

APRIL 2024

CRITICAL THINKING NOODLER



If You Ran Things

News from Monday, March 25th

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Students at one Utah high school are getting a very special guest speaker: actor Kevin Bacon. The movie star's breakthrough film, "Footloose," was filmed at Payson High School 40 years ago. Now, after a successful social media campaign by students (#bacon-to-payson), he will pay the school a visit on prom day, before the building is demolished and the school is relocated.

If you were in charge of your school, what famous person would invite to come visit, and why? Write a persuasive letter to that person convincing them to visit your school. Be sure to explain why a visit from them in particular would be meaningful for the school's students.

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Send it to us at wehearyou@kidnuz.org and it might be featured on our social media channels or website!



Make a Pitch!

News from Friday, March 22nd

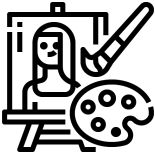
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A new book on electric cars is topping the charts on Amazon — the Children’s Inventors charts, that is. “Everything Tesla: From How They Work to How Fast They Go and All the Fun in Between” was written by ninth grade students Aiden and Eliana of Palo Alto, California. The teens, who are twins, say the book began as a 20-page project back in 5th grade. Although the book is now a published success, Eliana told the Teslarati website that the two faced challenges along the way: as a young author, “Many people don’t take you seriously.”

If you could create a nonfiction book about any topic, what would you write about? Think of a topic and title for your book. Then, write a pitch for publishers convincing them to publish it. In your pitch, explain who your book is for, why your intended audience will love it, and why you’re the right person to be the author!

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Get in Their Head

News from Wednesday, March 20th

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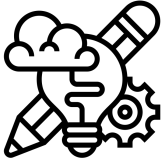
Five new jobs recently opened up in an unusual location: Antarctica. The U.K. Antarctic Heritage Trust is seeking five people who want to work at the world's southernmost post office. The jobs, which last for five months at a time, include sorting mail and counting penguins. The new hires, who would work from November to March, would face plenty of challenges: near-freezing temperatures, no running water, no showers, no flushing toilets, and no cell phone service.

Imagine that you just started working at the Antarctic post office. What might you see and do on your first day? How might you feel? Write a diary entry about a day at your new job. Be sure to describe the challenges and adventures you face!

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Design It!

News from Friday, March 22nd

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Glendale, Arizona is getting a new theme park later this year. Its theme? Mattel's most popular toys, including Barbie, Hot Wheels, and more. The adventure park will feature a "larger-than-life Barbie Beach House," the hotly anticipated Twin Mill Racer roller coaster, mini-golf and He-Man vs. Skeletor Laser Tag. A second Mattel theme park is set to open outside of Kansas City in 2026.

Imagine that you are in charge of designing a theme park. What would the theme of the park be? What rides, experiences, and food would you offer guests? Draw a map of your theme park in the space below.

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Expand It!

News from Monday, March 25th

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Last month, millions of people around the world celebrated Holi, a Hindu festival that marks the arrival of spring and the triumph of good over evil. During the celebrations, people pray, eat, dance, party, and get colorful: Holi is known for street gatherings in which people cover themselves in oil and toss rainbow-colored powders on everyone around them. Holi began in India, but today it is celebrated all over the world.

How do you celebrate the arrival of spring? In the space below, describe your favorite cultural, religious, or family spring traditions. How are they similar and different from Holi?

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