



Ben's Pen

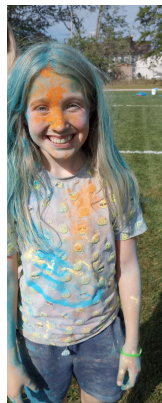
Fall/Winter Edition, Volume 8, Issue 1

A Publication by Benjamin Franklin Middle School Students

Franklin Middle's Color Fest

by Sanya Das

Lots of people from our middle school got people to donate to help raise money for field trips and other fun activities, and we have successfully raised enough! If you raised at least \$30, you received an extra color packet for the color festival. For several days at lunch, the Apex Leadership Company provided fun games for people who made a purchase. The Color Fest took place on September 29, 2023, and most people participated in games such as Duck Duck Goose, Relay Race, and a game where you dump a bucket of color on your head. In all games, you had to get splashed with color! Finally, everyone received a color packet from their teachers and got extra if they donated. We started a countdown, and then, color was everywhere in the air and on everybody.



The Amazing Highmark Stadium

by Fox Honan

As a Bills fanatic, I wanted to share some information about Highmark Stadium with you. Here it is:

History:

The stadium opened in 1973 as Rich Stadium and is the home venue of the Buffalo Bills of the National Football League (NFL). It was known as New Era Field from 2016 to 2019, and Bills Stadium in 2020. I found this information for my article on the following sites.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Highmark_Stadium_\(New_York\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Highmark_Stadium_(New_York)) and <https://americanfootball.fandom.com>

Fun Facts:

Why did it used to have the name Ralph Wilson stadium?

It opened in 1973 as Rich Stadium, after the food products company of that name. After the sponsorship contract ran out in 1998, it was nicknamed Ralph Wilson Stadium in honor of Ralph Wilson (1918-2014), the team's founding owner from 1960 until his death in 2014.

Why Highmark?

On August 20, the team announced they would temporarily use the name Bills Stadium until they found a new naming-rights partner. On March 29, 2021, the team announced that the stadium's new name would be Highmark Stadium after reaching a 10-year agreement with Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Western New York.

Why do the Bills have a bison in their logo?

The Buffalo Bills might have a blue bison in their logo, and their mascot Billy Buffalo might also be a (you guessed it) blue bison, but the animal simply represents the city's name — not the team name. The Bills, instead, are named after "Buffalo Bill" Cody, a man who literally hunted bison.

Seventh Graders Attend King Arthur Assembly

by Jennyelis Rizek and Rylee Shoemaker

On November 14, 2023, the seventh graders attended an assembly from the King Arthur Baking Company. Ms. Leanne Reynolds was the presenter. Mrs. Donn and Mrs. Speyer helped to organize the assembly. Two students named Ryan Rejewski and Alessandra Collana volunteered to help demonstrate how to make bread. Everyone in seventh grade got a free bag of flour, sugar, and yeast at the end of the day. We had to make one loaf for our immediate family, and another loaf to donate to someone as an act of kindness. One anonymous student explained that she made the bread at home. The student said it turned out well and was really fairly easy to make; the student gave away one loaf of bread to her abuelo (grandfather). The student saved the other loaf for the family members in her home. In addition to learning how to make bread, we learned about science (sugar helps yeast to be more active). We learned math by seeing how to use fractions on measuring cups. We also learned ELA by reading and following step-by-step directions in the recipe. Then we learned a social studies fact that the highest mountain in New York is Mount Marcy.

Did you know there are King Arthur baking schools in Norwich, Vermont and in Skagit Valley, Washington? You can visit <https://www.kingarthurbaking.com> to find out how you can also take their classes virtually. On December 22, there will be a 90 minute virtual class for children and teens at 1:00 that focuses on making Christmas cookies. The class costs \$35. There are different prices for different classes. Have fun baking!



Fall Fest

by Sanya Das

The Fall Fest took place on October 18, 2023, from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. It was a blast! Seventh graders were there, a whole lot of 6th graders, and a decent amount of 5th graders. In the Trunk or Treat activity (which occurred during the whole festival), parents and teachers definitely worked really hard on their trunks, because the trunks were totally amazing! Mrs. Pariso had such a pretty trunk full of cute scarecrows and lovely pumpkins, Mrs. Murray had a Charlotte's Web trunk, which looked fantastic, and Mrs. Greiner had wonderful spider decorations with a spooky touch! The traditional Zombie Run, had zombies chasing you, and required you to get at least four glow sticks, and once you completed the run, surviving the zombies, you received a candy reward! This year's Fall Fest was terrific!



More Fall Fest
pictures are continued
on the next page.



Allegany State Park

by Alan McMann and Andrew Caputa

Allegany State Park is very beautiful for many different reasons. Not only is there beautiful scenery but it is a very quiet, calm space. It is perfect for hanging out with your family and it is also the perfect place to relax by a fire. Allegany State Park is great for camping in a cabin. My trail preference is the McIntosh Trail on the Red House side. There is also a playground with a zipline and tons of play equipment. You will never get bored while camping in Allegany!

Dogs, Different Breeds, Different Personalities

by Andrew Caputa and Alan McMann

Dogs have been called man's best friend for many years, and for good reason. These lovable creatures are loyal, affectionate, and are always there for us when needed.

There are many different breeds of dogs, each with unique characteristics and personalities. Dogs are one of the most beloved and popular pets in the world. They are known for their loyalty, affectionate nature, and playful mindset. Dogs come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and breeds, each with their unique traits.

Dogs are also known for their playful nature. They love to play fetch, chase after toys, and run around with their owners. This not only gives them the exercise they need but also helps to strengthen the bond they share with their owners.

There are many different breeds of dogs; the breed type affects their behavior. For example, the Golden Retriever is known for its friendly and gentle nature, while the German Shepherd is known for its intelligence and protective instincts. The Chihuahua, on the other hand, is known for its small size and sassy personality. Visit this website if you want more info similar to this: <https://www.petplan.co.uk/pet-information>. I used this website to help write this article.



Golden Retriever



German Shepherd



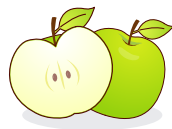
Chihuahua

So if you are considering getting a dog, be prepared for a lot of work, but also for a lot of love. Dogs truly are man's best friend, and they will always be there for us when we need them. If you have a dog, what breed is it, and what is its name? Have you learned something about man's best friend?

The Big Apple Crunch

by Timmy Leggett

On October 26, the entire district gave people the opportunity to eat an apple at 2:00 PM. The apples came from Wagner Farms. It was generous of Wagner Farms to give out so many apples. The Farm2School grant also helped to make this a success. A lot of my classmates enjoyed having an extra snack at the end of the school day.



Pictured left: Nate Glowish, Timmy Leggett and Tynell Tolbert



Pictured below: Aubrey Wilkins, Ava Brewer, and Paige Curry

Darien Lake

by Andrew Caputa and Alan McMann

Have you ever visited Darien Lake? If not, bring it up with your parents. We think you would enjoy your time there. Some of the rides there are the Tantrum, Moto Coaster, the Viper, Mind Eraser, the Predator, and Superman: Ride of Steel. There is also a gigantic water park if you are not a roller coaster type of person.

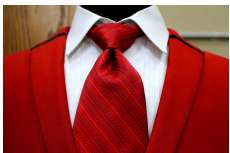
The craziest of all the rides (in our opinion) is the Tantrum. While on the Tantrum, you start slow and you go up a 90-degree (perfectly straight up) incline then at the top you stop for a second, and then go straight down and the rest is a normal, but crazy, roller coaster ride. (Warning: not for the faint of heart!) There are also little carnival games like balloon darts and ring toss that you can win a prize if you are lucky. We hope you enjoyed this article and we hope you will visit Darien Lake in the future.

Spirit Week

by Sloane Christmann

Spirit week is a week where everyone in Franklin Middle School dresses up with a theme such as, wearing red, dressing as the first letter of your first or last name, wearing black, etc. Spirit week ran from October 23 to October 31.

On Rally in Red Day (October 23) many students wore red, because red is a common color to wear, and it represents the beginning of Red Ribbon Week. Everywhere you looked there was a person in red. Some students decided to not participate, but mostly every student dressed in red.



Makena Itotia



On the Game of Life day (October 24), 7th graders dressed up as babies, 6th graders dressed up as college students and 5th graders dress up as senior citizens. In 5th grade, there were six or seven girls who dressed up as grandmas.



My "senior citizen imitation" is shown on the left, and Bailey Fordham's is shown on the right.



On Wednesday, October 25, we had to dress as the first letter of your last or first name. There was one student that dressed up as an elf. Another dressed up as Josh Allen. There still were a decent amount of students that dressed up.



Continued on the next page.

On Tie-Dye day (October 26) students were dressed up with tie-dye or neon. The school day was very colorful; I saw students wearing bright colors. Most students dressed up for this day. The next day was Hawaiian day. I wore my father's shirt, it looked like most students wore their own shirts and pants, not too many students dressed up for that day. Some kids were wearing leis with bright color Hawaiian shirts. On Monday, October 27, we wore black to stand up against bullying.

Emma Cohen



Otim Joseph and CJ Cummings

Finally, On Tuesday, October 31, many students wore Halloween costumes. Spirit week was fun for both the students and the staff.



Sophia Baker



Skylar Lawrence



Grace Backlund



James Hoca



Ava Glowish



Natallia Carroll



Tycen McAdory

Advice from The Falcon Friend:

Dear Falcon Friend,

I get an allowance, but I find it hard to save up my money when I want to buy a particular item. I usually spend most of my weekly allowance, and save up very little, so it takes me a long time to buy something that costs more. Do you have any tips or suggestions for me?

Thank you,

The Big Spender



Dear Big Spender,

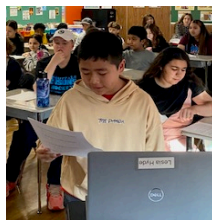
I used to have trouble with saving money as well. One way I learned to save money was to take half of my allowance or gift money and save it. Then I would take the other half and spend it. Another way to save money is to write down things you find that you want. Then, when you save up enough money for all of those items, you can go to the store and buy the things you wanted. Good luck with your plan to start saving money.

-The Falcon Friend

A Talk With Ukrainian Students

by Scarlett Morris

On November 16, 2023 the students on my team were able to interview students from Ukraine through a Zoom meeting. Mrs. Hyde organized the meeting, and the meeting took place in Mrs. Greiner's classroom. We learned about their food, school, music, after-school activities and life during the war. The students we interviewed attend the Innovative Gymnasium School, in central Ukraine. The food there is definitely different than our school lunches. They eat pizza, sushi, McDonald's, a grain called buckwheat, apple juice, Coca-Cola, and borscht, a type of beet soup. In school they have different shifts. One group of students might go to school from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM and the other goes from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM. They have 13 classes a day including math, geography, PE, music and Ukrainian, and they have a lot more homework than we do. There are many Ukrainian musicians but they also know a few of ours like Taylor Swift. The students we interviewed like to dance, sing, draw, art, and do of all kinds of sports like football and basketball. They do not celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday in their country. During the war that still is going on, the students said they had many losses of family members and family friends and a lot of people had to fight in the war. It becomes normal to hear a bomb alarm and have to go into the bomb safe room in the basement. We were really lucky to get to talk to the Ukrainian students and we were impressed by how well they spoke English.



Coming Soon: The School Musical

Thursday, January 25 7 PM

Friday, January 26 7 PM

Saturday, January 27 2 PM

