



# Ben's Pen

Fall Edition, Volume 4, Issue 1

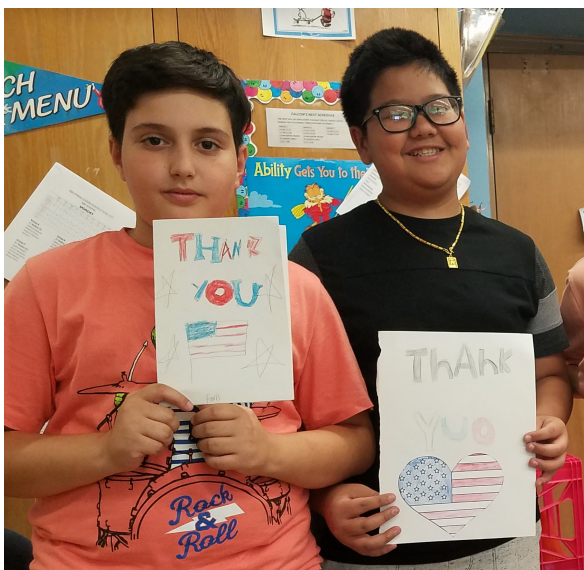
A Publication by Franklin Middle Students

## Our School Community Makes a Difference

### Recognizing Honor Flight Veterans

by Kassie Sonerson

This year, some of the students at Franklin made thank you cards for the veterans that served us and will go on the Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight. The Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight is a non-profit organization that flies veterans that fought in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, free of cost, to Washington to see memorials created in honor of their service. These letters from our students and students from other schools are supposed to welcome the veterans home after their visit to Washington and make them feel and know how appreciated they are. These letters mean a lot to them. They also make them feel loved, touched, and even put some in tears.



Basically, the flight is first come, first serve. So the veterans come until there is no more space. The veterans have the choice of bringing a loved one to accompany them on this trip. This flight serves 7 WNY counties, Bradford, Pennsylvania, and Southern Ontario. The next honor flight will be held on May 16th, 2020. If you make a card, you can drop it off in Mrs. Bruce's room (354) during homeroom; all cards are due by April 30.

*Continued on page 2*

### Celebrating School Related Professionals Day

by Ja'kheycia Gaines

Imagine you are having a dream while you are sleeping at night. In your dream, you get up to go to school, you get dressed, and you go outside to wait for the bus. You wait and you wait and you wait. You assume you must have missed the bus, so you decide to walk to school. You finally arrive to school. You notice all of the other students either walked to school or got a ride from a parent. You are hungry and go to the cafeteria for breakfast, but there is no breakfast. You think maybe you were too late for breakfast, even though you got to school on time. Then you walk into your first period classroom, and you notice that everyone is keeping their winter coats on because the heat does not seem to be working. Your first period class is about to start, but the assignments have nothing to do with regular school work. Your assignment is to sweep the floors in the the halls. Some students have to collect library books. Other students have to wash the lunch room tables. Other kids have to go the office to answer the phones to help the principal and the assistant principal. For your next class, you go to gym. Unfortunately you fall down while playing soccer and you need to go to the health office for a large band-aid but no one is in the health office so you notice a "take one" sign near the band-aids, so you treat your own injury. Then you go to the cafeteria for lunch. Everyone except you packed their own lunch and you wonder why you do not see the cafeteria staff and monitors. Throughout the day you notice that the teachers did not use computers since there were some technology issues and the computer technicians were not available. You are looking forward to going home on the bus to tell your family about this crazy day, and the bus never shows up. Finally, some good news: You wake up from this awful dream!

We want to give thanks to the people who make this all possible and that is what we are going to do. We want to give thanks to our bus drivers, if we did not have them, all busers would be walking, so say thank you to them. Just

*Continued on page 2*



Mrs. Deer's Character Club made cards for School Related Professionals Day last November. Each school related professional at FMS received a card.



### School Related Professionals, continued from page 1

imagine you walked into school and you scraped yourself, that is something our nurse can help you with, so when you see the nurse say thank you. Keep on reading, we have more. What if you walked into school and it was filthy what would you do? Fortunately, we do not have to worry about that, so if you see our custodians say thanks. Here is another example: what if you had to answer the phones instead of learning? So if you go to the office, give them the biggest smile you have and say thank you. Now let's think if you were the security guard, it would be hard. An adult trying to get in is not going to listen to a kid so that is why we have to thank our one and only special security guard that cares about our safety. We are also grateful to all our lunch staff for making nutritious food and to our our lunch monitors who keep us calm, safe and happy. And keep in mind our teacher aides and assistants, they are the efficient helpers and classes would take way longer without them. There are so many different types of school related professionals, even more than I could possibly write about in this article, and please remember to show all of them your respect and appreciation.



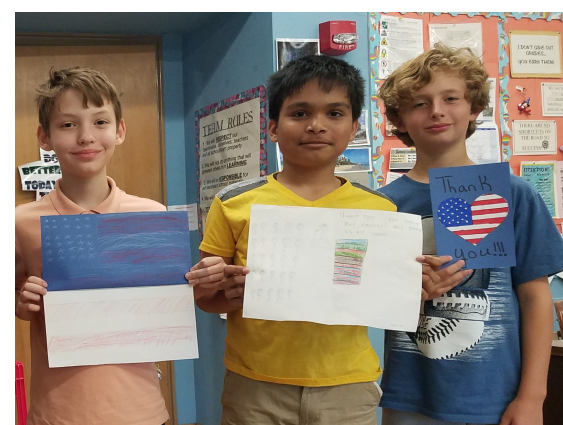
The Newspaper Club made the banner and wrote statements of appreciation on colorful paper strips that were used to decorate the faculty cafeteria on School Related Professionals Day.



Mrs. Daly's Craft Club made large flowers out of tissue paper to celebrate School Related Professionals day.

### Honor Flight Veterans, continued from page 1

Letters or cards are an easy and meaningful way to tell the veterans that we appreciate them and what they have done for our country. There are also many other ways to help! For example, you can support veterans at your church, you could start a fundraiser, you could have a guest speaker at an event, or you could find other community events that support veterans. Veterans deserve to be appreciated, so a simple task like making them a letter or card goes a long way!



### Mesmerizing Mind-Bender!

by Phoenix Mascellino

I am the beginning of the end, and the end of time and space. I am essential to creation, and I surround every place.  
WHAT AM I?

When you've got your answer, go to Joseph Steven's article, "The Time I Got my Feet Stuck in the Mud" to check your answer. Joseph's article can be found on page 7.



## Fun at the Zombie Run

by Abby Gorman

I arrived at the Family Fun Fest before the Zombie Run started. I saw my friends there and we went outside to get ready for the Zombie Run. I saw all the zombies. They were kind of scary and kind of cool at the same time. They had makeup on. They were making loud screaming sounds. The Zombie Run was lots of fun.

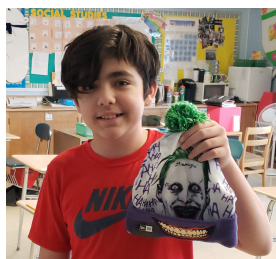
Note from Ben's Pen: The Family Fun Fest, which included the Zombie Run, was on Friday, October 18. It was sponsored by the Franklin Middle PTA. The event also included a basket raffle and Chiavetta's chicken dinners. Thank you to Evvie Clinch for providing the photographs shown below.



## Hat Raffle Warms Up FMS

by Phoenix Mascellino and Joseph Stevens

Thanks to the New Era Cap Foundation, Mrs. Whitney had a nice surprise for our school. Mrs. Whitney is on the PBIS committee and she is involved with finding incentives to reward positive behaviors. A lot of students were requesting hats from the Falcon's Nest (our main market for prize redemption when students exchange Ben Bucks for prizes). Mrs. Whitney got in touch with Jen Lauck (the contact person) and Danielle Guessser (the director of the New Era Cap Foundation) to ask about purchasing hats for the Falcon's Nest. Mrs. Whitney was overjoyed to hear that the New Era Cap Foundation decided to donate 300 winter hats and 144 baseball caps to our school! About 50 hats were raffled off, There was one lucky winner in each homeroom. At this time, there are still hats remaining in the Falcon's Nest, so please remember to keep earning those Ben Bucks. And a special thank you to the New Era Cap Foundation for their generosity.





## Australian Cattle Dogs

by Mason Ham-Deveans

Australian cattle dogs are energetic animals. They are a great pet to have. I think that they are a cute type of dogs. Some dogs that are young may do puppy biting which is not as bad as it sounds. It is when a dog does small, weak bites. You need to train your dog out of this. To do this, turn your back on the dog and say in a stern voice: "No! No biting." This will get the dog to stop and walk away. Continuously use this technique. It will help better train your dog.

Next we will get on to training your dog to do tricks. Do not expect your dog to learn all the tricks you want it to do overnight. You might encounter your dog chewing on your stuff. Or on your arm. You can teach your dog to stop, and once your dog has stopped, you can take away whatever they were chewing on. You need to use motions and words for tricks. I hope this is helpful to you!



The Respectometer:

Pictured on the left is the Respectometer, which is located in our school cafeteria. Students earn Red Ben Bucks in the month of February, and they put their Red Ben Bucks in the Respectometer. It looks like we are off to a good start. Once the Ben Bucks have completely filled the Respectometer, plans for the Franklin Fest can start.

### FROM THE BERKHOUDT FAMILY

Sixth grade teacher Mrs. Berkhoudt, and the Berkhoudt family would like to thank all who supported Jordan's Journey. From the tickets purchased to the baskets donated to cards and kind words sent - **YOU** have helped our family tremendously!! We are so very grateful for your support which will help us to continue Jordan's fight for better health!





## BOOK REVIEWS



### Book Review #1 by Meyah Franklin

*Gravity Falls Journal 3* is all about mystery, fun, and magic books. There are special characters. One character that I would like to describe is Bill Cipher. Bill Cipher is really evil and he went to another dimension and he came back. Another character that is very interesting is Dipper Pines. You will see and hear a lot of weird, unbelievable and incredible things from Dipper Pines. That is why I really enjoyed reading *Gravity Falls*. Welcome to the world of *Gravity Falls*. Let's jump in. Get this book in the Ben Franklin Middle School library.

Note: I also recommend reading the magazine called *New York State Conservationist*. In the October 2018 issue I saw pictures of whales. The title of the article is called "Whales and the City" and it is interesting.

### Book Review #2 by Kaitlyn Cantres

*The Last Thing I Remember* is a really good book. It is about a guy that gets taken and he does not remember what happened at all. He has a lot of injuries and he feels very confused. He was not really sure of what was happening around him. He needs to find his way out of this.

If you want to read this book, go to our school library. You will be glad you did.

### Book Review #3 by Phoenix Mascellino

My favorite book is *Esperanza Rising*. The main character was of course, Esperanza. She lives in a mansion on "El ranchas de la Rosas" which is the ranch that the mansion is on. Her mother is in the story. She is simply called "Mama" and her father (who dies), is in the story called "Papa."

Papa dies, then his step-brothers took over and the rest of the family had to flee to the US.

Esperanza and the rest of the family make some new friends and enemies along the way.

There you have it. *Esperanza Rising* in a nutshell. It is a great book to read, but if you have Mrs. McDonald I bet you already read it.

### Book Review #3 by Joseph Stevens

*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* book review

*The Goblet of Fire* is a good book. I would give the book 5 out of 5 stars. The reason I like the book is because there is a lot of action and humor. The main character is Harry and his best friends are Ron and Hermione. This year the triwizard tournament takes place at Harry's school, Hogwarts. There are four champions, but if you want to read the *Goblet of Fire* your can find it in the school library.

P.S. Only read this book if you have read Harry Potter books 1, 2, and 3.



# Welcome to World of Cheerleading

by Eliana Maalouf

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a cheerleader? If you are wondering what it is like to be a cheerleader you are reading the right article. I have cheered for 5 years. Some people think that is crazy for being committed to a sport for so long, but it is worth it when it comes to the competitions. My sister has done cheer for more than 10 years. She started when I was just a baby so I grew up with it.

Here are some important parts of cheerleading you should know about.

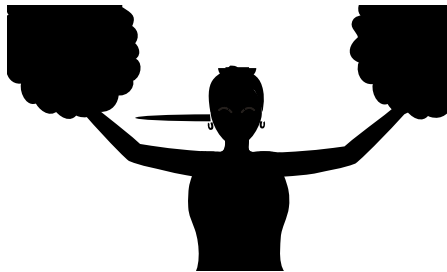
**JUMPS:** For some people jumps may be a little hard at first. The coaches will help you with your arms, they really do not care if your jumps are high. If your arms look good they will love your jumps.

**APPEARANCE:** Here is a little tip, make sure you smile and act like you want to be where you are. Most coaches will not let you on the team if you do not look happy.

**STIFFNESS:** By stiff, I mean your arms should look like a stick, which means they need to be straight. That way your moves will look more organized and planned.

**STUNTS:** When you do stunts it will be hard at first (if you are a base). A base holds the flyer up in the air. (A flyer is the one in the air). The bases will make the flyer do tricks. A back spot will hold up the flyer if she or he falls. The frontspot does the same.

I hope this gives you enough information so you can have a fun time in cheer.



## Poetry

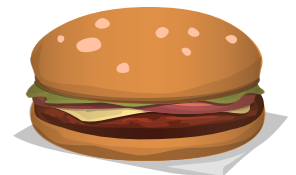
**Snowman!** by Meyah Franklin

Yo, Yo, it's so cold.  
That's what I've been told.  
So cold you can make a snowman.  
Even if you don't think you can.  
Here's what you need to do.  
Go outside, get some snow.  
It's what you need to do, bro.  
Make a huge snowball.  
Make a medium snowball.  
Make a small snowball.  
Stack them on top, from big to small.  
Get a carrot, 2 sticks, stones, and small rocks,  
But you don't need any socks.  
Give your snowman a fine face.  
You don't need to hurry, it's not a race.  
Hope you had fun.  
Keep him away from the sun.



**The Perfect Burger** by Joseph Stevens

Lettuce, cheese, tomatoes, onions, oh my!  
Let's add the ketchup.  
Throw on some mustard,  
and slap some rolls on.  
Oh burger, oh burger  
Let's add you to the plate!  
Enjoy!!!





## The Time I Got my Feet Stuck in the Mud

by Joseph Stevens

Once upon a time I was hiking in the Adirondacks with my mom and dad. I had just gotten to the top of the mountain and was up in the fire tower at the top of the mountain. I was ready to go back down the mountain. As I was coming back down the mountain, my mom said, "Balance on the log, Joe!" but I did not want to go on the log. So I went in the mud and got stuck! When I came out of the mud my feet were covered in mud! That is the story of how I got my feet stuck in the mud.



P.S. The answer to Phoenix's mind-bender from page 2 is the letter e.

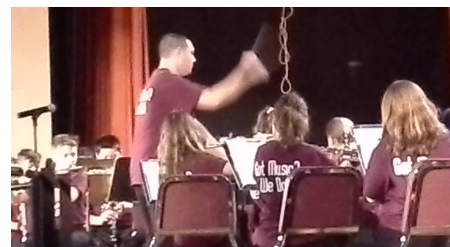
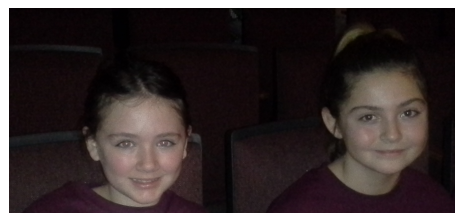
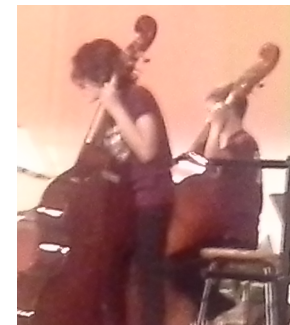
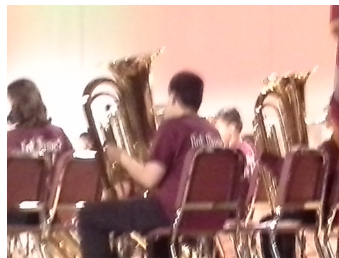
**RECIPE** My Mom's Salad Recipe by Phoenix Mascellino  
Chop some red onions. Add some spinach, lettuce and tomato.  
Add Catalina or Caesar dressing. Enjoy!



## Our Winter Concerts

by Meyah Franklin

I was singing in the Ben Franklin Middle School Winter Concert. I memorized every single word of the song "Carol of the Bells" by Mykola Leontovych. Getting up on the risers and singing in front of my family and friends was an exciting experience. My grandmother, my siblings, my mom, and my grandfather were there to enjoy the event. If you think you would like to be in a concert, and you have never done it before, I think you should consider giving it a try. You will be happy that you tried. Even when you are all grown up, you will still remember being in a concert.



# Advice from the Falcon Friend



Dear Falcon Friend,

Last quarter I failed three classes. I admit that I procrastinate sometimes, but other times I completely forget about my homework. One of my friends who gets better grades said I just need to get organized, but I have no idea where to start. Please help!

Overwhelmed

Dear Overwhelmed,

I was in the same position, but I am starting to recollect myself. First thing I did was baby-steps. People say you have to do something for a week to make it a routine. Maybe write in your planner and look at it everyday before you go to bed for a week. Put notifications on your phone to remind you to do your homework and don't let yourself procrastinate. Really force yourself to get up and do whatever you have to do. Second thing would be to keep thinking about the consequences of failing school. Now that really got me going. Nobody wants summer school, right? Well, think about your life as an adult. You can't work your dream job if you don't go to college! You need to work as hard as ever to get into college, never miss a paper or homework. These really worked for me and I hope they work for you.

Best wishes,  
Falcon Friend

## Shrek Jr. - Congratulations to the Cast and Crew!

