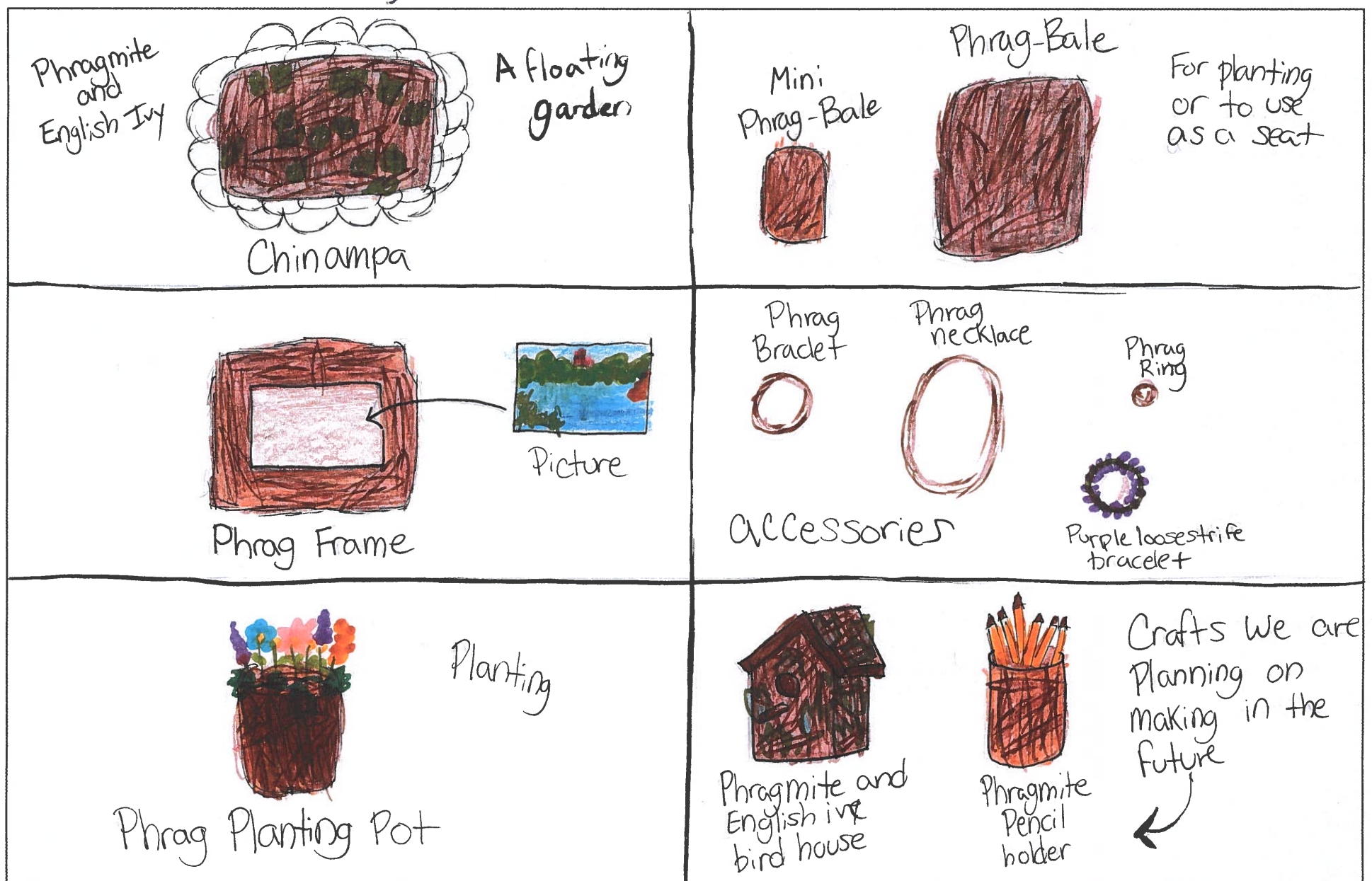


Introduction

Our team is known as the Invasive Intruders. We are trying to see if invasive plants affect air and climate. We have a passion to work as hard as we can to do our part for this Earth. We humans, only have this one little planet to live on and some people take that for granted. We are all global citizens and It is our duty to conserve and protect this Earth. Our goal is to **eradicate** as many invasive species as we can. This is hard for us because invasive species grow extremely rapidly and are hard to fully get rid of. **Invasive** species need to be eliminated because they don't leave room for other plants to grow and are slowly getting rid of native plants in their area. Even though it might seem almost impossible to solve this problem, we have multiple ideas that can get us closer to our goal.

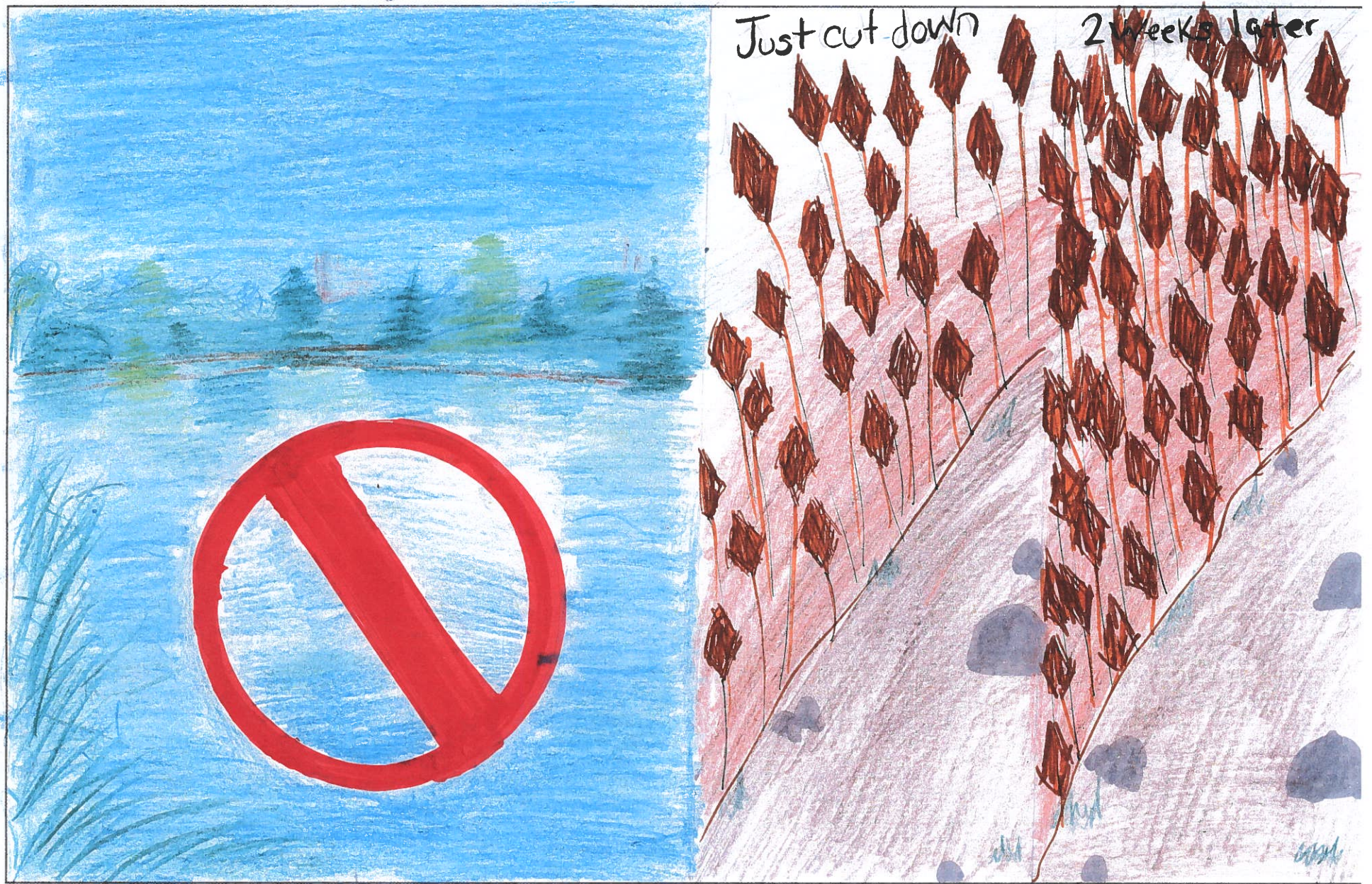
***Invasive**- tending to spread quickly and undesirable or harmful ***Eradicate**- destroy completely; put an end to; eliminate



Phrag-bale, Phrag-chinampa, Arts and Crafts

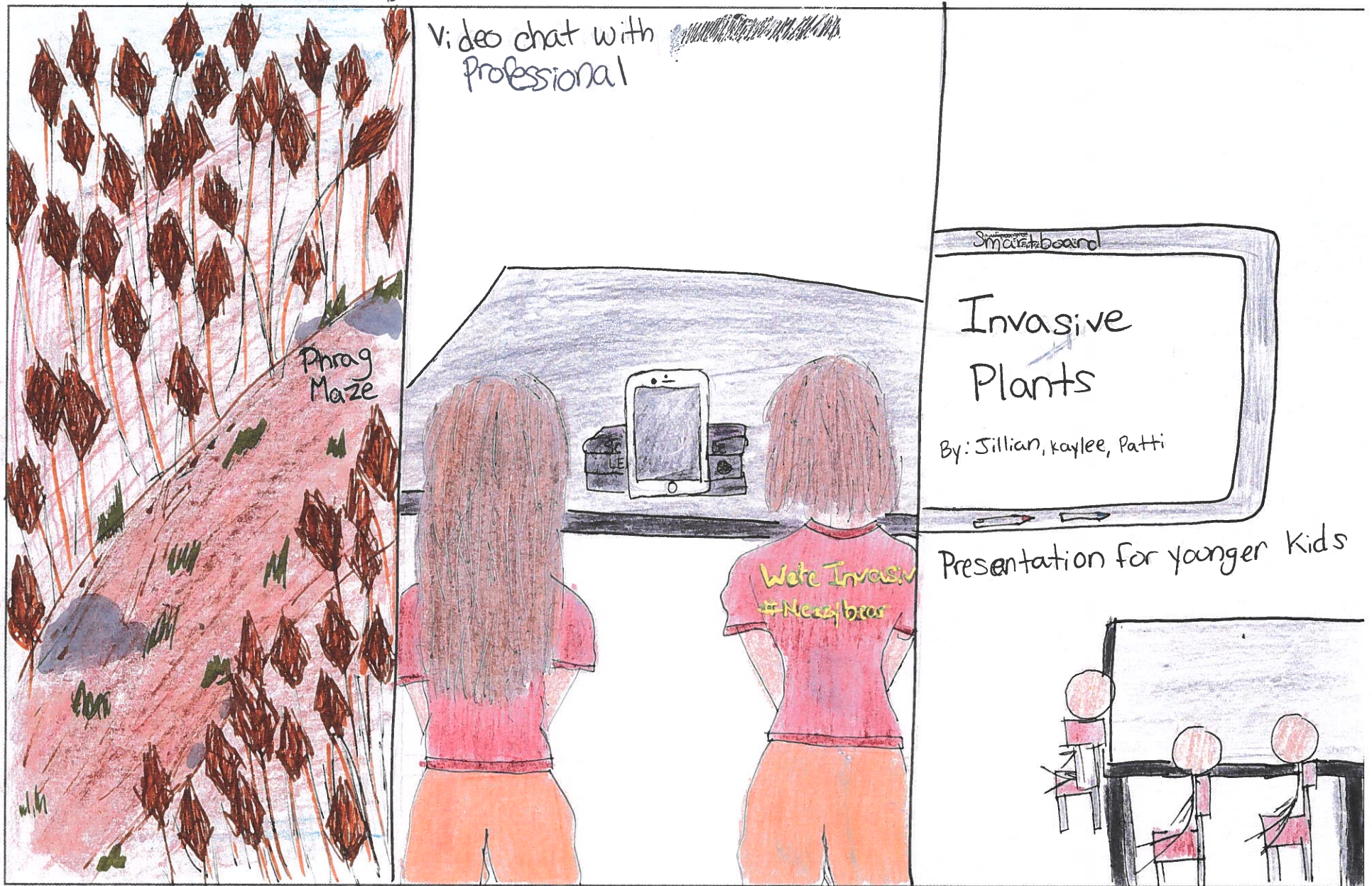
Instead of throwing the invasive plants away we make projects that are useful for our community. Two **prototypes** that we built are phrag-chinampas and phrag-bales. A **phrag-chinampa** is basically a raft that is built out of phragmite, and the phrag-bale is just a hay bale but made out of phragmite. We plan to use the phrag-chinampa to plant vegetables for the community. The **phrag-bale** will be used for a seat and to plant plants in it. We are now starting to make the final product of the phrag-bale. The other crafts we are going to make, phone cases, picture frames, necklaces, bracelets, glasses cases, birdhouses, watch bands, pencil cases, can holders, table mats, keychains, etc. Many of these things can be used everyday, but some are just for decoration. This is a great way to get rid of invasive species and use them in an innovative way.

***Prototype**- a first, typical or preliminary model of something, especially a machine, from which other forms are developed or copied. ***Chinampa**- a floating garden ***Phrag-bale**- similar to a hay-bale but made with phragmite and used for planting



Challenges

We have faced a lot of challenges, and some of them are out of our control. We have mentioned before that we rely on our local reservoir for phragmites, and other invasive species. Recently our reservoir has been off limits, and we can not get into the reservoir on the weekends when we need to. We actually have not been to the reservoir in a long time because of issues that have been going on. This has been one of our biggest struggles since our team basically revolves around the reservoir. We are in the process of making a podcast to raise an awareness about it. When we did have more access to the reservoir one of our biggest challenge was cutting down the phragmites. Since these invasive plants grow rapidly, we have a lot of trouble getting rid of it. We try to get rid of as much as we can, so other plants can grow. This, from the start has been one of our biggest challenges, since phragmites grow like wildfire.



Accomplishments

Our team has accomplished a number of things in the last year, and we are extremely proud of our growth since day one. We have had our ups and our downs, but we celebrate our success and learn and grow from our mistakes. We have spoke to many professionals. Our most recent was with a woman named Emily that attends a college in Wyoming, she works with invasive plants and weeds. We recently launched our chinampa in our local reservoir. We have raised awareness by talking with professionals, classmates and other peers in our school. We also have a phrag-maze, in the beginning of the year it was very overgrown but we were able to cut it down and make it look better. We use the maze as a main path to get to many areas of our reservoir and for community Science Days. In the future something we hope to accomplish is a scavenger hunt. Have kids or even adults go around the reservoir and try to find all the invasive species they can.

- We learned to plan better. We should have split the time between writing and drawing.

- We wish we had spend more time on the drawings. We worried too much about about the writing and not enough about drawing.

- We believe we did our best work on the writing. We focused on the writing for many months and have edited a lot to make it our best.

- We enjoyed doing the drawings. It was a lot of fun and we got to be creative.

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears slightly aged or off-white. There are some very faint, small red and blue specks scattered across the surface, possibly from ink or dust. The overall appearance is that of a clean, unused piece of stationery.

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