

taft times

Fall 2017

Northern Illinois University Lorado Taft Field Campus

Oregon, IL

Join us in welcoming the 2017-2018 Lorado Taft Staff!



Top Row: Caleb, Amy, Melanie Bottom Row: Elsa, Jacci, Jessie, Bethany, Anne, Alyssa

Read the Taft staffs' answers to these three questions to get to know them better!

1. Who is your favorite superhero?
2. If you had to eat one meal for the rest of your life what would it be?
3. What is your biggest pet peeve?

Caleb

1. Spider-Man, because he makes fun of people while simultaneously kicking their butts.
2. Venison, any cut.
3. Commercials and jingles for trial lawyer firms.

Elsa

1. Wonder Woman is number 1 but Black Canary and Artemis (from Young Justice) are close seconds.
2. Burritos
3. Bad Driving

Melanie

1. Wonder Woman – has been since I was little and used to watch the tv show
2. Maybe a breakfast skillet, a bagel with cream cheese, and coffee
3. When someone says, or especially writes, “I seen...”

Bethany

1. Spiderman!
2. If I had to eat one meal for the rest of my life it would be Egyptian Edamame Stew
3. My biggest pet peeve is being late.

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Jacci

- 1. Iron Man
- 2. Pizza
- 3. Having to move when I don't need to move.

Alyssa

- 1. Wonder Woman, because she's amazing.
- 2. PIZZA!
- 3. Styrofoam and bottled water.

Anne

- 1. Wonder Woman because girls rule!
- 2. Any type of pasta with lots of cheese and veggies.
- 3. Seeing people litter.

Amy

- 1. Mr. Incredible
- 2. Quiche
- 3. Not knowing how to share public spaces. For example, a group of people taking up the whole sidewalk and not moving when other people are walking towards them.

Jessie

- 1. Spider-Man
- 2. Tacos- you can change it up, lots of variety!
- 3. When people litter! Also, not replacing the toilet paper roll if you used it all.

The Solar Eclipse of 2017

On August 21, 2017 we were treated with seeing a solar eclipse that went across almost the entire United States. But what actually happens in a solar eclipse? The moon passes between the sun and Earth blocking the light from reaching us on earth. It takes about three hours for the entire event to take place. The time when the sun is completely blocked, called totality, only lasts one to two minutes and you must be in just the right spot to observe it.



Even if you are not in the direct path of the eclipse you can still observe some of the effects. The last time a total solar eclipse was seen in the contiguous United States happened in 1979 and one has not passed over the entire U.S. in almost 100 years. A total solar eclipse occurs somewhere in the world about every 18 months. The eclipse that took place this year was especially special for us here in Illinois because the spot where the eclipse lasted the longest was in Carbondale, IL. Unfortunately, here at Taft we had some clouds that blocked some of our view but we still able to watch through the clouds.

Not only is an eclipse interesting to watch, but it can also affect the behavior of animals. Because solar eclipses happen so infrequently, animals don't know what to do during the sudden change in light. It has been noted that some birds will start to sing their evening songs during totality. Insects, who may be singing before to the eclipse might stop due to the drop in the temperature.

Viewing an eclipse is one of the great natural phenomenon. Your next chance to view a total eclipse in Illinois will come on April 8, 2024. For more information about the solar eclipse visit <https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse.html>.



The Facts About Bats!

Below are a few myths and facts about bats! See which ones you already know!

True Or False:

Bats are blind.

FALSE. All bats can see. A lot of bats do use echolocation to find their prey; however that does not mean they are blind! Some bigger bats can see three times better than humans!

All bats have rabies.

FALSE. Less than 1% of bats have rabies; however if you do see one on the ground you should not pick it up! Get an adult and have them move the bat (using a stick or covering them in a thick towel) to a tree. If the bat is still in the same spot the next day, call a local wildlife rehabilitator for help.

Bats are the only mammals that can fly.

TRUE. Bats have fur and produce milk, making them mammals! They are the only mammals that can truly fly! How cool is that?

Bats are not important to our ecosystem.

FALSE. Bats are one of the key players in helping a rainforest regenerate. They also help pollinate a lot of our food. Do you like guacamole? You can thank a bat for that, they are the main pollinators for avocado. How about bananas, mango or even chocolate? We would not have these things around for much longer if we did not have bats to help us out. Bats also greatly help us out by keeping the mosquito population lower. A single brown bat can eat up to 1,000 mosquitoes in one hour!

Most bats stay awake all night and sleep all day.

TRUE. Most bats are nocturnal which means that they spend most of their time awake when we are already asleep!



For facts and additional information visit:
www.batconservation.org and www.nationalgeographic.com

Water Power

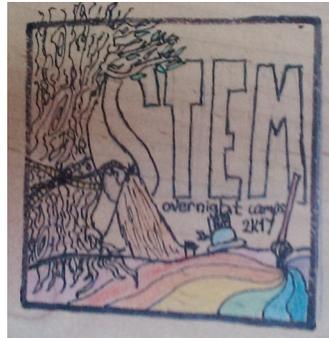
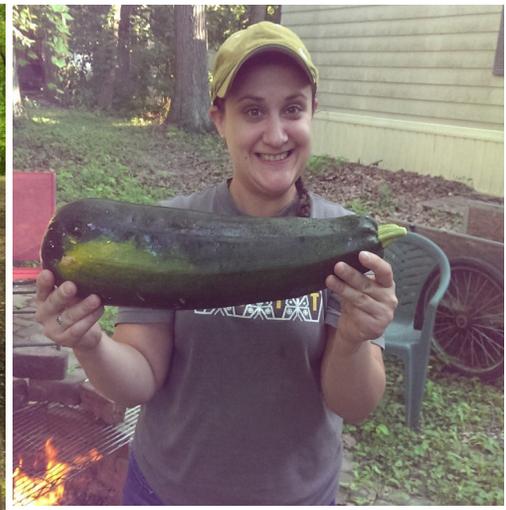
Over the past few months we have all been reminded of the power of water. Not only have we seen the destruction from hurricanes Harvey and Irma in the South, but back in July here at Taft we received 8 inches of rain over a 24 hour period. The water was so powerful that it washed away some of our trail to the teams course and significantly changed the shape of our gully.

Walking along the gully you can see how the water eroded away the rock. After the storm many of the rocks were leaning in the direction that the water flowed. Massive trees were also uprooted and we could barely recognize some parts of the gully. Here are a few pictures taken after.



Instagram

Have you been following us on Instagram lately? We started a Lorado Taft Instagram account right before the summer started! Follow us @loradotaftcampus and take a look at some of the moments you missed!



THE ZERO ORT REPORT!!

- 20 Iroquois
- Hough St.
- 16 Elgin 6th Grade
- 12 NIU STEM Camp (Taft Week 1)
- NIU STEM Camp (Taft Week 2)
- 8 Casals
- 4 Hurley

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Congratulations to all of our schools who got zero ort for at least one meal while at Lorado Taft! Many schools were very close, and we know the students worked really hard to achieve their goals. We hope that the idea of zero ort is something your students take with them back to school to share with their families and friends.



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