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Birney Elementary School Student Newspaper

APRIL 2026

Milestones Test Prep

By: Crystal Piña, 5th Grade

Do you prepare for the Milestones? Well, if you don't, that's not good, because it could affect your score. So today I'm going to talk about how you can prepare for the Milestones exams, like going to sleep early and eating a good breakfast, studying your notes from class, and taking your time when you're in the exam.

First, going to breakfast when you get to school or eating breakfast at home is really good for your stomach. If you get hungry during the test they won't let you eat, so your stomach will growl during the exam. That will be super distracting and then you won't be able to focus. You should also get lots of good sleep. This will help you with the test because you won't get sleepy during the exam and you'll be able to pay attention and get good grades.

Secondly, studying your notes will help you a lot because the notes remind you of the information you learned but don't remember. Reading over your notes carefully each night before the exam will help you remember them during the exam when you get stuck. You



should also read them on the morning of testing, just in case.

Lastly, take your time on the Milestones test. If you don't, you will regret it. Some people rush through the test and don't give the questions enough thought. And some don't even read the whole question! Then, they end up with a bad grade. If you read through the questions carefully and give it thought, you'll do well. But don't take too long on each question, because you could waste time and then not even have time to read and answer every question.

In the end, we must remember that preparing for the Milestones is important so we can do well. If you do all of these things, you will pass the Milestones. Even better, you have some new test strategies for all of the tests you

take in the future. So now you know what to do to prepare!

The Story of Easter: From Long Ago to Today

By: Kailan Chilel, 5th Grade

Easter is a very old holiday that people celebrate all over the world. It happens every year in the Spring, which is when flowers start to bloom and the weather gets warmer. For Christians, Easter is the most important religious holiday. But even before that, and in other cultures, ancient people had Spring festivals to celebrate the "rebirth" of nature after a long, cold winter. This is why Easter is always full of symbols that represent new life.

One of the most famous symbols is the Easter Egg. A long time ago, eggs were seen as a sign of life starting over. People dyed them

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bright colors to look like the sunlight of Spring. Later on, the tradition of the Easter Bunny started in Germany. Stories were told about a “hare” that would bring colorful eggs to well-behaved children. When people moved to America, they brought these fun stories with them and that’s how we got the egg hunts that we have today!

The way people celebrate Easter has changed over hundreds of years. In the past, it was mostly a quiet day for church and family. Today, it is a big, colorful celebration of spring and rebirth! Many families wake up early to find Easter baskets filled with chocolate bunnies, jellybeans, and plastic eggs. Some cities and towns even hold giant parades, and people wear giant hats called Easter bonnets, decorated with flowers and ribbons.

Food is another huge part of the history of Easter. Catholics give up certain foods like meat or sweets for a long period called Lent. When Easter finally arrives, they have a giant feast to celebrate! Today, many families still sit down together for a big Sunday lunch or dinner. They might eat ham, deviled eggs, hot

cross buns, or foods that have been tradition for generations.

Even though Easter has changed over time, the main idea is still the same: It is a time for hope and happiness. Whether someone is celebrating for religious reasons or just enjoys the arrival of Spring, Easter brings people together. From ancient Spring festivals to modern-day chocolate eggs, it is a holiday that reminds everyone that life is starting fresh and the sun is coming back out. I hope you have a wonderful Easter!

Test Prep

By: McKenzie Collard, 5th Grade

Milestones is just a basic rundown of what you learned over the past year. They will test you on certain areas that you have covered, but how can you prepare? Here are some tips on what you should do for the Milestones:

1. Study, but not too much

Students often use tools like google when they’re at home when they need help or information. But for Milestones, they cannot bring their devices, and that is when studying and memory comes in. Studying is important because it helps with work and memory span, but

studying too much can cause sleep deprivation and even memory loss. So, balance it. Study enough, but not too much.

2. Go to bed on time or early

Going to bed is not only good for you, but it can refresh your brain and bring you energy. Students complain that they don’t get enough sleep, in fact, the average amount of sleep they get is only 6 and a half hours of sleep according to studies. That can ruin their well-being and mental health, so when you go to sleep on time or early, you’re doing yourself a favor.

3. Eat breakfast and arrive on time

Lasty, eating breakfast can also boost your energy and help you be full. Going to school on an empty stomach can make students work poorly and give them horrible test scores. That’s the same with coming to school late. You’d have to make up for the parts that you miss and even miss school activities, like end of the year field trips.

In general, Milestones is no joke or something to play around with. Doing these three things can

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improve things you've been struggling with in school, like writing or, one of my worst, math. But this year, we've got this!

Easter Celebrations

By: Jacqueline Rivera Mota, 5th

Here's how people around the world celebrate Easter differently. In Poland, they have a tradition called Wet Monday. Wet Monday involves throwing water at each other to symbolize purification and the arrival of Spring. In Sweden and Finland, children

dress up as Easter Witches and go door-to-door for sweets. Kind of like Halloween! Over in Florence, Italy, they celebrate with the Scoppio Del Carro, or 'Explosion of the Cart', where they fill a cart with fireworks and light it in front of the cathedral. In Haux, France they make a humongous omelet with 15,000 eggs and eat it on Easter Monday. And over in Norway, they celebrate with Easter Thrillers, a tradition where people watch or read crime stories and mysteries. In Mexico,

Easter celebrations span two weeks long, with lots of reenactments, church services, and solemn parades.

Here in the U.S.A., we celebrate Easter with egg hunts and getting together with family. The White House hosts an egg roll event each year, too. And that's how different people and cultures around the world celebrate the Easter holiday!

Bobcat Beliefs – Student Opinions & Editorials

Why I Dislike Spring

By: Jackson Wruck, 5th Grade

What is your opinion on spring?

My opinion is that I hate spring because of the weather. Also, I don't like the fact that the days are one hour ahead. My last reason is that it is the last part of the school year.

Firstly, I hate spring because of the weather. The weather in spring is so annoying because it could be cold the whole week then on the weekend it can be hot. Also, it rains too much and if it rains it will cancel my baseball practice. Do you hate it when it is cold then hot?

Secondly, I hate spring because days are an hour ahead. I like winter daylight saving time because I get another hour to not go to bed. The hour back is so annoying because I have to go to bed earlier. Going to bed is a pain as is, and it makes it harder.

Lastly, I hate spring because it is the end of the school year. I don't like the fact that it is the end of the school year because I don't get to see my friends for two months. What do you think about the end of the school year?

In conclusion, I hate spring because I don't like the weather. Also, I don't like the fact that we

have to go back an hour. Lastly, I hate spring because the school year is almost over. What is your opinion?

Field Trips

By: Zaria Jackson, 4th Grade

Here are all of the things I did on our fourth-grade field trip. First, we went to Fernbank and we saw lots of cool things. Then we ate lunch. Lastly, we went home and I fell asleep on the bus. And that's what we did on our field trip!

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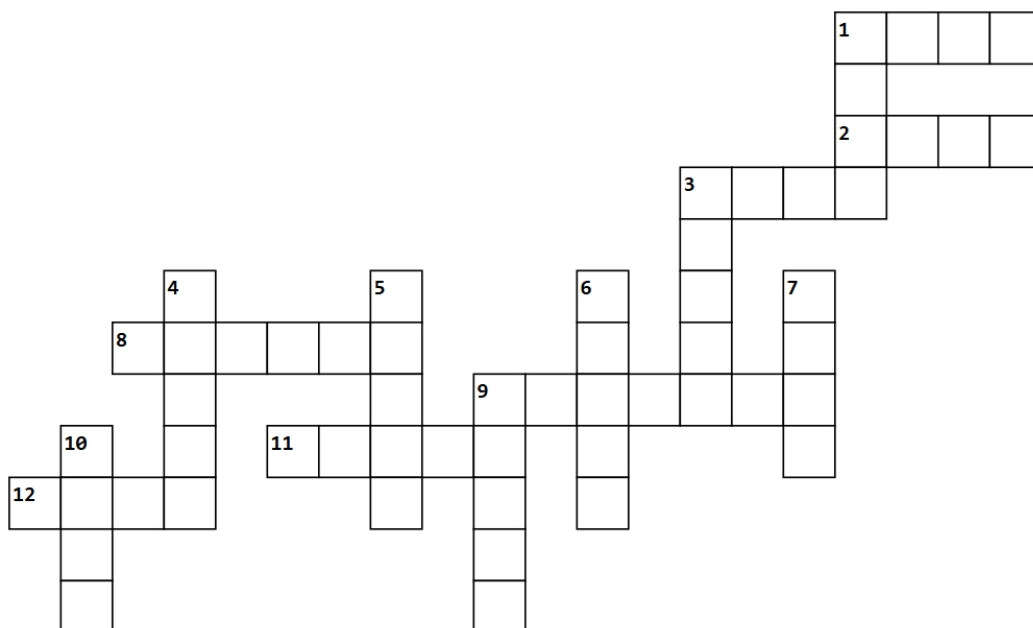
Tyler's How-To: Make Slime by Tyler Goodwin

Do you want to buy slime, but you don't have any allowance money? Do you want it as a gift? Do you not know how to make it? If you don't have any, this how-to is just the thing you need. For this how-to, you are going to make slime that glows in the dark!

For this how-to, you will need craft glue, a measuring cup and measuring spoons, a bowl, water, spoons, green food coloring, glow-in-the-dark-paint, and borax. You also need an adult's help, so you don't mess up.

First, pour 1 cup of glue and warm water into the bowl and stir. Next, add a few drops of food coloring and $\frac{1}{4}$ cups of glow-in-the-dark paint. Make sure to mix well. In another separate bowl, combine $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of water and a teaspoon of borax. Mix until the borax is dissolved. Slowly add the borax mixture to the first bowl, stirring as you go. Finally, knead your slime so it becomes thicker, and pour out any excess water. When you finish playing with your slime, put it in a Ziploc bag or an air-seal container so it doesn't dry out.

Bobcat Brainteasers



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Across

1. Do your _____ on the test
2. A good night of sleep helps your brain do this
3. You plant this in the ground
8. A colorful plant that blooms in spring
9. Doing well because you worked hard
11. How the classroom should sound during a test
12. How you should try to feel during a test

Down

1. An animal that chirps and lays eggs
3. To figure out an answer
4. What flowers do in spring
5. The body part that helps you think
6. Paying close attention
7. A bird builds this for its eggs
9. To review and practice before a test
10. Water that falls from the clouds