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The NASSP website elaborates the award winning schools, “[Franklin has] flourished under the leadership of its current principal,” and, “Franklin Middle School strives each day to meet its primary goal: to be an exemplary school in the areas of academic achievement, developmental responsiveness and social equity.”

The National Association of Secondary Schools conference will be held in March of 2011.

by Anne Zola

The National Association of Secondary Schools has awarded Franklin Middle School a national honor as one of the top breakthrough schools in the country. Ten secondary schools were recognized by NASSP, and no more than four middle schools were presented the award alongside Franklin.

The Breakthrough Schools Program, which began in 2007, annually recognizes middle schools with high achieving or improving students who live in poverty. To select the schools, representatives from NASSP tour the school and conduct interviews with both staff and students. Each school is graded on a certain criteria: collaborative leadership, personalization, and curriculum.

Principal Angela Smith, told The News-Gazette, “We try to create a positive climate for students.” She went on to say, “We look at our data and analyze it to make sure we’re meeting needs.” The staff at Franklin learned to be selective, she said, and choose the data that could tell them what they needed to know to help students – were students learning what teachers asked of them, and how do teachers respond if they are and if they are not? It is Franklin’s goal to improve the learning structure to secure the success of all students.

Teachers work together on how they assess and teach their individual classrooms. “We moved away from numbers and back to the names and faces.” Smith continued, “The teachers knew these kids. They saw the faces of some of our kids who were not meeting standards.”

The staff agreed students would not leave the school in that position, and they would not look at students in a negative way, or in terms of what they weren’t doing.

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Girls’ Basketball Petitions for and Hosts Regionals

by Erin Roux

8th grade girl’s basketball regionals was on November 29th, 2010 at 6 pm. But it wasn’t always going to be that way. Up until a few days before the event, there was no school or facility able to host, only a place for the 7th graders. A petition was made by two players, Payton Stillman and Ty Turner, to have Franklin be the host in reaction to the dilemma.

Lorena de la O, an FMS basketball player, said, “I feel that if seventh graders can have it, why not us? We have worked so hard this year and improved so much. Why can’t we have a chance to prove ourselves...just because we can’t find a host?”

Lorena added that the situation could have been gender-based because there is a bigger interest in boys’ basketball. “They

(Continued on Page 2)
EDITORIAL: DRAMA POINTLESS, BUT UNAVOIDABLE
by Mia Brandt

Drama in middle school, or any school really, is pointless and just a way for girls or guys to get attention. Drama normally consists of people talking about each other behind their backs. Every so often it escalates into a physical fight. That is mostly girl drama. If two boys get into it, it is even more likely for them to fight it out, and then talk about each other. However, I agree with the classmates I interviewed that there is more boy-girl drama than girl and girl or boy and boy drama. The drama also somewhat stays within the grades. At least this year.

Last year, there was a crazy amount of drama within my group of friends, but unfortunately, it didn’t just stay in 7th grade. We brought the 8th graders into our problems and the 6th graders as well. It was all-school drama and did nothing but distract us.

Honestly, the way things are going now, we will never be a “bully-free” school. I don’t care how hard anybody tries; there is no, never will be a, and never has been a “bully-free” school. It’s just not possible and not logical. I’m sorry, and we can try, but drama is part of being a teenager, and there is no way to get rid of it. Go ahead and try, search, change. When you find a “bully-free” or drama-free school, please call me up and tell me. I will see for myself, but I doubt that will happen.

THE ANNUAL KOOL-AID STAFF

This newspaper is the product of Mr. Rosentel’s Flex Enrichment class, which maintains that Kool-Aid is Franklin’s most popular beverage.

GIRLS BASKETBALL REGIONALS PETITION

(Continued from Page 1)
Ms. Seto Wins a Golden Apple

by Connor Mapes

A lot of people love Ms. Seto, but few truly know what made her the great teacher she is today. In November, she was recognized by winning the Golden Apple Award, presented by NewsChannel 15 and Busey Bank. Her three main accomplishments are impressive! As a student, she got accepted into and attended her first choice school, the University Of Illinois. As a teacher, she won the Golden Apple Award and appeared on the news. Finally, as a coach, her 7th grade girls in 2008 defeated the number one seeded Jefferson Middle School and moved on to sectionals.

Ms. Seto attended The U of I and majored in Elementary Education. She is one skilled woman. She can teach Social Studies, Math, and Language Arts. She is one class away from getting her Master’s Degree! She prefers after that to be called…MASTER SETO!

The future Master Seto’s Golden Apple Award came as a surprise to her. A few weeks ago, Ms. Seto was just chillin’ (you know how Seto is), and Ms. Smith came into her room and told her she had visitors at the door. Well, Ms. Seto’s kind heart obviously said, “Have them come in.” NewsChannel 15 bursts in! In the blink of an eye, she had the camera in her face, and the station was awarding her a plaque. “I looked around and I saw a pack of eighth grade teachers in the hallway. I thought I was getting punk’d or something,” she said. “It was an awesome honor! I think my first words were, ‘For real?’”

Franklin’s Star Students

by Brooklyn Fitzwater

Our school has many star students, but we asked all teachers to choose one male and one female for each grade and each team.

6 North chose Lina Issa and Caleb Carr because these students have great attendance, excellent behavior, turn in quality work on time, are leaders, ask good questions, are polite, are mature, and help other students.

6 South selected Kamryn Pettigrew and Marshall Thompson because they are positive role models in the classroom. They are focused, participate, and always have a great attitude.

For 7 North, students Shivan Senguttuvan and Jarrett Leuck won because both of them are model students, who continuously do the right thing without expecting recognition. They are always kind and compassionate towards others. According to their teachers, “They are truly what being a Franklin Knight is all about!” 7 South chose Chloe Beittrey and Jim Lan because these students are always prepared and on task in class. They participate and raise their hands. They have positive attitudes and are always smiling.

8 South selected Clinique Carmom and Clay Robbins because Clinique is respectful to all, takes academics as a priority, and is an independent young woman who does not follow the crowd and can think for herself! And Clay always participates, is nice and compassionate to all of his peers, and works hard.

French Class Begins with Food

by LarTerrious Kinuthia

Ms. Allem’s French class has begun the quarter by studying irregular verbs and by tasting foods of France. Most deliciously, they have tasted pain avec Nutella, or bread with Nutella. Nutella is a hazel nut spread.

Some of the verbs students have studied include aller, meaning “to go.” They have also learned to use French numbers with time. Their lessons have included other phrases, such as, “What is your name?” and “Where are you from?”

These lessons will be the start to great communication skills to be acquired and used throughout French-speaking countries, such as France, Cote D’ivoire, Burkina Faso, Congo, and many other former French colonies. The students of Ms. Allem’s French class have completed projects to assure the mastery of their French skills learned so far.
The Franklin Knights played Danville Northridge at home on November 30th. They started out quickly and kept the pace going in the game, winning 49-13.

With this win, the Knights’ 8th grade team achieved a record of 6-3. Their only losses have come from Edison, Bloomington Kingsley, and Urbana.

Coach Immke reflected, “Some successes are rebounding, full court pressure, and great post play.”

The team and coaches look forward to every game, including in-town rivalries.

Jamal Stovall was in double digits in scoring, and Jabari Freeman fouled out with about 4 minutes to go.

The basketball team just improved their record to 8-3. They had a win over Jefferson by one in overtime. The team also beat Pekin by 15 points.

In the Pekin game, the Knights were up by two at the half. They pulled it out in the end with a couple steals.

The team hopes to improve upon the season. Cheerleader Katherine McCulley agrees with this and wants to get better with the cheers as they progress.

Brittany Baker believes that the squad cheers to lighten the spirits of the players.

Now, Ms. Joritz and her team will inspire players and fans alike from the sidelines of Boys’ Basketball games.

Ms. Joritz cheered from ages four to 21, when she got injured in a cheer competition. Now, she and her team will inspire players and fans alike from the sidelines of Boys’ Basketball games.

With a record of 10-10, this was a season of ups and downs for the Franklin Girls’ Basketball Team, from the win over Urbana to the loss to Metcalf.

Coach Amy said, “The best part of the season was watching the players improve tremendously. Also, watching them grow as individuals and learning what it means to be a teammate.” She also boasted, “We had several hard workers. I can probably say each player has learned to understand what hard work means and they can be pushed harder than they ever imagined!” This is a season she and the team will remember. Coach Amy said, “I am going miss each player for different reasons. Each has VERY DIFFERENT personalities, so each one brought something different each day.”

Player Debrae Richter-Shea said, “The best part of the season was at the beginning. We weren’t really friends, but now we all talk and hang out.”

With a 10-10 record, they got the fourth seed in the regional tournament. They beat Charleston in the first round of regionals and lost to Mattoon in the second round by a score of 31-6. All six points were scored by Payton Stillman. Now, all that is left to do is wait for their freshman season.
Student Council the most, President Jaraijia Morris said that she appreciates the attention, and she likes to help students with their academics or prevent others from teasing them. 7th Grade Representative Anica Miller agreed that she likes helping her classmates. And 8th Grade Representative Markus Green said that he likes the perks, such as not having to pay to go to dances.

If you’re wondering what Student Council has done so far, think back to some special events of the first semester. Pink Ribbon Week, Spirit Week, and the Spirit Dance were planned and presented by Student Council. If you want to help Student Council put on future events, ask. They might say, “Yes.”

Franklin’s brand-new Debate Team traveled up to Chicago to compete in the Chicago Debate League’s Middle School Tournament II on December 11 at Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences. While other schools at the tournament had at least three more rounds of experience, Franklin’s Tianna Lee, Aryssa Harris, and Robria Newman debated proudly and effectively, bringing a plaque and a medal down to Champaign.

In competitive academic debate, teams of two argue for or against a resolution. The affirmative team presents a plan that supports the resolution and the negative team argues for the status quo. When debate teams arrive at tournaments, they must be prepared for any possibility, as they may argue either the affirmative or negative and, by the end of each tournament, will have argued both sides multiple times. This year’s resolution is: “Resolved, the United States federal government should substantially reduce its military and/or police presence in one or more of the following: Japan, Afghanistan.”

In a field of 37 teams, Ms. Lee and Ms. Harris won the 10th Place Team plaque. Both 7th graders impressed their coaches with their hard work, drive, speaking ability, and critical thinking in practices, and the tournament served to highlight these qualities. Facing two teams from Spencer Elementary Technology Academy, Ms. Lee and Ms. Harris defeated both. The only team they lost to, from Ogden International School of Chicago, went on to win the tournament.

For her eloquence, Ms. Lee won the 20th Best Speaker Award out of 76 debaters.

Not only did Ms. Newman debate for her first time, but she did so alone against teams of two. Debaters refer to her partner-less bravery as “going maverick.” As a maverick, she maintained her composure, and her coach, Keyonte Cobb remarked, “She killed it in her rebuttals and cross-examinations.”

All debaters must be members of the Sankofa Pride after-school program.

The Franklin Knights Girls’ Basketball team lost the fight against Holy Cross in overtime. This game and this season were a fight to the end. This season had a lot of ups and downs with a 10-10 record and a fourth seed in the regional tournament. It couldn’t have ended with a harder fought game with Franklin losing in overtime 28-23. Payton Stillman had a great performance with nine points and two rebounds. Ty Turner also had six points.

In the fourth quarter, Franklin almost had the win when there was no time left on the clock. Holy Cross had two free throws and was down by one. They missed the first and the second rattled in to send the game into overtime. The rest of the game Holy Cross pulled out of reach for the Franklin Knights.
by John Bien

Both Koreas are biting at each other yet again. South Korea is now threatening military strikes on North Korea soil after the North fired shells at Yeonpyeong, a South Korean island where the South Korean military was having a military drill. The shells from the North killed two South Korean marines and injured 15 other soldiers. A total of three civilians were killed in the barrage and another three were injured. The number of casualties on the North’s side is unknown, but one South Korean military official claims the numbers to be high. There has been much hatred towards one another for the past 57 years now.

Just recently, in March of 2010, the South Korean warship “Cheonan” was sunk near Yeonpyeong, killing 46 sailors. The North fired shots at about noon, while the drill was still underway. The South immediately returned fire and scrambled F-16 Fighting Falcons as a precaution. A total of 175 shells were fired between both militaries.

Both Koreas blame each other for the most recent attack. The North insisted that they warned South Korea to halt their drill at once. When the South Korean Commander in charge at Yeonpyeong did not comply, the North fired warning shots to pass the message. The North then said the South fired at them for, they claim, “the hell of it.” Enraged, the north returned fire. While the South claimed the North started it, the South also said that they telephoned North Korea ahead of time to let them know that they were planning a military drill on the island. The South then said the North started by firing indiscriminately and randomly at Yeonpyeong. South Korea does claim they were firing shells into the water around the demilitarized zone, or border, but denies any falling into North Korean waters.

South Korea’s newly appoint ed Defense Minister has been asked numerous questions by the South Korean Media on how the conflict will be dealt with. “If there are further provocations, we will definitely use aircraft to bomb North Korea,” said Kim Kwan-jin, South Korea’s new Defense Minister.

Rivalry between North and South Korea has been high ever since the cease-fire that halted the war that cost the lives of so many Koreans on both sides. On June 25th, 1950, North Korean Tanks crossed the 38th parallel and captured Seoul, the South Korean capital in less than 24 hours. Long before, both Koreas formed one whole nation.

During WWII, the Japanese Empire conquered all of Southeast Asia with Eastern China and Korea first. However, after the defeat of the Japanese Empire, Korea was divided into two countries. While the South became a republican nation, where the people vote to elect their leaders with America backing them, the North became a communist state with a dictator to lead them. North Korea received support from the Soviet Union and China, other communist countries. Furious, the North Korean Dictator Kim Il-Sung wanted to reunify South Korea and form one whole Korea again. So, Kim Il-Sung saw fit for military action to bring South Korea under control. However, the US and United Nations intervened right away and pushed North Korean Forces back across the border. The war ended not with a peace treaty, but with a cease-fire by the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the US. So in a way, the war is still raging on.

South Sudan Considering Independence

by LarTerrious Wakinuthia

North Sudan is again battling with the southern part of Sudan.

Sudan is the largest country in Africa, and is divided between the Muslim Arab north and the Christian and animist black south. The government of Sudan is run by the Arab north, which fought a 21-year civil war with the south during the 1980s and 1990s.

Many are being forced to serve and defend their side. The elders are also being raped and many refuse to refuse.

Estger Chichi of south Sudan said, "The war is affecting us greatly. [I] am afraid to send my children to school."

She also said that she endures her day with much fear.

In January, southern Sudan vote on whether to separate from the larger Sudan and form its own country.
**NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL**

**DEAD BODIES FOUND AGAIN ON NY BEACH**
by Aquiel Farrington
Adapted from a FoxNews.com article published December 14, 2010

Authorities are working to identify four bodies discovered alongside a deserted parkway at a beach on New York’s Long Island, police sources told FoxNews.com. The bodies, which were found in an area near where a young woman was reported, missing, appear to have been there for “at least a month,” according to a Suffolk County Police Department official.

Three bodies were found Monday at Oak Beach, which is on a remote barrier island that divides the Great South Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. A fourth body was discovered near the same area on Saturday. Two of the bodies were found wrapped in burlap sacks.

The case is very similar to the 2006 unsolved murders of four prostitutes whose bodies were found behind a strip of Atlantic City motels known for drugs and prostitution. The women were each barefoot and lying face-down in a drainage ditch. Their killer has never been identified.

**STREETS OF HAITI BURN AFTER ELECTIONS**
by Jeremy Bailey

On December 8th, 2010, protesters of Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital, responded to the fraud and unfair voting by using violent and unruly tactics. These protesters also burned “Jude Celestin” headquarters because of his father-son dictatorship over the course of many years.

Many citizens were very angry and had many dislikes about the government. However, many still feared that if they did not vote for the Haitian government, they would lose out on “cash for work programs”. The Haitian people rioted over their anger at the government.

**OPINION AND REVIEWS**

**DEAR PAYTON**

**Q: There’s this boy I like. How do I get him to notice me?**

A: Step up and talk to him face-to-face. There’s not a chance to get him to like you without him knowing who you are and getting to know you. If it was meant to be, let it happen. If it doesn’t work out, then that’s just the way it is. Just work what your momma gave ya and show him who you really are.

**Q: How do you get your hair so pretty?**

A: Dear Frizzy, I know how embarrassing bad hair days can be, but they are easy to prevent. If you’re going to straighten your hair, you can put hair spray on to keep it down. You also can brush it back into a bun or ponytail. If you want, you can also use heat protector when I straighten it to make sure it’s not greasy. I make sure to wash my hair every day to keep my hair healthy. I also get a haircut every 4-6 weeks to keep it healthy. I wash my hair every day to make sure it’s not greasy. I make sure to use heat protector when I straighten it to make sure I don’t fry it also.

**Q: I like this girl, and I don’t know what to do because I think she might be a guy. I think asking would be rude. What should I do?**

A: I would say it might be a good idea to know what sex a person is before you start liking them like that. It could cause a lot of stuff to happen that you might not want to happen.

**Q: My favorite TV show Two and A Half Men has been really bad lately and it’s really chopping my khakis. How do I deal with the pain?**

A: I would say you can read the descriptions that explain what it’s about. If it doesn’t interest you, find a new program to watch. I know it may be hard but sometimes that’s part of life. You just have to learn to click the remote.

**Q: I feel like no one likes me. I’ve never had a boyfriend. Why?**

A: I know you’re not the only girl feeling this way. It can be confusing to both boys and girls. Right now, there is nothing wrong with you and that’s for sure! Guys might find you shy around them and their friends and sometimes that might be a problem. Try to speak up and find stuff you also like to do with guys.

**Q: I had a really bad hair day yesterday and it was really embarrassing. How do I prevent this from happening again? – Frizzy at Franklin.**

A: Dear Frizzy, I know how embarrassing bad hair days can be, but they are easy to prevent. If you’re going to straighten your hair, you can put hair spray on to keep it down. You also can brush it back into a bun or ponytail. If you want, you can also by shampoo to help fight frizz.

**Q: Lately I have been having these changes in my body. My voice is getting deeper, and I am growing in certain areas. I am feeling very awkward. Are these changes normal?**

A: These changes are completely normal! This is a time called puberty that everyone goes through around this time in their life. It may seem weird but it’s just part of growing up.
by Ido Adar and Brandon Klein

Avada Kedavra! Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1 has come out. With part 2 coming out in July, we have a while to wait to see the ending of the story of the boy who lived. This movie earned a 4.5/5 stars on our Brido scale for its excellent plot and effects. The only place it fell short was the fact that the scenes in the forest were much too long. The cast consists of Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter), Emma Watson (Hermione Granger), Rupert Grint (Ron Weasley), Ralph Fiennes (Lord Voldemort), Helena Bonham Carter (Bellatrix Lestrange), Michael Gambon (Albus Dumbledore), Alan Rickman (Severus Snape), Tom Felton (Draco Malfoy) and Bonnie Wright (Ginny Weasley). It was directed by David Yates.

The movie focuses on Harry, Ron and Hermione’s journey. At the beginning, we are greeted with Lord Voldemort (Dumbledore) and Death Eaters attack, and the trio escapes going to a café. There, they fight off more Death Eaters and decide they are going to look for horcruxes. Hermione just happened to have packed everything they need for this. The rest of the movie revolves around the trio and their struggles to find and kill the horcruxes.

The effects in this movie were wonderful, though we would have rather seen it in 3D, as promised earlier. With more realistic than before (shout-out to Dobby), this movie had its fair share of awesomeness, though we’re sure the last one will beat all the past Potter movies in effects (and it’s in 3D). With an excellent effects team the entire series, this movie couldn’t go wrong here.

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We recommend this movie to all our Potter freaks out there, but for those of you who are just starting, we recommend either renting all the Potter movies or waiting for ABC Family to play them all (they do it like every 3 weeks now, so what the heck?). Or you could always read the books (but how many of you would really do that, hmmm?). Like we said earlier, this movie earns a 4.5 on the Brido scale (top score is 5, by the way) and only gets a little boring during the forest scenes. This was probably a good way to stretch the movie out so it would be the size of a regular Potter movie (that’s like 3-3 ½ hours) so they could make more dough with part 2. That’s the review, and we’re out.

by Brittany Baker

Now, tell me, have you ever had some Chicago pizza? You may think that it is just a pizza, but it’s not! Come on; let me tell you about it! I had some pizza at Old Chicago, a restaurant located on N. Neil Street near the Market Place Mall. This place is sort of new to Champaign, and a lot of people seem to like it.

I went there on a Tuesday around 6 PM just in time for a nice dinner. It seemed pretty full when I came in, but still had room for my mom, stepdad, and me. Our waitress introduced herself, “Hi, I am Amanda can I start you guys off with some drinks?” “We all would take a Pepsi,” my mom said. I looked at the room for a long minute; it was big and had a bunch of TVs with a different channel on each one. As Amanda came up with our drinks, she saw me looking at the bar.

She explained, “Our bar has 114 different types of beverages for adults,” she added, “If you try each one you will get your name on a frame on the wall, plus a free t-shirt.” My stepdad said, “I am so going to do that!” We all laughed as she took our order, a thick crust pizza with pepperoni and green peppers! About 15 minutes later, our food arrived, but it is so hot that they cut it and put it on our plate. Before I ate, I asked Amanda a few questions, like, “How are your customers?” She responded, “They are very friendly.” I also asked her how she liked her job. “Well, I started a few weeks ago. It is simple and fun, and I enjoy meeting new people,” she added.

Now, after that was all over, I finally got to taste Chicago pizza. I took a bite of my pizza, and it was so GOOD! The cheese just melted right into my mouth. Amanda smiled and said, “Just to let you all know, pizza on Tuesdays are half price.” I was thinking sweet: good pizza and a good price. Great deal!

My mom and stepdad thought it was really yummy. We all finally finished the delicious, mouth-watering pizza. My mom got the check and paid, but we waved to Amanda before we left. As we were about to leave, she said, “Thanks for coming. Please come again, but bring some friends along with you.” My stepdad nodded, and we were off. I had a good meal at a good price with good service. I would so recommend this place to everyone who has not tried it!
**O P I N I O N  A N D  R E V I E W S**

**Super Scribblenauts Truly Creative**

by Steven Green

Super Scribblenauts is a very fun, engaging, and innovative game. It makes you use your imagination in many different ways. It also has a massive list of words from the English language along with several important people in history, such as Abraham Lincoln and Albert Einstein. I would say it is well worth buying.

First off, the game incorporates over 10,000 adjectives to change over 5,000 nouns. The words are used by touching Maxwell’s (the main character of the game) note-book and typing in a word along with up to 200 letters worth of adjectives. This will make said noun appear onscreen for your own use.

You can make buildings, people, weapons, animals, and so much more. You can shoot with guns and ride animals and vehicles. You can also interact with people and animals in many ways. You can hand a lumberjack a chainsaw or feed your pet dinosaur a nice big steak. People can also interact with each other or items. One example is giving a tailor some cloth to make a shirt.

Overall, I would say that this is one of the most fun and creative games I have ever played. It will keep you thinking and you won’t soon get bored of it. It was released in America on October 12, 2010, and you can buy it for the Nintendo DS at most game stores for around $30. It is definitely worth the money.

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**Top 3 Games**

by Mike Chambers

A lot of games are excellent, such as BioShock and Call of Duty. However, very few games have staying power. Among the games that are just single player, there are not many that you find yourself coming back to again and again. I have over 50 games in my library that I have purchased online through Steam, a program that allows you to download games after you buy them. I play mainly on a PC, but I think that consoles are great. However, I seek the complete gaming experience, so I play on something that not only can play games on max, unlike consoles, but can be continually upgraded by the user. There are few games in my library that I come back to again and again. Sadly, Mr. Rosentel shrunk my comprehensive review to an excerpted top 3 to the right.

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**The Hobbit’s Still Got It**

by Benjamin Phipps

The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien, is one of the most renowned fantasy books in the world. In it, a hobbit (small human-like creature) named Bilbo Baggins is recruited by a wizard named Gandalf and a group of dwarves called Thorin & Company to steal treasure from the dragon Smaug. The group sets off on an adventure to Smaug’s mountain, known as the Lonely Mountain. There are many obstacles, including trolls, goblins, wolves, giant spiders, and other creatures. Bilbo must overcome the obstacles, defeating Smaug and getting the dragon’s riches.

I recommend this book because it has many interesting creatures. I enjoyed reading about the trolls and how they turned to stone. There were also goblins that lived in underground caves. I especially liked some of the spells Gandalf used, like the lightning spell to kill the goblins, or the spell used to set fire to the evil wolves (called wargs). I enjoyed this book and thought it had a good plot with suspense and adventure. If you like this book, you can read The Lord of the Rings trilogy and The Silmarillion, also by Tolkien.

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**Homework or No Work**

By Ido Adar and Brandon Klein

Spanish class 1st hour is just one example of a homework menace. Classes have been giving an awful lot of homework lately. Homework should be illegal. When you go home you want to relax or hang out with friends or maybe you play sports. But no! You have two hours of homework to do. That takes a big chunk of time out of your day. School work should only be assigned in class, not after school. School has us from 8 AM to 3 PM, so why can’t we do the work during those hours? When the last bell rings, we should be free to do what we want, not do more stuff for school. School work should not cut into our free time. It should stay in school.

Sometimes when we have important things to do, our homework interferes. What if you have baseball practice from 3:30 to 5:30? Then you have less time to do all your homework. Instead, all your work should have been assigned for the time allotted for each class, where you have been for 1/3 of your day. Not to mention a healthy sleep is nine to ten hours long for people our age (13-14). Sports and after-school activities take away from those six to seven hours left. Then, homework takes about two hours (average). Also you spend about an hour a day in the bathroom (average), which all-in-all leaves about 3-4 hours a day to do whatever you want. That’s how much of our day we actually really can do whatever we want without owing anybody anything.