

PAW PRINT PRESS

Birney Elementary School Student Newspaper

MAR 2026

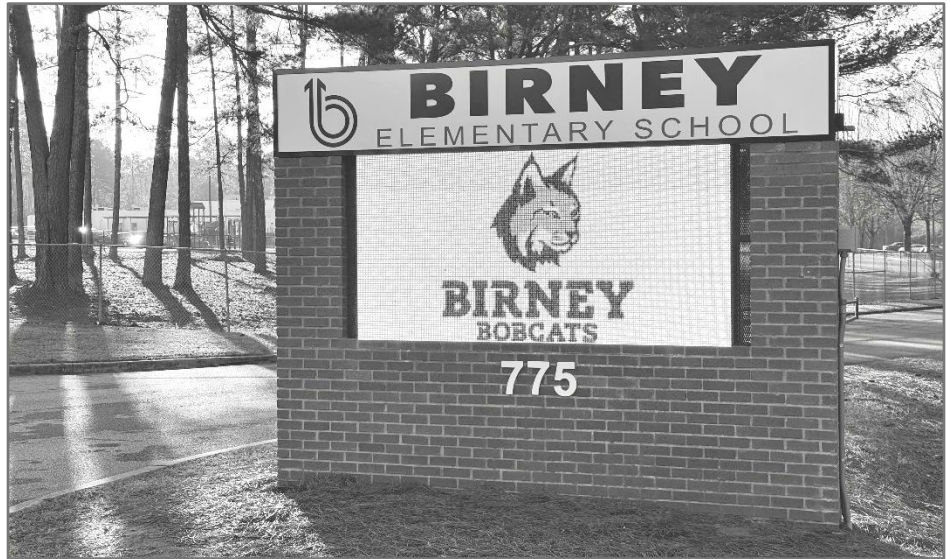
The Real Saint Patrick

By: Kailan Chilel, 5th Grade

Did you know that Saint Patrick wasn't even Irish? It's true! He was actually born in Britian a long, long time ago. When he was just sixteen, some pirates kidnapped him and took him to Ireland. He had to work as a shepherd and look after sheep all day. It was a pretty tough job, but during that time, he started praying a lot and became very religious.

After six years, he finally escaped! He had a dream that told him to go to the coast where he found a ship to take him back home. But even though he was safe with his family, he couldn't stop thinking about Ireland. He decided to study hard to become a priest because he wanted to go back and help the Irish people learn about his religion.

One of the coolest things about Saint Patrick is the legend of the shamrock. People say he often used the three-leaf clover to explain his religion and that's why it's a common symbol for St. Patrick's day today. There is also a famous story that says he chased all of the snakes out of Ireland into the ocean. Scientists say



there weren't actually any snakes to begin with, but it's still a really fun story to tell and imagine.

Even though we wear green and have parades for St. Patrick's day now, it started out as a quiet, religious holiday. St. Patrick died on March 17th, so that's when we celebrate him every year. For a long time in Ireland, people would just go to church in the morning and have a big feast with their families in the afternoon. It wasn't the big party it is today.

Believe it or not, the first big St. Patrick's Day parades actually happened in America, not Ireland! Irish people who moved to places like New York and Boston wanted to show others that they were proud of where they came from. They started marching in the streets with music and flags.

Eventually, the idea got so popular that even the people in Ireland started having big festivals too.

Today, St. Patrick's Day is a big celebration of Irish culture and luck. People wear green so they don't get pinched by leprechauns, throw parades and parties, and some cities even dye their rivers or fountains green! We eat things like corned beef and cabbage, and everyone acts a little bit Irish for the day. It's pretty awesome how one shepherd boy from a long time ago became a big, worldwide holiday!

Luck

By: Crystal Piña, 5th Grade

Luck is pretty weird if you think about it. It's that feeling when you find a hundred-dollar bill on the sidewalk. We call it good luck, but

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scientists just call it probability, which is a fancy way of saying some things are just likely to happen. However, humans have always felt that luck is a special force that follows us around.

Long ago, ancient people believed luck came from gods and goddesses. In ancient Rome, people worshipped a goddess named Fortuna. They believed she decided who would be rich and who would be poor, and whether good or bad things happened to them. Back then, luck wasn't just a random accident, people thought it was a gift or punishment from the universe. If you were "lucky," it meant the gods were happy with you.

As time went on, people started creating superstitions to try and trap good luck. A superstition is a belief that doing one thing like wearing specific socks causes something else to happen, like hitting a home run. Some people carry rabbit feet or a four-leaf

clover because they think those things are magnets for good luck. Even though there is no science to prove it, these traditions have been passed down for centuries.

Today, luck is still a big part of our lives, even if we don't realize it. We say 'break a leg' or even cross fingers when we're hoping for a good outcome. Whether luck is real or just in our heads, believing in it helps people feel more brave. So, the next time you see a shooting star, go ahead and make a wish. It's all part of the long, weird history of luck!

St. Patrick's Day Around the World

**By: Jacqueline Rivera Mota,
5th Grade**

People around the world celebrate St. Patrick's Day differently. In Ireland, they feature a 3-day festival, massive parades, and street performances focusing on heritage. In Chicago, they celebrate by famously dyeing the Chicago River bright green and

hosting a huge parade. New York celebrates similarly, with one of the largest and oldest St. Patrick's Day parades in the country. Closer to us, Savannah, GA is also known for hosting one of the largest parades in the country. Wow, there's a lot of parades! Other than the parades, we celebrate in the United States by wearing green, throwing parties, and eating corned beef and cabbage.

In London, they have festivities in Trafalgar Square, and the London Eye turns green. In Buenos Aires, Argentina, they celebrate by having a massive street party with Irish music and dancing, attracting hundreds of thousands of people. In Tokyo, Japan, they lose the annual 'I Love Ireland Festival,' which is the largest celebration of Irish heritage in all of Asia.

And that's how different people celebrate St. Patrick's Day around the world!



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Winning Writing — The Paw Print Press staff would like to congratulate Luis Rodriguez from Ms. Roberts' 3rd Grade class for winning 3rd place in the Cobb County Writing Fair with the following piece:

The Tree

The Tree.
Once in the ground now free.
People need trees to breathe.
And some have seeds up their sleeves.
But my tree is different.
It's been with me for six years.
It has scars only a knife can make.
The tree has been the place I read my books.
The tree has been climbed countless times.
Me and the tree have seen sunsets together to the end.

Bobcat Beliefs — Student Opinions & Editorials

Ushers

By: Alexis Watt, 4th Grade

Do you know what ushers do?

Well, first I will tell you what they are! There are two meanings to the word "usher." One meaning is a person who directs people to their seat. The other definition is the kind you see at church. They are spiritual ambassadors for the local church who help welcome people.

I am a junior usher at Pilgrim Baptist Church, and this is how I get ready. First, I wake up and make my bed. Then I brush my teeth and wash my face, get dressed, and then put on my shoes. Next, I do my hair and pick

out the purse I will use. And finally, I get in the car and my family drives to church.

When I first get to church, I eat breakfast. I always make sure I'm full so I don't get hungry while I'm ushering. As soon as I finish and get to the sanctuary, I pass out programs. Programs are the paper that tells you what and when things happen during the service. After I finish, I stand at a post. While I'm there, I pass out fans to people that need them, and then it's time for collection! We pass around bowls for people to put their tithes in, and then get them afterwards. Lastly, the pastor prays us out and we leave!

A Day to Remember

By: Jackson Wruck, 5th Grade

Back in 2022 I had a dog named Taiki, he was Shih-tzu. We decided to put him down because he was getting too old. He had some problems, one of his problems was he could barely see and second that he was in a lot of pain. The whole day I was sad because I was about to lose one of my best friends. I loved him so much because he was with me my whole life. When we went to the vet, I was crying. The doctors let us talk to him one last before they took him. After, we got his paw print to remember him. Then we read a poem called the "Rainbow Bridge Poem". Me and my mom are trying to keep his memory alive by keeping his paw print. To this day I still feel sad,

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but pets come and go. I miss Taiki but I still remember him in my heart.

Field Trips

By: Zaria Jackson, 4th

There's a lot to like about field trips, but three parts are my favorite. First is going on the long bus ride. The second best part is getting to pick a buddy for the trip.

Lastly, the third best part is getting to buy a souvenir from the field trip gift store. Those are my three favorite parts, what are yours?

Capybaras Are Cool

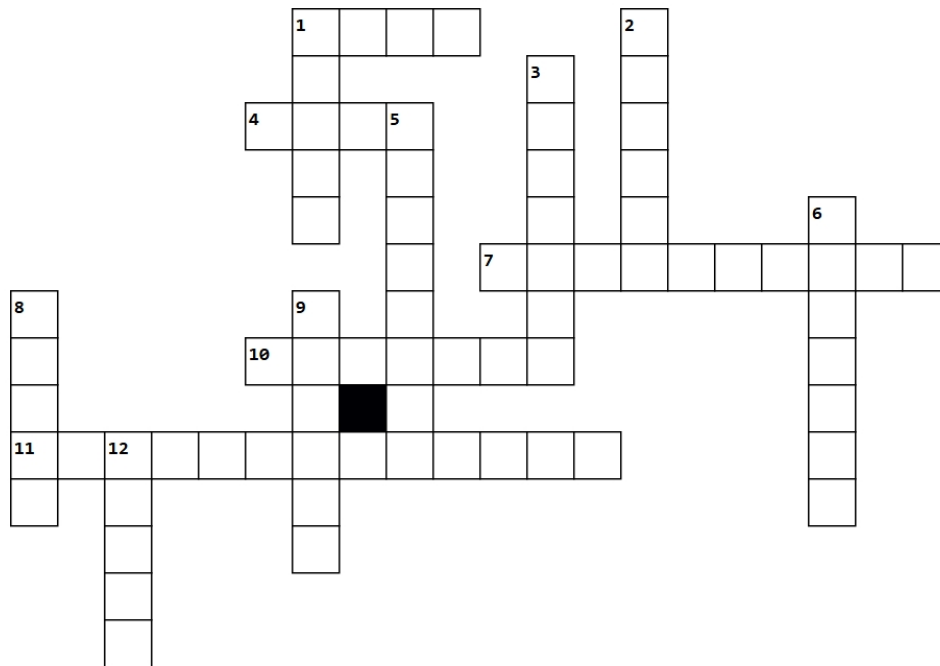
By: Romina Godoy, 4th

Hey there, do you like capybaras? Over one million people like capybaras, they're popular. A lot

of people like to draw them, too.

One fact about capybaras is that they love a ton of fruit. And remember those million people that like them? One of them is our librarian, Mrs. Cleary. She loves them, and if you don't she will be super sad!

Bobcat Brainteasers



Across

1. Shiny treasure at the end of a rainbow
4. Important pollinators that buzz and fly around
7. A tiny magical creature said to hide pots of gold
10. Plants pushing through the soil are called
11. The holiday in March celebrating Irish heritage

Down

1. The color associated with St. Patrick's Day
2. A four leaf _____ is said to bring good luck
3. These colorful plants bloom in gardens
5. A lucky plant with three leaves
6. A colorful arch in the sky that leads to gold
8. St. Patrick's Day celebrates _____ heritage
9. The season when flowers begin to bloom
12. Wear green on St. Patrick's Day, or you'll get a _____!