



Ben's Pen

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Little Free Library and Pantry are Coming to Franklin

by Mason Mullins

Have you heard of the Little Free Library? Maybe you have seen one, passing the neighborhood? A little free library is like a little birdhouse type container in which you can take and leave books like a little mini library! Mrs. Rhoney is starting this idea at our school along with some help from Mrs. Panepinto. In addition to the Little Free Library, Mrs. Panepinto is planning a special pantry for our community. Here are some questions asked for both teachers:

Ben's Pen: Mrs. Rhoney, what inspired you to get started with the Little Free Library project?

Mrs. Rhoney: One of my favorite quotes is from Mason Cooley, "Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are." This was never more true than in March 2020 when everything shut down due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. I found myself escaping lockdown through reading books, but many of my students did not have new books to read. Schools and libraries were closed and buying new books is too expensive. Several Little Free Libraries in my neighborhood continued to offer new books during the lockdown and I thought this would be an excellent resource to offer to Franklin Middle and Elementary students. I researched Little Free Libraries and discovered they donate Impact Libraries to areas where more books are needed. I completed the application describing my wish to bring more reading materials to Franklin students and received a Little Free Library!

Ben's Pen: What steps do you and Mrs. Panepinto have to do to keep the Little Free Library operating?

Mrs. Rhoney: I asked friends, neighbors and other teachers to donate books they no longer need and received hundreds of books! I'm overwhelmed by their generosity and cannot wait to share these books with Franklin students. Applying for the Impact Library and asking friends for books has taught me it never hurts to ask! Mrs. Panepinto and myself have been busy collecting pantry items, toiletries and reading materials to stock our pantry and library. Once the Little Free Library and Pantry are installed on the Franklin Campus we will work to keep the items stocked so that school and community members can benefit from the free resources we offer. We will monitor which type of items and books are frequently taken and make it a priority to replace those popular items.

Ben's Pen: Mrs. Panepinto, What kinds of items are going to be in the pantry?

Mrs. Panepinto: Items for the pantry include canned vegetables and proteins, personal care items, and paper goods. We'll also include crayons and school supplies.

Ben's Pen: How are you going to collect the materials?

Mrs. Panepinto: We are going to hold a school wide food drive in September of 2021. In the meantime, an Eagle Scout has volunteered his services as a community service project. He will run a food drive over the next few months to make sure the pantry is stocked.

Ben's Pen: Who is going to build the pantry?

Mrs. Panepinto: An Eagle Scout has volunteered to build the pantry. His name is Rylan and his father Don is helping him coordinate the project. We have collected money from Franklin teachers and staff who also donated materials needed to build the unit.

Ben's Pen: What do you both hope to achieve by doing this?

Mrs. Panepinto: Our goal is to increase local awareness of food insecurity, which has nearly doubled since the pandemic. We are a school of teachers, students and staff helping community members. If someone wants to help, they give what they can. For those in need, they take what is available.

Mrs. Rhoney: We will continue to collect donations for our Pantry and Library. We also plan to establish school clubs so our students can partake in organizing, stocking and maintaining both the Pantry and Library. Stay tuned for more information and news on an opening celebration for Franklin's Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library!

We wish Mrs. Rhoney and Mrs. Panepinto the best of luck as they start these new projects.

How Droughts Affect Nature

by Mason Ham-Deveans

A drought happens when an area of land gets less water than it usually has. Areas without proper irrigation cannot bear plants, so herbivores cannot eat food. And because of that, carnivores cannot eat food.

No one exactly can estimate when a drought will happen. Their predictions have questionable certainty. Although it has been proven that droughts usually take place when somewhere else is encountering more water, usually a flood. You can also determine if a drought has taken place somewhere, because if there are any trees, the rings on the trees will usually be thinner (the rings on a tree can also be used to indicate age).

One location that suffered from one of the worst droughts was the Great Plains. It lasted for 7 whole years, 1931-1938! Few crops could be grown, so the prices on the foods grown on the Great Plains went up. It was an even worse time that the whole nation was going through, The Great Depression. Because of this, very little people would buy the crops, and those who were farmers at the Great Plains were moved to other farms by the Federal Government.

From 1950-1954, the Southwest and Southern Great Plains suffered from a very extreme drought. Many farmers had to ship their cattle to other lands that were more suitable for the cattle's living conditions. The Great Plains has really suffered from droughts!

The Western United States experienced a severe drought during the late 1970s. It was not getting a good amount of snowfall, and because of that, just like rain, the plants that the local winter herbivores ate were no more. This, as explained before, prevented carnivores from getting food, and the whole area suffered.

Many parts of Australia are dry, so many extreme droughts have taken place there throughout about the past 100 years. In Southeastern Victoria, February 2009, bushfires have taken place. The strong winds there did not improve the situation, it ended up spreading the fire to more bushes.

After a severely dry September in 2013, New South Wales suffered from bushfires crossing the area in October and November. This setting reappeared again in 2018. Scientists say that the Global Warming that has been caused has not helped the situation at all.

Because of droughts, many countries that are in Africa are in deserts. That has been the main plot for many stories, and we can only hope that it will soon get better. Water plays a very crucial role in modern society. We drink it, grow plants with it, cook with it, play with it, water is one of the many things that everyone in the Globe knows about.

In conclusion, droughts are very impactful. They cause death everywhere they take place. Scientists are still learning how to prevent droughts. They can only predict a drought about a month before it takes place. Scientists would like to predict droughts much, much sooner. You can help limit droughts too! Just do not use more water than you need! Be more careful with the water you do use, and make sure everyone else is too!

Credit: World Book Online

Back in the Building

by Joseph Stevens

2/1/21

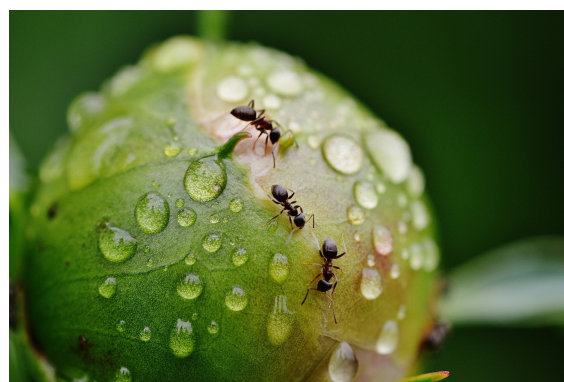
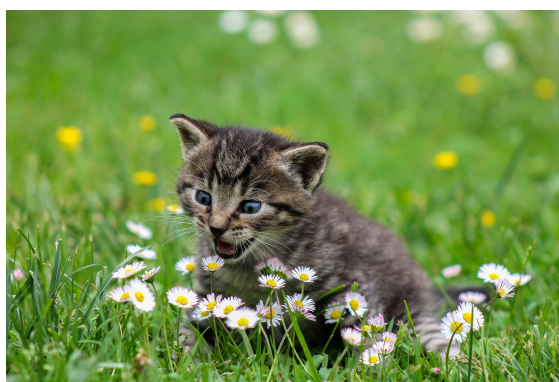
Hello diary!

Today I went back to school and experienced hybrid school for the first time ever. It was kind of scary, and the night before I had jitters. I was wondering how everything was going to work. For example, I did not know how the cafeteria was going to be set up. I was wondering how I was going to get the food in the cafeteria line. I was also wondering what the bus ride would be like. Would the bus driver remember to pick me up (especially since I am going into the school building in February when a lot my friends already went back in January)? Would I see some of my same friends on the bus that I saw last year? I had so many questions in my mind. But, when I got back into the building, everything was clear again. As soon as I got off the bus and entered the building, I saw familiar faces. I walked to my 7th grade first period homeroom, which is Spanish. Mrs. Molinaro is my Spanish teacher. I just followed my schedule for the rest of the day. The day actually went by quickly. I was happy to see my friends again and get back into a routine.

Environment vs. Pollution

by Isaac Needham

I see the effects of pollution when I walk outside. When I walk outside, sadly I see old, used cigarettes, tissues, napkins and bottles to name a few. This is bad for the environment in several ways. For example, litter could be poisonous to bunnies, squirrels, insects and also pets. Sometimes you see dogs or cats outside having a good time but when we introduce something like a bottle with a cleaning solution with chemicals, it all changes so quickly. Some dogs might not be interested because of the smell but cats might be attracted to the liquid if they are thirsty. When a colorful cleaning solution is mixed with water, the cat sees it normally fine. However, if a cat drinks the solution, it can get seriously sick within hours. You might ask, "How could it poison insects?" Well, I am so glad you asked, because if insects such as ants bring something harmful to their home such as a slice of pizza, it could have very harmful bacteria, viruses and even tar. This could rapidly kill the colony and could possibly kill the Queen. Without the Queen the colony can not operate so they all die out. Ants actually help the environment by working together to gradually remove the remains of animals that are no longer living. This proves the if you litter you could be hurting yourself or other people or animals in the process.



Random Riddles

by Mason Ham-Deveans

You might have heard some of these riddles before, but hopefully some of them are new to you.

"That musician has a problem. He's a trebled man."



Would you like to hear a tree joke? Nevermind, I have to leaf."

"I would tell you an unemployment joke, but it wouldn't work."

"I was going to tell you a chemical joke, but it would get no reaction."

"What do you do to calm down an astronaut's baby? You rocket." - I heard that joke in my martial arts class.

"I was going to tell you a sodium joke, but then I thought, Na, no one would understand it."

Check out the 11th element from the periodic table, known as Na (Sodium).

Tableau périodique des éléments chimiques

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36														
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr														
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54														
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe														
55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80						
Cs	Ba	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118
Fr	Ra	Lr	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Uut	Fll	Uup	Lvl	Uus	Uuo														
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The Making of a Comic

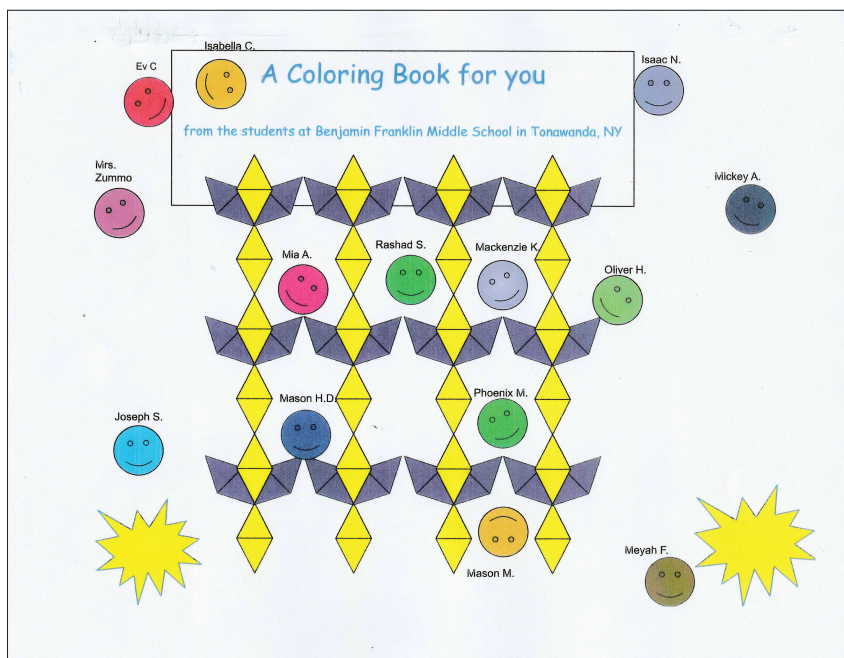
by Oliver Hyzy

Have you ever dreamt of making your own comic book? I have that dream and one day I got started. For years I was searching for a story but I could not find it. But in 2020, when things were grim as ever, a story came to me and this made me happy. My story is about two friends who are walking in the park and a spaceship crashes and they find a dying alien. The next day they discover they have superpowers. My comic will be in the school library next year if you want to read or look at it. Here are the first 4 panels of the comic, Enjoy!



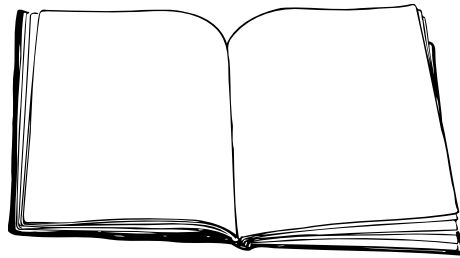
Newspaper Club Members and Student Volunteers Create Coloring Book for Younger Hospice Patients by Mrs. Zummo

Newspaper Club Member Mason Ham-Deveans came up with the idea of creating a coloring book for children who receive Hospice Services in our community. The 38-page coloring book was scanned and emailed to Ms. Grimes, the coordinator for Hospice volunteers. Mason designed the coloring book cover page shown below. Our next coloring book project will be for children and teenagers who are in foster care, as suggested by Mia Alexander, another member of the newspaper club. Mia will design the cover page for our next coloring book. Any student in Grades 5, 6, or 7 can create coloring book pages for our next community service project. If you are interested in creating one or more coloring book pages, please use Google Drawings (drawings.google.com) and share them with Mrs. Zummo by June 4, so that they can be used in the next coloring book. Thank you for the generosity of your time and for your kindness to other young people.



Students whose names appear on the cover page attended virtual meetings about our first project and/or created actual coloring book pages using Google Drawings. A significant number of pages were created by both Mason Ham-Deveans and Mia Alexander.

Remember, you do not need to be in the newspaper club in order to participate in our second coloring book project. Send Mrs. Zummo an email if you have any questions.



Book Review

by Evvie Clinch

Wish by Barbara O'Connor

At some point, almost everyone makes a wish. In the book *Wish* by Barbara O'Connor, Charlie Reese, an 11-year old, makes the same wish every day. She used to live with her mom, dad, and sister, but when her mom can not properly take care of them and her dad is in jail, Charlie moves away and lives with her aunt and uncle. While she is there she creates a new life and allows herself to accept the way she is now. This book is really good and is available on Amazon, and in your local bookstore.

Purple Up Day, which takes place annually on April 15, is dedicated to honoring children who have a parent or guardian who is serving in the military. Mrs. Bruce helped to raise more awareness for Purple Up Day by advocating for students and staff in our building to wear purple on April 15. That way, people of all ages at FMS were able to express their support and gratitude for military children. In the military, the color purple represents all of the armed services. Students at FMS acknowledged their appreciation for relatives and family friends with military experience. Some students also mentioned that they have extended family members (aunts, uncles, etc.) who are currently serving in the military. Celebrating Purple Up Day helped FMS staff and students to become more aware of this special day.



Poetry Pages

Ode to Lacrosse

by Landon Cino

Lacrosse has always come above the rest.
It's the best sport by far.
I am completely obsessed.
I hope one day I'll be a star.
Until then, I need to work really hard.
By practicing my cradling and passes.
And giving it all I've got.
Practicing everyday in the yard.
With hard work like that I have pretty good chances.
So when the time comes, I can take my shot.



Different Sports by Brayden Wilhelm

Football
Aggressive, Bold
Running, Throwing, Kicking
Helmets, Field, Gym, Bar
Swinging, Flipping, Jumping
Strength, Pain
Gymnastics

Emotions by William Harville

Sad
Tears, Depression
Crying, Heartbreaking, Depressing
Gloomy, Depressed, Joy, Well-Being
Loving, Smiling, Cheering
Joyful, Cheerful
Happy

Icee

by Lily Pierson

Icee, you're awesome in every kind of way,
if I were allowed, I'd drink you every day,
you're as delightful as a butterfly,
and as beautiful as the day,
whenever I drink you,
I will always scream "Yay!"

A Day in my Life by Anjila Rai

Volleyball
Fun, Energetic
Running, Jumping, Winning
Teammates, Rivals, Headphones, Mellow
Soothing, Laying, Singing
Lovely, Calm
Music

Poetry continued on the next page.

Maggie

by Arianna George

Beautiful and black
With little spots of white
Fur stands on her head
Her eyes glow in the night.



She loves to run and play.
But also take some naps.
She can stay out all day
While running hundreds of laps.

She's cuddly and sweet.
She's only one in age.
She always loves a treat.
But really hates her cage.

Ode to Autumn

by Anjila Rai

Sweet autumn, Oh how you're a wonderful thing to see
Rain falling, lovely breeze and don't forget the autumn leaves
Pitter-patter Pitter-patter the rain does fall
But you'll still be the best of all

Red, orange, and yellow
The colors of the falling leaves
Others may try but your colors shine in the light
But not just in the day, also at night

The soothing sound of the rain
Makes me feel like I could be able to reign
My name would be known all across the world
But I owe it all to autumn
Because the day will come when it will be known
All through the cities and even to Rome

So until that day
I lie and wait
Stare and see
The colors fading from red to green
Autumn is over and winter has come
But don't forget what I have taught
Though there are many
Autumn is the one on top



Sweet and Sour by Lacey Donofrio

Sweet
Sugary, Sticky
Candied, Honeyed, Sweetened
Sweeter, Sweetest, Sourest, Sourer
Burning, Stinging, Biting
Acidic, Unpleasant
Sour

5 Reasons Why Football is My Game

by Carter Morris

5. I like to play because
football is my game. I break ankles and
pump up dodging and weaving
no one can stop me sending people
flying like a bird.

4. Can you sit down
and stay down
cus you know if you get up
you going into the ground.

3. You can't catch me
too fast for you. I am faster than
the Flash
no one can stop me
too fast for your eyes to see.

2. Once you see me
I am in space already
Why you so jealous?
Not my fault you can't win
Why not sit down and just recline.

1. I'll be getting the touchdown
Odelling over you
one hand not trying
but how can you not catch me
Someone call the SWAT team
but I'm already here.



Dear Falcon Friend,

I am having a hard time falling asleep at night lately. I always feel tired when it is time to get up in the morning. What do you suggest?

Cannot Sleep



Dear Cannot Sleep,

I myself find it hard to sleep. Maybe you are thinking about too many topics that are keeping you awake. A little tip for you is to eat a few pistachio nuts before bed. It is a great source of melatonin that tastes amazing! As long as you do not have an allergy to pistachios, this should work for you. As to the topics that are keeping you awake, maybe you can put on some calming music. so you don't think about too many things at night. I hope this helps!

-The Falcon Friend

How to Make Video Collages on Your Smartphone with Cool Video Editor

by Meyah Franklin

Cool Video Editor is an app that has a lot of options for making great videos on your phone. I made a video collage on my phone using Cool Video Editor. You can do it too, as long as you have the app. Here are the steps:

- Click on SLIDESHOW.
- Select the photos that you want to use.
- When you are done, click on the button that says START near the bottom right corner.
- The video will be processed at this time. You can change the filter if you like. The filter helps you to adjust the brightness and the color. The transfer feature button helps you with the transition from one photo to the next. There is also an option to add music.
- When you are satisfied with your work, click SAVE in the top right corner.
- Your work will take about a minute or so to load.
- You will see at least one of the photos that you have used on your phone as a preview.
- Click DONE.
- It should be saved at that point. Go to your gallery to find it. You may need to scroll down a bit to find it if it is not at the top.
- Enjoy your new creation.

St. Patrick's Spirit Week and Wellness Week at Franklin - St. Patrick's Day was on a Wednesday this year, so it was celebrated throughout the week so that both Cohorts A and B and the VLA students could participate. Mrs. Stearns and Mrs. Renaud organized the week long celebration. It also occurred simultaneously with Wellness Week, which was coordinated by our physical education department. Students and staff also participated in various wellness activities.

