

A Day in Franklin Township

By Madilyn Thompson

First Place, fourth grade

Jeff Weinhold, teacher

It is 6:45 A.M., and I hear the birds outside my window. The woodpeckers are the loudest of all. Their pecking noises can be heard a mile away. Yes! I just remembered that today is Saturday, so I can spend the whole day outside. As I walk out, I take a deep breath. Aww. I love the smell of fresh air. I run over to the trampoline. When I jump really high I feel like I can touch the sky. It makes me feel so free and happy. After I am done with the trampoline I hurry over to the tree swing in my front yard. It starts on the top of a hill, so when I swing I soar above the ground. I imagine myself as a bird flying through the wide open sky. The wind flows over my face as I swing, and I feel peaceful and relaxed.

My dad asks if I want to go on a bike ride. I grab my helmet and take off. I love the trail that leads to Pittstown, the Capoolong Trail, so we take that path. As I am riding through the woods and over bridges I see flowers on the ground and the pretty green, yellow, orange and red leaves on the tall trees. We are both getting kind of hot, so we take a break. A big refreshing breeze blows through to cool us off. We see squirrels playing tag up and down the trees and see some vultures circling overhead looking for their next meal. There is so much going on in nature every minute if you just take the time to look.

After lunch I take a walk with my mom down to a little river. We pick up the rocks by the riverside and see how big a splash we can make. The cool water makes me want to jump in. I spot a blue jay soaring through the trees and quickly tell my mom to look. It lands on a tree so I get a better look. It is a pretty sky blue color and has black lines on its tail and wings. There it goes, free and in the wild. As we are walking back we see a baby rabbit and some deer. When we get home I pause for a second and look all around. I realize how many things we can hear, see, smell and touch right in New Jersey. Being in nature makes me feel loved and grateful.

At the end of the day my family sits by the fire pit and roasts marshmallows. Mmm, they are delicious! What's that noise? It sounds kind of like a horse. Oh, it is an Eastern Screech Owl. The night has so many sounds. I go to my bed and rethink the wonderful day I have had in this beautiful place where I live.