



Ben's Pen

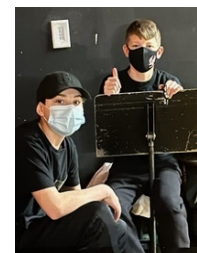
Spring Edition, Volume 6, Issue 2

A Publication by Benjamin Franklin Middle School Students

Aladdin the Amazing Play

by Mackenzie Vetter-Higgins

The musical Aladdin was and is an amazing play. The cast and crew worked as hard as they could. The directors Miss Hill and Miss Regan kept giving the cast feedback about their performance. Mr. Krueger was always giving the crew helpful advice. When the crew was not there, the cast worked together to get things on and off the stage. There were about a hundred students in the play and in the crew. At some points people had to think on their feet, but the show was awesome. When there were only a few days left, the practices became longer, instead of lasting until 5:00, the directors extended the practices until 6:00 in the evening. As a result of all of the preparation, and our practices, the show was a success.



Cafeteria has a New Look

by Meyah Franklin

One day I was going to get breakfast at our school cafeteria, and I looked up and I was surprised when I saw very large stickers and designs related to our school on the walls, up high, toward the front of the lunch line, in front of the snack bar, and next to the main door. One of them says "Welcome to Franklin Middle school." Another one says "Home of the Falcons" and another says "Falcons Deli Express." Also they painted some of the poles and walls maroon. You can look at the pictures below. Our cafeteria's brand new look brightens up the lunchroom.

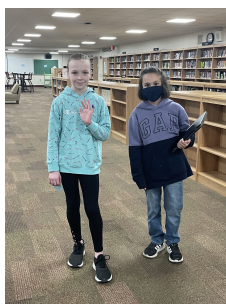


On March 25, schools in our district were wearing purple to help spread awareness about epilepsy. Do you know what epilepsy is? It is a condition that causes people to have seizures. There are two types of seizures. The types of seizures are generalized seizures and focal seizures (epilepsy.com/learn/type-seizures). Generalized seizures take place in both the left and right side of the brain. Focal seizures take place in one part of the brain. Humans can have many different symptoms while having a seizure. Some of the symptoms can be staring in space or shaking or unusual eye movements. If you think someone might be having a seizure, be sure to get some help right away. It was fun wearing purple so that we had a chance to show our support for people who have epilepsy.

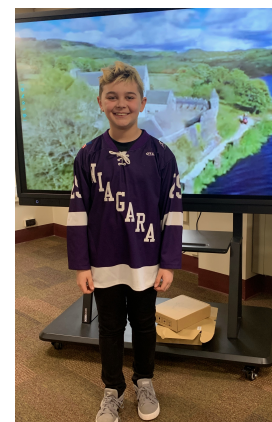
For more information about seizures, visit these websites. I used them to get some information for this article.

<https://kidshealth.org>

cdc.gov/epilepsy



Maci (left) had purple painted on her pinkie finger to show support for people who have epilepsy.



Note from Ben's Pen: We recently had another special day in our school in which students and staff wore purple. April 15 was Purple Up Day, in which appreciation is shown toward students who have family members in the military. Purple Up Day is held on April 15 each year. Next year, in 2023, Purple Up Day will be on a Saturday, however our school will continue to wear purple on a day close to the official Purple Up Day when it happens to fall on a weekend day. We will keep up the annual tradition of honoring students whose families are in the military.

Animal Facts by Rylee Shoemaker and Jennyelis Gelpi

Flamingos:

Flamingos eat brine shrimp.

Some flamingos live in South Africa.

Flamingos lay just one egg.

Flamingo parents take turns sitting on the egg, for about 30 days.

They live in saline (salt) lakes.



Elephants:

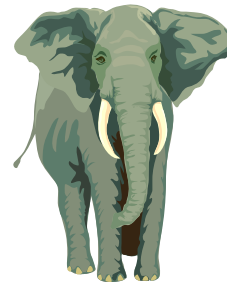
There are two species of elephants - African and Asian.

Elephants are an endangered species.

Unfortunately, they are hunted illegally, for their tusks.

Elephants are the world's largest land animal.

Elephants can hear through their feet.



We found these facts from the following websites:

nationalzoo.st.edu/animals/why-are-flamingos-pink-and-other-flamingo-facts

wwf.org.uk/learn.fascinating-facts/elephants

elephant-world.com

<https://www.treehugger.com>

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

Book Reviews

Pegasus: The Flame of Olympus

Book Review by Avery Price

I am going to tell you about a book called *Pegasus: Flame of Olympus*. The author is Kate O'Hearn. The book has 33 chapters and 385 pages. It is about a girl named Emily and she lives with her father, who is a police officer. Pegasus, a horse that has wings, crashes on her roof. Emily has to learn to take care of Pegasus, because he came from a war on Olympus, and he is hurt. Emily gets help from a boy in her neighborhood. His name is Joel. They do not like each other, but they have to learn to get along to help Pegasus and hide him. I am not going to spoil it anymore. You should really read this because it is a good book.

Smile

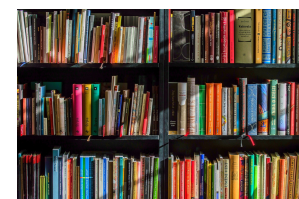
Book Review by Rylee Shoemaker and Jennyelis Gelpi

This book is about a girl named Raina, who just wants to have a normal life, but one day everything in her life changed. After a Girl Scout meeting, she trips and breaks two front teeth. In this book there are 213 pages. The author is Raina Telgemeier. It was published in 2010. In the book, Raina has lots of problems with bullies. The bullies are in her school. She even tries to hide her braces. The main characters are Raina, and her friends Sammy and Sean. If you read this book, I hope you enjoy it.

Sisters

Book Review by Hadassah Bush

I will tell you about the book *Sisters*. Raina Telgemeier is the author. This is the same author that is in the book review shown above. The book is cool and you will like it. The book is about two sisters not getting along. Their names are Raina and Amara. They argue a lot and the chances of them ever getting along seem impossible. But you will want to read more to see what happens.



Fifth grade student Evelyn Cianchetti wrote her own fictional short story, *Magic Water: The Rivers*. Copies of this story can be found in our school's library. Evelyn is a member of the newspaper club *The beginning* of the story is shown below. If you would like to read the entire story, just stop by at the school library.

Magic Water: The Rivers

By: Evelyn Cianchetti

Once there was a young woman, Calypso. She often spent her time wandering in the forest. But one time, Calypso noticed faint whispers coming from a nearby river. Being the curious woman she was, she drifted nearer towards the river wondering if she was the only one who could hear its quiet murmurs.

She walked along the river looking into it as if it was a telescope. Finally, she collected her bravery and jumped in.

She sank in, deeper and deeper, coming up for air once in a while. Until finally, a wave of panic washed over her. There was a huge waterfall right in front of her. But as she struggled to swim to shore she kept hearing the whispers. She suddenly decided it was hopeless and she should just let go.

She felt relief when she stopped swimming frantically. But then came to realize that now she was going to fall. She shut her eyes as tightly as she could. She suddenly felt really dizzy and light headed. She believed it was because she was falling. Calypso begged for mercy to the river in her head but nothing was changed. Suddenly all she heard was silence.

She looked around only to find herself on the middle of the ground laying on snow. "What happened?" Calypso asked herself. Even though she was talking to herself, someone appeared to know the answer. "You're in the west. You came flying here, don't know how, but it sure worked on behalf of you." "What do you mean in the west?" Calypso demanded. "Welp, never thought I'd have to explain this, but you're on the west side of River City," he explained. "River City?" Calypso thought aloud. "Galdur! Come here right now!" a mysterious voice yelled. "Well, that's my mama, better go!" he said. "Coming Mama!" he yelled nervously.

Calypso wandered around until she found a park with many people. Although they looked weird she ignored it and moved on. She found someone she thought she could talk to. She came up to them and said, "Hey, I'm kind of lost, I live in Oak City and somehow flew here." They looked at her weirdly, "What do you mean, 'flew'? Are you a witch?!" they asked, alarmed. "No, that's what one of the people here said. I believe his name was Galdur..." Calypso said, hoping he was lying. "Oh, Old Galdur, he's actually my uncle; he's always making up stories," they said, rolling their eyes. Calypso's heart filled with hope. "So do you know how I got here, because all I remember is whispers?" Calypso asked. "Well, you could have been poisoned at the Whispering Willows, but I doubt that... Oh my! Where are my manners! I'm Forest, what about you?" he asked. "Well I think my name is c- cul- caly? No, no, that's not it. Oh! It's Calypso!" Calypso exclaimed. "I think you need some rest at my house," said Forest. "I'll make sure my uncle's good tonight. He often scares the guests away," Forest said, like it was totally normal. "Okay I guess," said Calypso, half questioning them and half worried about Galdur. "Come on, we will go to the doctor's office in the morning and figure out any injuries. Then we will go to the police and figure out a way for you to go home," Forest reassured Calypso.

The next day was pretty strange. The first thing she did when she woke up was she ate some breakfast. Except there was a weird feeling building up in her stomach. She felt like someone was staring at her. She whipped her head around and looked behind her. Then she saw it. There was a humongous circus outside her new friend's window! Calypso shouted at the circus, "WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?" They looked at her, then quickly looked down. "That's it. I'm comin' out there!" Calypso mumbled sternly. (to be continued)

Movie Reviews



Encanto

Movie Review by Jennyelis Gelpi and Rylee Shoemaker

Encanto starts with Abuela (the grandmother) and Mirabel (the granddaughter) when she was five years old. She is about to get her "gift." In this family, there is a tradition in which family members get a special gift at age five. Abuela repeats, "Make your family proud." Mirabel walks into the kitchen and as she is putting down the dishes, one of the boys in the village asks, "When is your cousin's gift ceremony happening?" You will want to watch this movie to see what happens next. There are a lot of songs in this movie. Our favorite songs in the movie were "What else can I do?" "We Don't Talk About Bruno" and "Surface Pressure."

Scales: Mermaids Are Real

Movie Review by Hadassah Bush

I am going to tell you about *Scales Mermaids Are Real*. It is a sad movie but at the same time a happy movie. It starts with an average girl named Siren with a new friend, Adam. I do not want to spoil it for you but I might have some more information. The person that plays Siren is Emmy Perry. She is a very good actress in the movie. The person who plays Adam is Jack Dylan Grazer. He is great actor too. You can see Siren change from a person to a mermaid. I am sure you can watch it on YouTube or Netflix. I think you will really like it, and the ending is amazing. The movie was made in 2017. It is 1 hour and 32 minutes long.

The Greatest Showman

Movie Review by Evelyn Cianchetti

The movie *The Greatest Showman* is a movie about a man, Phineas Taylor Barnum, also known as P.T. Barnum. This movie was filmed in 2017. The movie is currently rated 4.7 stars. The movie consists of many songs. *The Greatest Showman* is about how P.T. Barnum makes a circus of diverse people. The movie shows how being different can be good. Overall I really enjoyed this movie, and think you should watch it!

Jurassic World

Movie Review by Avery Price

I am going to tell you about a movie called *Jurassic World*. I think many people have seen this, but I am going to tell you about it. The movie was made on June 12, 2015. It is 2 hours and 4 minutes long. Here is what it is about. There are two boys (Zach and Gray), and they go to Jurassic World to stay with their Aunt Clair. They go and experience a world of dinosaurs. This will be the last generation of dinosaurs. At the same time, while the boys are there, a guy named Owen trained velociraptors from when they were babies. Velociraptors are a type of dinosaur and they are not big but not small. They are medium-sized. Their names are Charlie, Delta, Echo, and the main raptor Blue. There is a dinosaur (Indominus Rex) that kills everything it sees including other dinosaurs. The people's mission is to get rid of the Indominus Rex, so that it can stop killing everything. I am not going to spoil it anymore, but it was a really great movie and if you have not seen it you should watch it.

A Whisker Away

Movie Review by Jena Roehner

A Whisker Away is a movie that was released in 2020. You can find it on Netflix. It is about a girl named Miyo Sasaki who likes a kid named Kento Hinode. But Miyo does everything just for Kento, and she is so sad when Kento says he does not like her, so she turns into a cat and runs away. Then something happens to Miyo that you would not expect . . .

POETRY

Puppy Days
by Avery Price

P - Playful
U - Uses toys
P - Proudly chases animals
P - Places toys all around the house
Y - Years ago he was tiny



Sports by Ethan Higgins

Basketball
team, awesome
passing, shooting, amazing
ball, orange, different ball, brown
running, throwing, discussing
school, college
Football

Description of a Dog
by Rylee Shoemaker

D - Digs in yard
O - Outside is where he plays
G - Genuine Friend

Ode to Wind
by Alithia Gerikh

Oh great wind you fill my heart with energy and fun.
When I feel you blow my hair up into the air and make me cool on the hottest days.
You reach out your long fingers, pick up my kite and play with it.
You fill my heart with energy and make me want to dance.
You pull the storm clouds toward me so they can rain down and water our plants.
You fill the sails of sailboats that I watch fly through the water when I am at the beach.
Oh great wind, what would I do without you?

My Turtle
by Jennyelis Gelpi



T - Terrific
U - Utterly adorable
R - Rocky shell
T - Tucks head in shell
L - Little
E - Enjoyable

My Friend by Addison Netter

Friends, when I see you I get excited
When I hear you I feel safe
I don't know what I would do without you
If I didn't know you I would be lonely
You get me through life,
Even when it's hard
I feel as if I can tell you everything
You introduce me to things that I would never think of
I love all of our memories together
And I hope we never stop making more memories together
I cherish every moment with you
When I am not with you I miss you

My Bunny
by Zarah Pease



B - Benjamin
U - Upset
N - Noisy
N - Nibbles on Stuff
Y - Young

In the Tower by Landon Wahl

There was a tall girl in a tower.
She smelled like a flower.
She liked to sing.
And liked to swing.
That girl had a true power.

My Gerbil
By Evelyn Cianchetti



G - Gladly will take seeds
E - Entering and leaving burrows
R - Ruffled fur from digging
B - Burrows
I - In a messy tank
L - Loving

Poetry continued on the next page.

Ode to Friendship

by Cara Eschberger

As ambitious as a flower, growing from the dirt.
Comfort, that warm fuzzy feeling inside.
It is so very important to me because without it, I wouldn't be me.
That ambitious girl inside would disappear.
I feel confident because making friends comes pretty easily to me.
When I see my friends, I get excited to spend the day with them.
When I hear my friends, I know who to go to when I feel down.
You smell like a new bottle of perfume.
Friendship is truly thoughtful.

My Locker by Samantha Ferreri

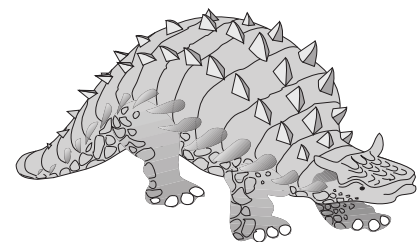
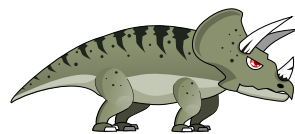
My locker is quite messy
And my name is Jessie
I had a tuna sub
But threw it in my locker to get in the tub
I didn't do good on a test
I threw it in my locker and was called a pest
I might not do good in school
But I do know how to use tools
That may be the story of my locker
But I've got to go play soccer

Ode to School by Anonymous

Oh school
You are like my second home
You make me smarter
When I see you, I get happy
I hear the bell ring in the morning
You smell like a school
You make me feel happy



Dinosaur Facts



by Noah Plume

There are three dinosaurs that I want to tell you about in this article. The names of the dinosaurs are Tyrannosaurus Rex (T-Rex), Triceratops, and Euoplocephalus. They lived millions of years ago, before cavemen. I found the most of the facts about dinosaurs from the website livescience.com.

T-rex is the first one I would like to explain. It was big, aggressive and strong. It had humongous teeth. It was a carnivore, which means it only ate meat. The name of the of T-Rex in Greek means king lizard, because, in Greek, saurus means lizard and rex means king. (livescience.com/23868-tyrannosaurus-rex-facts.html)

The triceratops had three horns. The triceratops name is a combination of the Greek word tri, which means three, keras, which means horn, and ops, which means face. This dinosaur was in North America about 66 million years ago. They were herbivores, which means they ate only plants. (livescience.com/24011-triceratops-facts.html)

The Euoplocephalus was also a herbivore. This dinosaur's name means "well-armored head." It had bony horns, a clubbed tail, plates and studs. It lived about 73 million years ago. It was the size of a rhinoceros, but it must have weighed more, because of its heavy armour. Even the eyelids had armour. It used its tail to defend itself. It was about eighteen feet long, and about eight feet wide. It was a little bit taller than a person. (Visit the website nhm.ac.uk/discover/dino-directory/euoplocephalus.html to find this information, and even more facts).

I hope you can learn more about dinosaurs when you have time.

Advice from the Falcon Friend



Dear Falcon Friend,

Summer is coming in a few months, and I find that every year my siblings and I argue more when we are on summer vacation. How can I have a more peaceful summer?

Sincerely,
Super Summer Seeker

Dear Super Summer Seeker

To start things off, maybe try to find something that you all like, possibly video games, sports, or maybe a movie or TV show. That way you can connect over something you share an interest in and start a conversation with them.

However, if you are still having some problems getting along, and it might be making you feel frustrated, try to spend some time away from your siblings. One idea to take a break is, go to a friend's house; it would be a great idea to enjoy time with other people that make you happy. You could also join a summer camp or a sport. That way you are building new friendships, and when you come back home, you will be in a better mood around your siblings.

Yours truly,
The Falcon Friend

Drop Everything and Chill Day

by Jennyelis Gelpi

On Feb 18, 2022, it was drop everything and chill day. We made crafts and cards for Children's Hospital. We also played games in the gym, library, hallways, and classrooms. It was a very fun day.

