: Hot Cocoa \$1
- February 25: Hot Lunch - Mostaccioli
- February 26: Chapel, 8:30 a.m.
- March 2: Students Sing in church, 9 a.m.
- March 2-7: Lutheran Schools Week
- March 4: Hot Lunch - Pizza
- March 5: Ash Wednesday, Lent begins
- March 7: Grandparent's Day, Early dismissal, 11:30 a.m.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## GEORGE WASHINGTON *[continued from page 1]*

George Washington loved dogs, he would use them for hunting, and he would also check up his dogs to see if they were sick. He counted the dogs as family. He always provided shelter, fresh water running through the kennel, and was known for his love of the animals.

George Washington was a spy during the American Revolution. George was the leader of the Culper Spy Ring. He formed the organization to gather information on the British. It was active around New York and successfully operated for five years, and during that time, no spies were ever revealed or caught. The Culper Spy Ring achieved more than any other intelligence network, British or American.



During George Washington's presidency, he accomplished many things. But one of the great things he did as President was that he never abused his power. Although people know him for being president, he was always willing to surrender power. During the time of Washington's Presidency, there was no limit on how many terms you could serve in the office. Because of his honesty, and honor, many people were willing to support him in continuing as president forever.

Something silly about George Washington was his love for parties. A lot of people just assumed that he was a solid, unapproachable figure. But in all honesty, he loved company, and entertainment. There are many times where people saw George Washington dancing at balls, and parties. He also loved theater, and attended many plays during his life.

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY *by Sophia Garcia*

*The Holocaust was the genocide of European Jews during World War II. The Holocaust ended up killing around six million Jewish people. It was a very scary and tragic event in history. The first official Holocaust Memorial Day was recognized on January 27, 2001.*

*The Holocaust began in 1933, but the largest share of the killing took place between 1941 and 1945, when almost two thirds of the Jewish community in Europe was wiped out by Nazi fascists. Most of the murders were a result of mass shootings or poison gas administered in extermination camps. In these extermination camps, they built gas chambers, or equipped vans with deadly gas. The killers would poison their prisoners - either driving those killed in the vans into the forest, where they would bury their bodies in mass graves, or for those executed in the gas chambers, burning the murdered corpses.*

*There were six extermination camps built all around Poland. There are still many survivors of the Holocaust alive. As of January 26, 2024, an estimated 245,000 survivors were thought to be alive around the world.*



*The Holocaust was a very sad moment in history, knowing that all those people were murdered because of their religious beliefs. That is why every January 27 we take time to commemorate all those lives lost.*



# New Year's Resolutions by Ariana Mehrazar

New Year's Day is one of the most exciting days of the year for everyone. It's a fresh start for all. People are able to achieve their goals and have fun. Even though you have the whole year to achieve your goals, almost everyone deliberates over making New Year's resolutions. Trinity's 5th through 8th grade students have shared some resolutions that you could actually consider incorporating into your own list!

## *Fifth Grade and Sixth Grade:*

Bobby: "I don't have one."

Chloe: "Improve my grades and get organized."

Juliana: "Improve my grades and be organized."

Arian: "I don't believe in New Year's Resolutions."

John: "To play in FNCS (Fortnite Championship Series) and make money."

Abby: "Become more organized and to get a 36 all around (for gymnastics)."

Joshua: "I want to get my grades up and make more friends."

## *Seventh and Eighth Grade:*

Sophia: "To be better than everyone, because I am."

Addison: "To get a fish and save my money to get fish and concert tickets. (Also to meet Niall Horan and get tickets to a Harry Styles concert if he goes on tour.)"

Ariana: "Try something new, find a new hobby, and try to learn another language."



Ava: "Be a better person, save money, don't be a lazy bum, do my work, don't procrastinate, try something new, read 50 books, make new friends, and just overall be happy."

Damian: "To find the One Piece."

Kellen: "Make money."

Angelina: "Focus on schoolwork, be more active, and try new things."

## Chinese New Year *by Angelina Iverson, Sophia Garcia, and Addison Meredith*

Chinese New Year is a celebration for the coming of spring and also the New Year on the lunar calendar. A lunar calendar tracks the time, but by the moon phases.

There are many legends of how the Chinese New Year started. The most popular is that thousands of years ago a monster named Nian ("Year") would attack villagers at the beginning of each new year. The monster was afraid of loud noises, bright lights, and the color red, so those things were used to chase the beast away. There is also a lot of celebration (loud noise) and red, with a lot of red lanterns which are shining red light.

People celebrate the Chinese New Year to usher out the old year and bring forth the luck and prosperity of the new one, therefore, festivities often include firecrackers, fireworks, red clothes and decorations. Young people are given money in colorful red envelopes. In addition, Chinese New Year is a time to feast and to visit with family members.

Now I'm sure you're wondering, what do animals have to do with the Chinese New Year celebration? You may have heard of the "Year of the Dragon" or the "Year of the Rat," and others. This year, 2025, is the "Year of the Snake." A way that people have explained this is that a long time ago the Jade Emperor of China thought there should be a way to measure time. He told the animals to compete in a race. The first 12 animals would be rewarded by having a year named after them, so they alternate between the twelve animals each year. So, after hearing all these stories about the Chinese New Year you might be very interested in what other traditions or legends that China has. It is a land filled with culture, history, and traditions, and the Chinese New Year is just one of them. How will you celebrate the



## SAINT VALENTINE AND VALENTINE'S DAY *by Abby Pilny*



Valentine's Day is a holiday that always falls on February 14. It's a day that is about showing love to a specific person that you are attracted to. But how did this become a holiday? Well, it's all about Saint Valentine. There are multiple Saint Valentines recorded in history, but there was one that who most consider the true Saint Valentine. He was a Roman priest who lived in the 3rd century. He was imprisoned, and legend holds that he suddenly healed his captor's blind daughter. The whole household started to become Christian and that sealed his fate as a martyr for Christ. When Roman officials found him, he was taken to be tortured and decapitated - on February 14. Though before that, he passed a note to his most loved one, signed "your Valentine." This love note tradition grew in popularity, one that people still practice today.



## GROUNDHOG DAY

by Angelina Iverson

Every year Groundhog Day takes place on February 2. The groundhog comes out of its burrow and if the groundhog sees its shadow, it means that we will have another six weeks of winter, but if it doesn't see its shadow that means we will have an early spring. But how did this odd tradition start?

The first Groundhog Day was celebrated on February 2, 1877 in Pennsylvania. This tradition originated in Christianity and was first known as Candlemas Day. It marked the presentation of Jesus at the Temple of Jerusalem, and meant that Jesus was the light of Israel.

Christians would take their candles to Church and get them blessed. They felt that this would bring blessings to their house for winter. It was later known as Groundhog Day from the Germans who brought their tradition of using rodents to tell the weather to America.

There are a lot of other traditions that go along with Groundhog Day. Members of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club gather and wait for Punxsutawney Phil, the groundhog, to come out of his burrow. They wear top hats and tuxedos and speak in Pennsylvania Dutch dialect.

## RUBBER DUCKY DAY

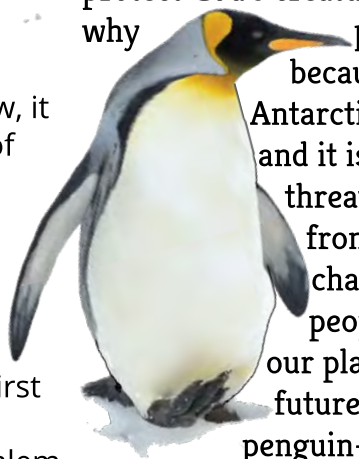
by Addison Meredith

On January 13, the world (if you are a cool person) celebrated Rubber Ducky Day, but what are rubber duckys? How did someone come up with the idea of rubber duckys? It all started a long long time ago in the late 1800s when people thought that rubber ducks would improve children's motor skills during water play. You might have heard of rubber ducks from Jeeps. "Jeep ducking" is not anything weird, it's merely surprising someone with a rubber ducky as an act of kindness - one person to another. Like some people, I like to collect rubber ducks and have a growing collection of about 150 ducks. Rubber ducks are cute, and are fun to throw in pools. So maybe it's time for you to start collecting ducks.

## PENGUIN AWARENESS DAY WAS JANUARY 20

by Addison Meredith

Penguins are birds, flightless birds. They live in the southern hemisphere, in arctic coasts, and sub-arctic islands. Unlike Ms. Rose many people think penguins are cute, but as cute as they are, they are going extinct. The Emperor Penguin might even be extinct by 2100. For many of us we probably won't be alive at this time, but penguins are very important to everyone - especially God - and we need to protect God's creatures. Part of the reason why



penguins are dying is because of climate change. Antarctica is a very icy climate and it is slowly melting, so the threatened extinction is not just from predators, but also from changes on the planet due to people. We need to care for our planet and together give future generations a greener and penguin-filled future.





# Meet Mrs. Perez

by Abby Pilny, Juliana Rivera, and Arian Gomez

**Mrs. Patricia Perez teaches 3rd and 4th grade at Trinity.**

Q: How long have you been at Trinity?

**A: 48 years**

Q: What is one of your favorite sayings?

**A: "I will send you to the moon"**

Q: What is your favorite color?

**A: Blue**

Q: If you were to have a vacation with an unlimited budget where would you go?

**A: Hawaii**

Q: What is your favorite Bible Verse?

**A: Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength."**

Q: Favorite tv show or movie?

**A: Mary Poppins and Murder She Wrote**

Q: Do you have a favorite song or music artist?

**A: Barbra Streisand**

Q: What do you do in your free time?

**A: Puzzles**

Q: Any embarrassing teaching moments that you would like to share?

**A: No**

Q: Who's your favorite student?

**A: The one who is reading this is my favorite**

Q: Who's your favorite actor?

**A: Tom Hanks**

Q: What is your favorite grade to teach?

**A: Fourth grade**

Q: What is your favorite subject to teach?

**A: Geography**



*Pictured at top, Mrs. Perez with some of her honor roll students, below with two of three terrific journalists who interviewed her for this story.*

# Meet and Greet Miss Kraegel *by John Doerries and Chloe Doolin*

**Miss Beth Kraegel teaches preschool, art, and Spanish at Trinity.**

Q. What's your favorite color?

**A. Green**

Q. What's your favorite ice cream flavor?

**A. Sherbet**

Q. Where's your favorite amusement park?

**A. I don't really like amusement parks**

Q. What's your favorite book?

**A. Village School by Miss Read**

Q. How long have you taught?

**A. 40+ years**

Q. Do you enjoy teaching younger kids, and is it a problem sometimes?

**A. Yes, I enjoy teaching the younger kids, but I like all the grades.**

Q. What's your favorite park?

**A. Peninsula State Park (in Door County, Wisconsin)**

Q. What do you do in your free time?

**A. I like to read and take walks**

Q. Where else have you taught?

**A. St. Paul Christian Daycare (in Villa Park, Illinois)**

Q. What's your favorite subject?

**A. Reading**

Q. When were you born?

**A. August 23, 1957**

Q. Where did you go to school?

**A. Trinity Lutheran School in Lombard, Willowbrook High School in Villa Park, and Concordia College (now Concordia University Chicago) in River Forest, Illinois.**



*Miss Kraegel, pictured at top, shares during chapel how God loves us big and small. Below, she is pictured with her student journalist interviewers.*



# Meet Miss Lauren

by Arian Gomez, Abby Pilny and Juliana Rivera

Miss Lauren Litaker works in extended care at Trinity. She attended Trinity as a child.

Q: What's your favorite movie?

**A: *Top Gun Maverick***

Q: Why did you come to this school?

**A: I came to this school to replace Miss Emily (she went to another job, then returned for a while)**

Q: What's your favorite color?

**A: Blue**

Q: What's your dream car?

**A: Ford F 350**

Q: Where is your dream vacation spot?

**A: Italy**

Q: How many siblings do you have?

**A: Five**

Q: Do you like working with preschoolers? If so, why?

**A: Yes they are always fun to work with**

Q: What preschool toy have you played with the most?

**A: Magna-Tiles**

Q: Who's your favorite sibling?

**A: Mickey**

Q: What is your favorite thing to teach the preschoolers?

**A: About God**

Q: What's your favorite animal?

**A: Highland cow**

Q: Who's your favorite singer?

**A: Cody Johnson**

Q: Do you like the song, *Thick of It* by Ksi, featuring Trippie Redd?

**A: Yes**

Q: What is your favorite subject to learn?

**A: Anything except math**

Q: What makes you fall asleep at night?

**A: Music**

Q: What's the most embarrassing thing that you've done?

**A: I got Everlie and Logan's dads mixed up**

Q: Favorite meme

**A: They're eating the cats they're eating the dogs!**

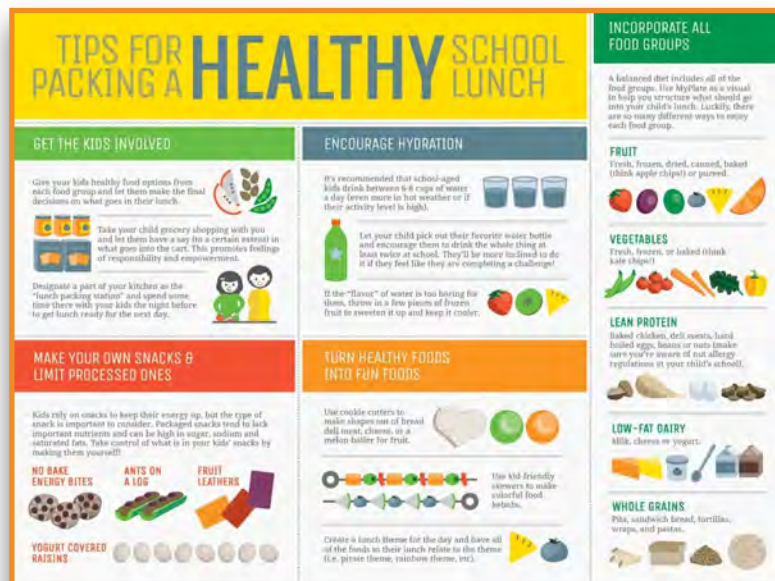


# Best Ever School Lunches

by Joshua Camiola

If you think that school lunches are the WORST thing in the world then you might consider my idea of the perfect school lunch:

- Hamburgers on Mondays.
- Hot dogs on Tuesdays.
- Pizza on Wednesdays.



# Why Birthdays Are Important

by Bobby Hawn

We all know we have birthdays, and we celebrate them, but why exactly do we do it?

Birthdays celebrate the anniversary of when you were born. We turn another year older because we have lived 365 days since our last birthday. Before the nineteenth century, birthday parties were more common for wealthy families, but early in the 1800s other families started celebrating them. In the early 1900s, birthday recognitions became even more common, but by the 1950s the birthdays of ordinary people were celebrated around the world. Nobody knows much about the first birthdays, but that was because they were for nobles or famous or rich or very important citizens. The use of the date of birth for such celebrations were somewhat arbitrary, or other dates, such as these: the date of coronation, the annual festival of a patron deity, were common as well.

The tradition of celebrating somebody's birthday by having a party with games and cake and candles and gifts is pretty recent. It coincided with several socioeconomic trends in the 19th and 20th centuries which saw the rise of consumerism and it increased investment in the upbringing of children, and because of that, the annual celebration of their lives through the giving of gifts.





# CLOUDS

by Ava Harrison

There are many different types of clouds. Cirrus, Cirrocumulus, Cirrostratus, Altocumulus, Altostratus, Cumulus, Cumulonimbus, Nimbostratus, Stratus, and Stratocumulus are the ones I will be covering.

Cirrus: Cirrus clouds are usually found at heights above 16,500 feet high. Cirrus clouds are composed entirely of ice crystals. At that height any air mass that cools so saturation will make ice crystals instead of water droplets. Sometimes, clouds can also predict weather. An extensive area of cirrus clouds covering a large portion of the sky may mean an approaching weather front or change in the weather. Their name derives from the Latin cirrus meaning a curl, tuft or wisp of hair.

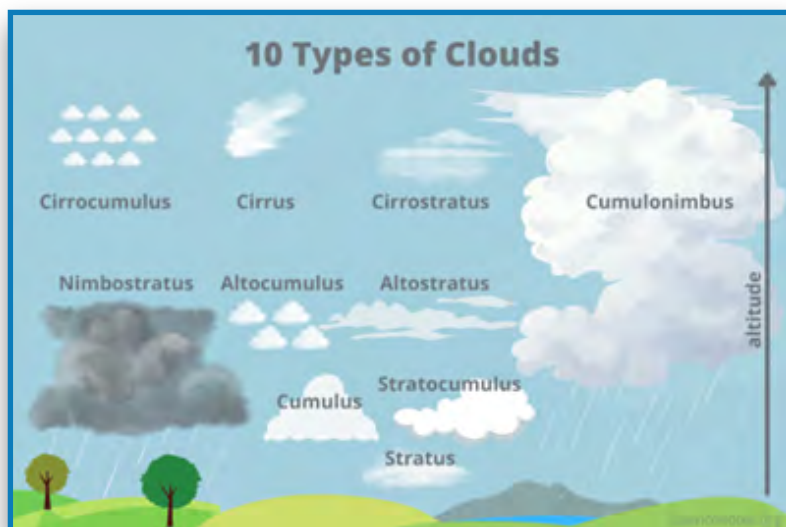
Cirrocumulus: Cirrocumulus clouds are a type of cirriform cloud and are located in the highest level of the troposphere. They are most common in the winter and can occur at different heights depending on where you are in the world. The puffy white patch look of cirrocumulus clouds forms due to turbulent vertical currents.

Cirrostratus: Cirrostratus are high transparent high clouds which cover large areas of the sky. It is usually a sign that a warm front is approaching and that it will rain in about 24 hours. The clouds can also make halos, a ring or light that forms around the sun or moon, because the light refracts off ice crystals and presents itself in a thin veil of cirrus clouds.

Altocumulus: Altocumulus clouds are small mid-level layers or patches of clouds, called cloudlets which most commonly exist in round clump shapes. They are mid-level grayish white with one part that is usually darker than the rest. Altocumulus clouds usually form in a group and are about as wide as your thumb when you hold up your hand at arms length.

Altostratus: These clouds are large mid-level sheets of thin cloud, usually composed of a mixture of water droplets and ice crystals. You can still see the sun through these clouds because they are thin enough but it would appear watery or fuzzy. They are usually spread over a very large area. Usually, this indicates a storm with continuous rain or snow. Altostratus clouds are gray or blue gray, and they usually cover the entire sky.

Cumulus: Cumulus clouds have sharp outlines and a flat base. They can be associated with fair or stormy weather. They are puffy white or light gray clouds that look like floating cotton balls. When they have tops that look like cauliflower heads there might be rain showers coming.



[continued on page 12]



## All About Red Foxes *by Juliana Rivera*



Red foxes are about three feet long and not quite two feet tall. They are very rare. The foxes are known for their special ability to adapt quickly to a new environment. The predators that stalk red foxes are eagles and coyotes. These mammals have a diet based on a wide variety of plants, such as berries, and small animals (including rodents, rabbits, birds, insects, lizards, frogs, and fish). Their average lifespan is two to four years.

Red foxes have excellent hearing—they can hear rodents digging underground miles away. These animals have more than 20 different calls, barks, screams, howls, and squeals. A group of foxes is called a skulk or a leash. Kits, young red foxes, stay with their parents for about seven months.

## CLOUDS *[continued from page 11]*

### Cumulonimbus:

Cumulonimbus clouds or thunderclouds are the only type of cloud that can produce hail, thunder and lightning. It is often flat with a very dark wall like feature hanging underneath. It also may only lie a couple hundred feet away from earth's surface.

NimboStratus: These clouds are dark, gray, featureless layers of cloud, thick enough to block out the sun and produce persistent rain. Nimbostratus are very common clouds in temperate latitudes forming a dense and extremely extensive gray at lower altitude.

Stratus: Stratus clouds are flat and stretch out far. They are found at low altitudes and are closer to earth than any other type of cloud. They can be nearly white or dark gray. Fog is a result when they are close to earth. They may cause light precipitation or drizzle.

Stratocumulus: Clouds that are stratocumulus are low level clumps or patches of cloud varying in color from bright white to dark gray. They are the most commonly recognized by their well defined bases with some darker than others. They usually have gaps between them but can also be joined together. They can present in all types of weather conditions.

### Fun Facts About Clouds

- there are 10 types of clouds
- most follow the same direction/track
- can hold millions of tons of H<sub>2</sub>O
- can also be made of chemicals



**The New Trinity Times** is a monthly newsletter produced by the 5th through 8th grade students of Trinity Lutheran School in Lombard, Illinois. The 2024-2025 staff members are: Addison, Abigail, Angelina, Arian, Ariana, Ava, Bobby, Chloe, Damian, John, Joshua, Juliana, Kellen, and Sophia, under the direction of Mrs. Lori Solyom, journalism teacher.