

PAW PRINT PRESS

Birney Elementary's Student-Run Newspaper

OCT 2025

New Playgrounds

By: Crystal Pina, 5th

Imagine a new playground with many bright colors... That's what Birney Elementary now has access to! The new playground brings more joyful memories with friends, because it has more slides and activities. While the old playground was the opposite.

They tore down the two old playgrounds several weeks ago and then started building the new ones. The difference is the new ones have brighter colors and more slides.

If you're wondering where the two new playgrounds are, one of them is where both old ones were at the parking lot by the bus port. Some teachers park there too. The second new playground is at the field by the front parking lot (pictured above). The two old playgrounds were replaced because they were old and dirty, and we needed new ones.

Students say the new playgrounds look cool but are taking forever to finish. Mrs. Richardson's class likes the



colors, but Ms. Head's class wishes the playground had swings.

And that's all about the new playgrounds! They're better than the old ones, more colorful, and more thrilling.

My Weekend at the Mall

By Alexis Watt, 4th

Last weekend, I went to the mall. The mall is a big place with many stores and restaurants. Usually there are two (and sometimes even three!) floors.

First, I went to Macy's and got perfume. The people at the store gave us so many free samples for different scents, and they all smelt bad. Next, I went to

a store called Miniso and got boba, mini brands, a Hello Kitty hair bow, a Hello Kitty bracelet, and Buldak. Then we went to Auntie Ann's and ate pigs in a blanket and pizza bread. It was really good. Then we went to Starbucks where I got a strawberry refresher. I had a gift card for Claire's, so I used it to buy two bows and some bracelets.

When we left that store, we went to another floor to Bath & Body Works to get stuff for my grandma. We got some perfume, lotion, and hand sanitizer. Then we left the mall and went home, and that was the end of my wonderful day at the mall!

PAW PRINT PRESS

Birney Elementary's Student-Run Newspaper

OCT 2025

Bobcat Beliefs – Student Opinions & Editorials

Fall or Spring?

By: Romina Godoy, 4th

Do you prefer fall or spring? I prefer fall because like the weather in fall time. Also, you have fall break which is better than spring break. Another thing about fall is you can wear jackets which is fun.

Now let's start talking spring.

Spring is when my birthday is and spring brings bees and flowers, which are nice. But in spring it rains a lot too, which isn't as fun. That's why I like fall better.

Which one do you like better?

Opinion: School Should be Four Days a Week

By: Kailan Chilel, 5th

I think we should have a four-day school week. Right now, we go to school for five days and that is a lot! If we had a shorter week, we could have a longer weekend. That would give us more time to do things we love and would make going to school less boring.

Having a three-day weekend every week would be awesome. Kids could play

outside, go on trips with their families, or just relax. We could do our homework and have lots of time to do other stuff too. Then homework wouldn't be as boring either. This would also help students to not be so tired and grumpy when we come back to school on Monday. We would be ready to learn and not sleepy in class.

Teachers would like it, too. They work super hard, and they need a break just like us. If they had an extra day off, they could get ready for the next week or just rest. Then they'd be extra happy and not tired, so they'd be even better at teaching. Then students could learn more. So, it would be good for them *and* good for us.

A shorter school week would also give us more time for sports and activities. On a three-day weekend, kids could go to sports practice and games without missing school. This would be a big help to the teams and make it so we don't have to be late. It would be easier for our parents, too.

I also think it would be good for the planet. With one less

day of school, all the buses would stay home which means less gas being used and less pollution in the air. We could help keep the Earth clean just by having a shorter school week!

I really think a four-day school week is a great idea. It would make kids and teachers happier and less tired. It would make our school even better. It might be hard to figure out all of the little things, but I think the good parts are worth it.

Opinion: Why Uniforms Are a Bad Idea

By: Jacqueline Rivera Mota, 5th

Should Birney Elementary School have uniforms? In my opinion, Birney should not have uniforms, and here's why: First, they're boring. Don't you think they're boring? We'd always wear the same thing, and our moms would have to keep buying them every year even when we grow. If we *had* to wear uniforms, I think we should only wear them to school Monday through Thursday, and not on Fridays.

Something else is that parents would have to keep buying

PAW PRINT PRESS

Birney Elementary's Student-Run Newspaper

OCT 2025

uniforms when we could just wear the clothes we already have at home. For example, every year my mom needs to buy more shirts and pants because my brother rips them on the playground. And he gets his shirts dirty. So, what does my mom do? She buys more shirts and pants. But without uniforms, she wouldn't have to buy more, and he could just wear his normal clothes.

So now, let me ask you again: Should Birney Elementary School have uniforms? Hopefully I've convinced you that Birney should not.

Classroom News — Summarized by Jackson Wruck, 5th

Ms. K. Smith would like to share... She hosted the first family and friends' night for Target, and it went well! It is the first of many events for target this year.

Mrs. Rush's 3rd grade class would like to share... Her class wrote books of information about rocks. They used different sources to create a text to tell their peers about what they learned and help teach them.

Mr. Merrilles' class would like to share... His class is practicing the Birney Big 3 at home, in the community, and at school to show respect to teachers and peers. This month they are learning respect, which is treating people the way you want to be treated.

Tyler's How-To: How to Write a Poem Step-By-Step

By: Tyler Goodwin, 4th

I've always had a difficult time expressing myself, so I have found ways to make it fun, and one of those ways is to write a poem. You might think it's too hard, but it's simple. I've put together a guide on how to create a poem so that it might be easier to express yourself, too.

To start off, think up a title for your poem. Don't worry if you run out of ideas; it can be as silly as you want it to! If possible, the poem theme should match the title, so it makes more sense and gives the reader an idea what they are about to read.

Next, think of the feelings or ideas you want to express and start writing them down. Sometimes it is fun to make those thoughts rhyme, but it's not required. Remember, the goal is to express yourself. You can use your senses, or any words or images that come to mind.

PAW PRINT PRESS

Birney Elementary's Student-Run Newspaper

OCT 2025

Now it is time to structure your poem! Remember, poems don't look like stories; they use short lines or sentences to create a rhythm. Not every poem looks the same, some are long sentences that don't rhyme, and some are in short sentences that rhyme. Usually, these thoughts are written down in grouped lines of four or more thoughts/sentences. These groups are also called stanzas. Once you have a few stanzas written out, you have a complete poem!

In this article, you learned how to make a poem. If you'd like, you can share it with your friends and family. Maybe they'll get inspired to create their own poems, too. If so, then they can read this!

Bobcat Brainteasers — Student-submitted riddles, jokes & crossword

Assembled By: Mckenzie Collard, 5th

~Riddles~

- What do you use to fix a broken Pumpkin?
Answer:
- Who won the skeleton beauty contest?
Answer:
- Who helps the little pumpkins cross the road?
Answer:
- I'm tall when I'm young and short when I'm old,
And every Halloween, I stand inside Jack-o-lanterns
What am I?
Answer:
- What do you get when you drop a pumpkin?
on a sunny day by the sea.
Answer:
- Why do birds fly south in the fall?
Answer:
- What happened to the turkey in boxing class?
Answer:

PAW PRINT PRESS

Birney Elementary's Student-Run Newspaper

OCT 2025

~Jokes~

- How do you compliment a forest?

Answer:

"You look tree-mendous today!"

- Why was the apple sad?

Answer:

He hurt his peelings

- What's a tree's favorite subject in school?

Answer:

His-tree

- Why don't turkeys eat on Thanksgiving?

Answer:

Because they're already stuffed

- Who lives the haunted Hundred Acre Wood?

Answer:

Winnie the Boo!

- Why is Dracula easy to trick?

Answer:

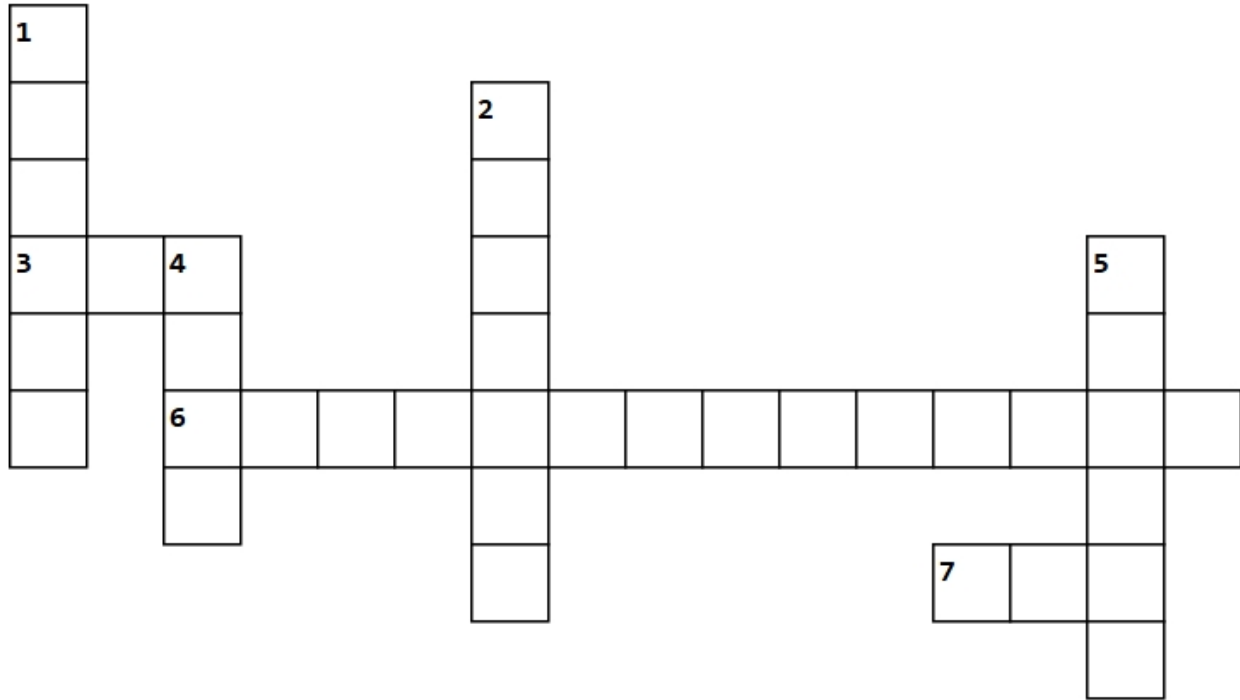
Because he's a sucker

PAW PRINT PRESS

Birney Elementary's Student-Run Newspaper

OCT 2025

~Crossword Puzzle~



Across

- 3. Man's best friend is a _____.
- 6. On Halloween, I knock on the door and say _____!
- 7. I made a pumpkin _____ for the class!

Down

- 1. I put a _____ in the Jack-o-lantern.
- 2. My favorite fall drink is a _____ spice latte
- 4. I carve the pumpkin and scoop out its _____.
- 5. I rake the _____ into a pile.