



Ben's Pen

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WEB Fun Still Continues During Uncertain Times

by Evvie Clinch

Mrs. Yoder, Ms. Deer and Mrs. Mical are the WEB Trained Leadership Coordinators at FMS. WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) is a club that helps 5th graders feel excited and welcomed to Franklin Middle School. If you are a 5th or 6th grader you may have had a WEB leader when you first came to Franklin. If you are a 7th grader you may have had a chance to become a WEB leader. Here are the responses of a few teachers and students who willingly answered some questions about WEB.

Ben's Pen: Ms. Deer, why did you and Mrs. Yoder decide to start up the WEB program?

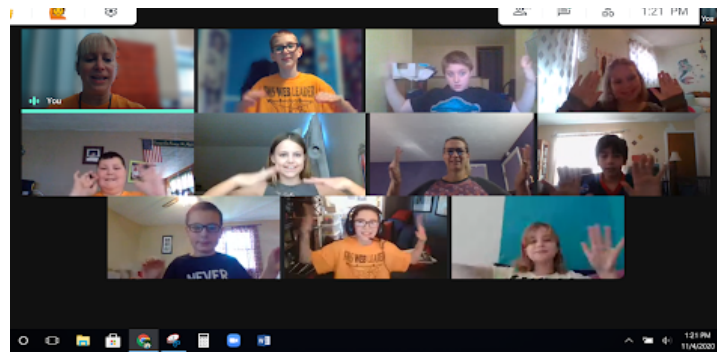
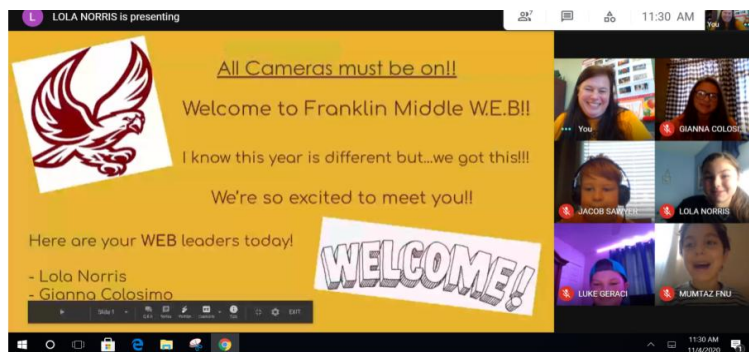
Mrs. Deer: The WEB Program got started at Franklin Middle and Hoover Middle 4 years ago when a parent in the Ken-Ton Community, Mr. Christian Johnson, became a WEB-Trained Coordinator where he worked at Starpoint 10 years ago. Mr. Johnson wanted his children to enjoy the WEB Leadership and Orientation Program just like his students at Starpoint. Mr. Johnson spoke to Superintendent Bovino about training Ken-Ton Middle School teachers for the WEB Program in 2016. Mr. Bovino and the Board of Education approved the WEB Leadership Program and the rest is history!

Mrs. Yoder and I volunteered to go to the WEB training in Canada because we have both understood the value of student leadership. We valued student opportunities and student clubs in addition to student academics. The weekend in Canada was 40 hours of workshops and coordinator training. It was entertaining, energizing, and character-building. Mrs. Yoder and I brought that same level of enthusiasm back to Franklin Middle.

For the first year, FMS WEB leaders wore bright yellow WEB shirts; the second year, we wore neon blue WEB shirts; the third year, we wore neon green shirts; this year we are wearing tangerine-orange WEB shirts. The WEB T-shirt has always been a distinguishing aspect of the WEB Leadership Program. On WEB leader T-shirt days, you can spot a 7th grade trained leader down any long hallway or in the cafeteria. Franklin Middle counts on WEB leaders to act as role models for friendship and kindness.

Last year, Mr. Johnson's son, Bryce, came to Franklin Middle as a 5th grader. Mr. Johnson's dream finally came true when his son came to 5th grade Orientation run by 7th grade WEB leaders! Mrs. Yoder and I are grateful that Mr. Johnson and the Board of Education gave Franklin Middle and Hoover Middle this unique life-changing opportunity.

Mrs. Yoder and I thrive on offering positive messaging, team-building, and leadership skills to 7th grade WEB leader applicants. We enjoy watching kids have fun! We always look forward to training 7th grade WEB leaders to make direct connections with the 5th grade students which, in turn, offers a positive middle school experience.



Ben's Pen: Mrs. Yoder - What do you find rewarding about coordinating WEB activities for students?

Mrs. Yoder: We are so lucky at FMS to have great WEB leaders! Our WEB leaders do a terrific job leading small groups and encouraging 5th graders to laugh and have fun! They share wonderful words of wisdom and their positive energy is contagious! It's also amazing to see how well 5th graders have adjusted to this school year. Their willingness to try new things and keep a positive attitude is impressive! Watching these 5th graders grow and adapt is inspiring!

Continued on page #2

Ben's Pen: Mrs. Mical - What has been your most memorable experience as your first year as a WEB coordinator?

Mrs. Mical: My most memorable experience as a first-year WEB Teacher Leader was when we had our first WEB Google Meet and Greet. I was popping into all the Meets to check on the 7th graders to see if they needed help with anything.

Well, I wish now that I remembered whose Meet I popped into, because I am sure that this is going to be one of my favorite WEB memories for a long time. When I logged into the Meet, the 7th grade WEB leaders were doing a fantastic job. Not wanting to interrupt them, I just stayed in the Meet silently until I got an opportunity to ask them if they needed anything from me. Not missing a beat, they were playing a game of "Invisiball" and they passed the ball to me. After "catching" the ball, I called out a 5th grade boy's name, and "tossed" the ball to him. He was so into the game, that he pretended to "catch it" by literally tossing himself backwards in his chair, so that everyone on the Meet saw his feet go flying up into the air, and over his head as he fell backwards out of his chair. He had done it on purpose, and it was hysterically funny! By him doing that, it proved what a great job the 7th grade WEB leaders had done with explaining the game, and encouraging everyone to have fun.

That one experience will stick in my mind for a long time. It gave me such a good laugh, and got me even more excited to see what the future holds in store for me as a WEB Teacher Leader.

A few 5th graders were interviewed about WEB. Here is what they had to say.

Ben's Pen: Vinny, how was your first experience with a WEB leader?

Vinny Marello: The WEB leaders in my group introduced themselves at the Meet and Greet, and they had the 5th graders introduce themselves too. They explained what activities we would play. The WEB leaders were fun and nice. The WEB leaders made my day more fun because it gave me something to do.

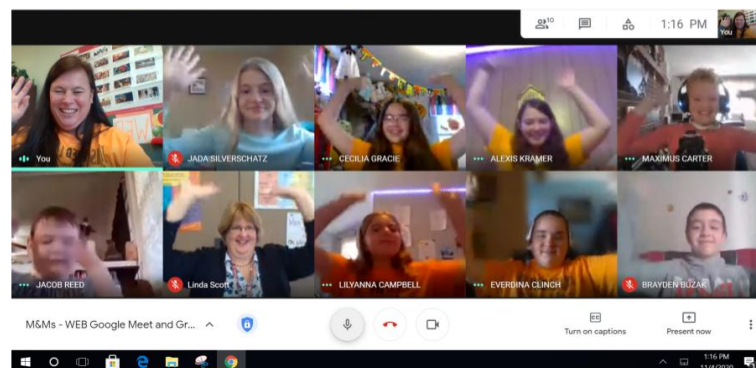
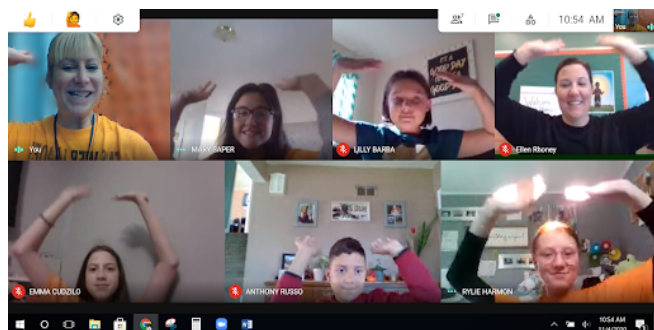
Ben's Pen: DeeDee, did the WEB leaders brighten your day at the Meet and Greet?

DeeDee Rinow: Yes, they brightened my day. I liked the activities and the WEB leaders were really kind.

Ben's Pen: Anthony and Noah, what did you like most about the Google Meet and Greet?

Anthony Russo: I liked the "Would You Rather" questions because it helped me get to know other kids on my team.

Noah Harlach: The "Would You Rather" and "What's your Favorite" were the best activities in my opinion.



Some 7th graders also responded to some interview questions. Here they are:

Ben's Pen: Lily, can you tell us about your experience as a WEB leader?

Lily Campbell: I think WEB is a good program for the 5th graders because I know that they make friends there. I became friends with one of my best friends during a WEB program and other people most likely had the same experience.

Ben's Pen: Alexis, do you think that the WEB program is good for the 5th graders?

Alexis Kramer: My experience as a WEB leader is awesome. I have met so many new people, and my 5th graders are great.

Ben's Pen: Isaac, what was your favorite part of the WEB Meet and Greet?

Isaac Needham: I liked the game Invisible Mum Ball because when you caught and threw the "ball" it revealed the person's personality. Example: if you caught the "ball" and then fell out of your chair it would show that you are a silly person and you like to have fun.



Many people who used to be WEB leaders are now in high school. Here is the response from a high school student.

Ben's Pen: Jennifer, how and why was being a part of WEB a good experience for you?

Jennifer Pritchard: WEB was a good experience for me because I got to learn how to share leadership, and being part of WEB taught me how to communicate ideas to people older and younger than me.

WEB is a fun experience for middle school students. If you are in 5th or 6th grade, you should consider applying to become a WEB leader in the future.

Mason's Guide to Minecraft

by Mason Mullins

Minecraft is a gateway to endless possibilities for kids, teens and even adults! Minecraft is a very great way to let go and just keep calm and build. Let's get started!

Building/Creative Mode:

In Minecraft you can build anything you want. The sky is the limit! Literally! You build with different kinds of blocks. The blocks are cube shaped, which makes it easy to build. There are no laws against gravity here! You can make any block you would like to float, except for sand and gravel. Those two will fall straight to the ground. Concrete powder will also fall. You can make roller coasters with rails too! There is a system of electricity called Redstone. With Redstone you can make all kinds of circuits! You can make doors open and close using a lever. Just put a lever on either side of a door then, pull the lever and the door opens! Here is a helpful tip - even though eating is required during the game, you do not need to eat in creative mode. You can do anything.

Survival Mode

In survival mode you need to always start with chopping down a tree. It is the very first thing you should do when starting a survival world, especially when you are a beginner. That is how you get tools. The tools in Minecraft include: a sword, a pickaxe, an axe, a shovel and a hoe. A sword is good for battling monsters. You may encounter a zombie, a spider, a skeleton, a creeper, and a slime. A sword is useful for battling other players as well. A pickaxe is good for mining minerals and good for other types of tools. The types are: wood (not very durable or fast but it will do), gold (pretty fast but not durable), stone (a bit more durable and sort of fast), and iron (fast and durable). Here is just what you need: diamond! Very fast and very durable. Best in the game! The better the type, the harder to find! An axe is good for chopping trees. The same types as every other. A shovel is good for digging dirt, gravel and sand. A hoe is good for making patches of farm so you can put crops as a farm. You always need water next to patches of farmland. Otherwise the crops will not grow. In my opinion, the hoe is not very useful though. Armor is also good for protection. You will need it when you are ready for the bosses. You also need to eat to survive in Minecraft. You can get food from many places. Some easy ways to get food are apple trees and other crops. Sometimes when you cut a tree, apples fall down. Crops are a great way too! Now you are a survival pro!

As you can see Minecraft is a fun game for all ages! What are you waiting for? Try it now!

The History of Technology

by Mason Ham-Deveans

Technology can be anything, from a spray bottle, to a desktop computer. This is a report on the History of Technology. According to Wikipedia, technology can be skills, methods, tools, techniques art, weapons, and/or processes (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technology).

I learned more about technology in my social studies textbook, *Discovering Our Past: A History of the World* (2014) from McGraw Hill. Technology was around in Paleolithic times, when nomads would bang rocks together, making small stone tools, such as arrowheads. Paleolithic people would bang rocks together, making fire. Around that time, they also made cave paintings, which were made out of berries, to make paint! After that came the Neolithic times, when they would make more refined tools, by rubbing rocks together the same way that they previously made fire. That would allow them to make tools like the sickle, or the plow. They also made hand mills for grinding grain, and they also made the wheel. And imagine what different a world this would be without the wheel! The only way my computer did not overheat and make me lose my progress, is because of fans, which are sometimes just wheels that have bits taken out of them to have a fanning effect! During Neolithic times, the people would make tools out of copper, starting the age of metals. When the Neolithic made metal tools, they realized they were more durable. They used the copper for tools, weapons, and jewelry. Because copper was not wear resistant, it was used mainly for jewelry and for dishes. Later, people discovered that you could mix copper with tin, and make bronze. Bronze was used mainly for hunting. Later, they found iron, and switched over to it, due to it being more wear resistant. Using bronze and iron, people made tools, weapons, and even sculptures. To be able to mold metals, people put them in ovens. Not ovens like we have now, but stone ovens. After heating the metal, it would turn into a liquid, which they would pour into molds. This was called metallurgy.

In summary, technology has been around for very long period of time and will continue to be around for many years.

Virtual Spirit Week at FMS

by Meyah Franklin

Last fall we had spirit week. Mrs. Leggert organized the virtual spirit week. Lots of students participated and wore shirts that related to the day of the week. On Monday, October 26 the students wore their favorite sports team apparel or the school colors. On Tuesday, October 27, we had Super Hero Day. I dressed up as Supergirl. Supergirl has excellent hearing ability and she knows other superheroes and she has eye lasers. She is also super strong and she can fly. Kara Danvers is an actress who played as Supergirl in the TV show if you would like to watch the show sometime. Wednesday, October 28 was Unity Day. People wore orange to show that we can be against bullying and united in kindness. Thursday, October 29 was Tie Dye Day. Lots of people wore different colors to show their multi-color coolness! Finally, Friday, October 30 was Halloween, and I saw some fantastic costumes while I attended class, such as a wolf costume, a human calculator, and a dancer. Speaking of dancing, some teachers were dancing to provide some more entertainment for spirit week. Mrs. Leggert shared some videos of the funny actions the teachers were performing. Some students sent in pictures of their spirit week activities which helped Mrs. Leggert to be able to put more students in a video. A special thank you to Mrs. Leggert for making this week so much fun! Also, in late December right before the break, there will be a holiday spirit week. On December 21, you can wear flannel or plaid, on Tuesday December 22, you can wear festive holiday clothing, and Wednesday, December 23 is pajama day.

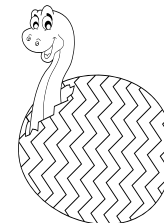
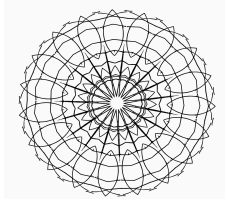


The Newspaper Club is Creating Coloring Books for Children who are Hospice Patients, and we need your help!

Here is what you can do:

- 1) Go to **Google Drawings** (drawings.google.com) to create a cheerful "coloring page" picture. (Please - do NOT color your picture in. That is something we are saving for Hospice patients. Also, please include your first name and last initial near the bottom center of the page as your ONLY TEXT on the page.) Reminder - for consistency in making a quality product, everyone who decides to participate needs to use Google Drawings.
- 2) Click on the blue "share" box on Google Drawings to share it with Mrs. Zummo at szummo@ktufsd.org. If Mrs. Zummo receives your artwork, she will email you back within 2 or 3 days. You can submit your work any time. Please keep in mind that **all Google Drawings coloring pages are due by March 17, 2021**.
- 3) Later on, we will let you know if your drawing needs any changes so that it can be included in the coloring book.

A special thank you to Newspaper Club member Mason Ham-Deveans, for thinking of a way to help out people in our area who are receiving Hospice care. Hospice has an essential program department that addresses the needs of the younger patients. Our Newspaper Club is working with Ms. Marsha Grimes, the Volunteer Coordinator from The Hospice Foundation. We appreciate the assistance from Ms. Grimes in turning Mason's vision of providing a special gift to some Hospice patients in our area into a reality!



Fun Facts

The Newspaper Club researched various fun facts. Enjoy!

From Phoenix Mascellino

Myostatin-related muscle hypertrophy is a condition in which you are abnormally strong.

For example, Liam Hoekstra, someone has it, did an iron cross at 5 MONTHS OLD! He is now a competitive eater.

Source: <http://sapienplus.com/liam-hoekstra-super-strength-superhuman-31/>

A fortnight is a unit of time that refers to 14 days. It comes from an old English word, *fēowertȳne niht*, meaning fourteen night. It is commonly used in the UK, Ireland, and many commonwealth countries. People in the US and most parts of Canada use the term biweekly to refer to the time period of two weeks.

Source: <https://www.timeanddate.com/fun/time-date-trivia.html>

February 30 was once a real date.

Source: <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/february-30.html>

From Evvie Clinch

Seahorses are the only fish with a neck and the only family of animals where the male gives birth.

Source: <https://www.funfunnyfacts.com/>

From Joseph Stevens

Basketball was played with a soccer ball until 1929.

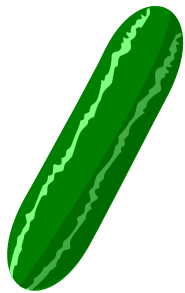
In the old days a basketball used to be brown.

Slam dunks were illegal for almost 9 years.

Source: <https://ettip.com/en/story/detail/40-random-basketball-facts>

Poetry

Pickle and Pen by Mason Mullins



Pickle and pen were the best of friends.
They danced and played until the days end.
They were never alone with no one to hold.
They were very brave, and very bold.
Pickle and Pen always did lend.
Pickle and Pen, the best of friends.

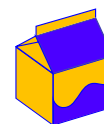


Snow in the Spring by Mason Mullins

When you look out the window what do you see?
Snow in the spring ding, ding, ding, ding.
I don't know why there's snow in the spring,
Perhaps the flowers are sleeping.
When you look out the window what do you see?
Snow in the spring ding, ding, ding, ding.
I don't know why there's snow in the spring,
Maybe it's freezing.
Snow in the spring ding, ding, ding, ding.
I don't know why there's snow in the spring,
Possibly someone is pranking!
Snow in the spring ding, ding, ding, ding.
I know why there's snow in the spring!
Buffalo is where we're living!
Sno' More snow in the spring!



Food Food Food! by Mason Mullins



Food, food, food. Wonderful tasty food.
Food improves your mood!
We need it every day!
We eat it every day!
Farmers grow food for schools from near and far away!
Cafeteria staff know what to do,
to make it healthy for you!

Book Reviews



Book Review #1 by Evvie Clinch

Do you like magic? Do you like Rebellion? If so then *Ash Princess* by Laura Sebastian is a good read for you! I would give this book 4 and $\frac{3}{4}$ stars. This book is about a girl whose country was taken over and her mom is dead. Theodosia goes on a journey to take her country back and find her true self while also trying to figure out her country's history and romance. This is the first book in the Trilogy. This book is one of my favorites and is on the school's virtual library (Sora) as an ebook and audiobook.

The second book is also on Sora but it is only an audio book, and the second book is more for 6th grade and up.

Book Review #2 by Joseph Stevens

The book I am reviewing is *Diary of a Wimpy Kid #15: The Deep End* by Jeff Kinney. The plot of the book is the main character Greg Heffley and his family go on the adventure of a lifetime. But, their plans take a turn for the worse when they find themselves at an RV style cross country park. Then, it starts pouring rain and the Heffleys are doomed and stuck.

So that is the gist and I think it is a very good read. I would recommend this book as an interesting and wild read. The only people who would not like this book are people who do not like a thrilling tale of a boy and his family going on a road trip. I would give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Movie Review

by Mason Ham-Deveans

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban is a great family movie. It includes persistence, suspense, sorrow, and misguidance. Harry Potter goes to Hogwarts school of Witchcraft and Wizardry for his 3rd year. Sirius Black, a murderous wizard is on the loose. Harry is stuck in his house. He leaves the house, hoping to never have to go back there. But all of the sudden a black dog comes. The dog is frightened by a bus called the Knight bus. Harry gets in, and is taken to The Leaky Cauldron. He is then escorted to platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$, where he is taken to Hogwarts, a school of Witchcraft and Wizardry. I would recommend this movie to anyone who likes adventure and suspense.



Get Comfy, Get your Popcorn, and Enjoy this Retold Tall Tale of Cinderella

by Mason Mullins

ONCE UPON A TIME in an enormous mansion, there lived a young girl. This girl's name was Cinderella. She lived with her stepmother and two stepsisters. The first was 17 years-old and very very spoiled. Her name was Anastasia. If she wanted something she got it. She had everything done for her by Cinderella. Not long after Cinderella's father died, she declared Cinderella the servant. Everyone agreed with that. Especially Drizella, the second step sister. Drizella hated Cinderella. Every day, she would make it a point to make a mess at the dinner table so Cinderella would have to clean it all day every day. Then there was her stepmother, Lady Tremaine. She couldn't care less about Cinderella. All she served for Cinderella was bread and water. On rare occasions she gave Cinderella an apple. Pure blood red. Cinderella would wonder why Lady Tremaine gave her such a substance. Strange. Cinderella started an ordinary day off with the castle bells ringing . . . (to be continued in the next edition of Ben's Pen).

Advice from the Falcon Friend



Dear Falcon Friend,

In the beginning of the school year, I kept up with most of my Wednesday assignments, but now I am not finishing as many of my Wednesday assignments. What do you suggest?

Wishing to Keep Up

Dear Wishing to Keep Up,

It is pretty hard for me too! My Wednesday assignments are also hard to keep up with. I usually do a little bit at a time. One suggestion is, you can do one class, then take a break, then the next class, then take a break and so on. Always remember not to stress yourself out. That makes it so much worse. Another suggestion is to get the hardest subjects done first. For me, that would be Math, ELA, Science, etc. Then you can get things done and you do not have to worry about it! It is a great strategy and one you will like! Happy Wednesday and good luck!

From,

The Falcon Friend

Try Google Drawings to Create Comics

by Mrs. Zummo

Last summer I experimented with Google Drawings to see if I could create a comic strip for our school newspaper. Google Drawings is easy to use, and there are many options to choose from. I also used Kami for some last minute touches on my comic strip project, as shown on the right. If you have not already installed the Kami extension on your device, it only takes a few minutes (go to kimi.app/extension). Using Kami, I was able to draw the flames on the birthday candles, and to draw the clothing for the character in my comic strip who I named "Grandpa." And yes, I made a very large cake for Grandpa in each panel of the comic strip. After all, Grandpa deserves a big celebration, even in the summer of 2020, when he probably had to limit the number of people who attended his party! If you have an idea for your own comic strip that would be appropriate for our school newspaper, please get in touch with me, and we can brainstorm some ideas together. Creating a comic strip for Ben's Pen can take a while to do, so if you are interested in joining the newspaper club and making your own comics, please contact me before you invest a lot of time in your work. Have fun!

