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Birney Elementary School Student Newspaper

Oct 2026

Halloween Events in Our Community

By: Elliot Mitchell, 4th

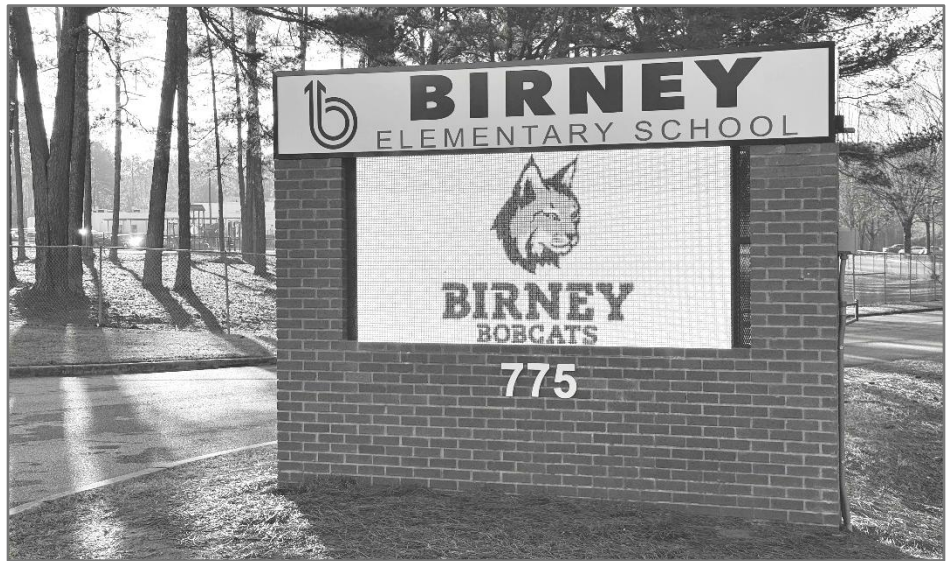
If you want to celebrate, there are lots of Halloween events in the Birney Elementary school Community. You might say I don't have the money for it. Well, you do, because most of these events are free, and the rest are cheap. Plus, some of these are only 5 minutes away!

One event is Fall Fest at The Avenue West Cobb on 10/31/2026. It's free, and kids can see Bluey and Spider-Man, plus a 7-foot dinosaur! You can also do store-to-store trick-or-treating, and there's a costume contest.

Another event is the Trunk-or-Treat Candy Crawl at the Pavilions at East Lake. It's on Halloween from 12pm to 3pm. Make sure to wear your costume, and there'll be face painting, prizes, and arts and crafts.

If you're looking for another Trunk-or-Treat, you can also check out Fun Time While Learning in Marietta. It's on Halloween from 3pm to 7pm, and Tickets cost \$10.

Another event is Candypalooza on October 30th from 6pm to



8pm at United Church in Smyrna. It is free and you can play yard games and enjoy food trucks.

So if you're looking for ways to celebrate, now you have some ideas!

Why We Celebrate Día de los Muertos

by Rubi Robles, 5th

Have you ever heard of Día de los Muertos? Or celebrated it?

If you haven't, then I will tell you what it is and why and how people celebrate it. Día de los Muertos means Day of the Dead. It's a holiday to represent and remember family members and loved ones who are no longer alive.

We celebrate Día de los Muertos so the dead can see their family members who are alive visiting

them. People bring gifts, Marigold flowers, bread, water, and more to their ofrendas, or altars. We put their favorite snacks and things they loved the most, like stuff from their favorite things to do. Día de los Muertos helps us remember the people that we love and that are no longer here. It's important. So that is why we celebrate Día de los Muertos.

5th Grade Cowboy Day

By Aziyah Hutson, 5th

For 5th grade's cowboy/cowgirl day, we acted out a play. I was worried about leading for about two weeks, but it went great. When it was over, we got applause from everyone in the room!

Next, we played bingo for a little while, and it was awesome. When you won, you got candy! Then,

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Allison, Ariel, Zoe, and I all sat together and had a race to see who could get the most candy. We also went to recess and got an extra 9 minutes!

Lastly, everybody got to draw and color pictures and coloring sheets! In my opinion, cowboy/cowgirl day was one of the greatest days of my life. I hope later in the year we can do something like it again!

Fernbank

By Ayesha Salinas-Ramirez, 5th
Have you ever wondered what a museum would be like? Well, if you don't know, you are lucky today! I'm going to tell you about Fernbank.

When you enter Fernbank, you will see a bunch of fun exhibits and the gigantic dinosaur skeletons. Also, you will see a bunch of people, because the museum is popular. And whenever you go, you won't have the same experience because they want you to try something new instead of the same thing every time.

One thing that you can do is play the science games. There's one where you can make a tornado just by pushing a button. There is also a cool sandpit where air moves the sand, and it feels like water. Can you imagine swimming in that? It would be awesome! There is also a bunch of other games, like one that pushes a ball

up with air, but that is some of them.

Something else you can do at the museum is learn about famous people and what they did, like Lewis and Clark, who explored and mapped the western United States. Also, you can learn about Sacagawea, who helped Lewis and Clark explore the land. One last person you can learn about is Teddy Roosevelt. He was a president and led the Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War.

As you can see, you will be able to learn a lot about science, history, and more, plus have a fun time too. So, if you go, have a great time!

Bobcat Beliefs – Student Opinions & Editorials

Summer is the Best Season

By: Aziyah Hutson, 5th Grade

In my opinion, summer is the best season. There are a lot of things that you can't do in other seasons that you can do during summer. For example, you can go to the beach, to the pool, to a water park, and so much more! In winter, it gets really cold, so the water temperature would be very

chilly, and nobody would enjoy it. And if it's a pool and it's super cold outside, like -13 degrees, it could even freeze.

But when it's summertime, you don't have to worry about getting cold. You don't have to bring an extra jacket or coat anywhere, because in summer it's only hot. Wearing coats can be uncomfortable, too. In summer, you can wear what you feel

comfortable in while being in style. Summer is the only good time to do that, since that's the warm season!

So, whenever you think that spring or autumn are better, think about the benefits of summer!

Should Students Have Homework?

By: Tayohnie Williams, 5th

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I strongly believe that students shouldn't have homework for multiple reasons. Some might disagree, and that's fine; not everybody agrees. But in this essay, I will tell you why we shouldn't have homework.

The first reason is that teachers don't know what goes on at students' homes. For example, if kids have to switch between mom and dad's house. Then, if the homework is at the wrong house, they would get in trouble with their teacher. But on the other hand, if you're in 5th grade, you should be old enough to do your homework, grab it from your parents' house, and turn it in.

Secondly, students could play sports, which is time-consuming. For example, I have basketball practice on Saturdays and Sundays. On Wednesdays, I have practice for about 30 mins and then I have to shower, which takes time and can lead to less sleep. But on the other hand, students could do their homework before practice and take shorter showers.

In conclusion, there are multiple reasons why students should and shouldn't have homework. But if

we have to have homework, teachers should ask for their students' schedules. Then they could know what days students are busy and give them homework on the non-busy days or give them more time to finish it.

August is the Best Month of the Year

By: Ariel Settles, 5th

This is why August is the best month. I think August is the best month because my birthday is in that month. I also love it because the weather is a mixture of fall and summer. I like the way the wind blows, but it's still sunny and hot out, so you won't be too cold. If August wasn't a month, then I would have to go with March. March is another warm month that I like.

August and March are similar, but August is usually a little bit hotter. It sometimes feels different each day, but mostly feels the same. I like all the other months; I just like August more than January, February, March, April, May, June, July, September, October, November, and December.

Some people might prefer other months more, so what about you?

Do you have a favorite month? Or one you think is the best?

When I Grow Up

By: Azyiah Hutson, 5th

When I grow up, I want to be a police officer! Because when you are an officer, you can help both the good and the bad. For example, catching a wanted criminal or helping an innocent person cross the road. It doesn't matter where you are, you can always help a person in need! But being an officer can be very dangerous when you're dealing with dangerous people.

There are good and bad things about being a cop. Getting into such a dangerous job can be super hard! Why? Well, let me tell you. When you become a cop, you have to be very aware of everything around you because danger is all around. Now the good thing about it is you're making a difference. Plus, you also make money! So that's why I want to be a police officer when I grow up.

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Sports Roundup – What good games have happened recently?

By: Damian Codrington, 4th Grade

Game 1: Valkyries vs. Sparks - September 24th

This WNBA game had high stakes. While the Valkyries were fighting for a home playoff series, the Sparks were saying goodbye to basketball legend Nneka Ogwumike. This is her last game before retirement, and the future hall of famer wanted to go out with a bang.

For a while, the Sparks and Valkyries were tied. Then Nneka showed up. By the end of the 3rd Quarter, the score was 42-55, and it was looking like the Sparks would win. The Sparks couldn't blow a 13-point lead, right? Well, the Valkyries didn't give up. With 4 minutes left, they scored 17 points to the Sparks' 4. The Valkyries won!

Unfortunately, Nneka's final game was spoiled. But she still made her team proud. She scored 17 points and had 15 rebounds and 5 assists. She led the team in all categories.

The Valkyries won with a final score of 76-75.

Game 2: Oregon vs. Oklahoma State - September 12th

This was a crazy, soul-crushing game. It was a crazy upset. Oregon made it all the way to the

semifinals last season, while Oklahoma State lost 11 games, so everyone expected Oregon to sweep. But on September 13th, Oklahoma State was the first team to score. Oregon scored a touchdown to come back, but then Oklahoma State scored twice! The score was 7-17, and Oklahoma State was winning! Oregon fought back, and at the start of the fourth quarter, the score was only 24-30.

Everyone thought Oregon would come back, but Oklahoma State knew they could win... and then, they DID! With a strong push, they scored a touchdown and a field goal in the fourth quarter to beat Oregon 31-39. What an upset!

Like I said, Oklahoma State only won 1 game last season and lost 11 of them, while Oregon got close to the championship! No one saw this coming.

Game 3: Lions vs. Saints - September 13th

This game was wild, with comebacks, last-minute winners, and more. On September 13th 26 for the first three Quarters the Lions dominated. With 21 straight it was 21-0.

Then the Saints were not giving up. They scored 17 straight or unanswered points.

Then the Rams scored a field goal which is three points, so it was 17-24 Lions winning. Then the Saints scored. So now it's 24-24 and it's going to be sent to overtime. The Lions got the ball first and scored a touchdown. It was now 24-31.

So now the Saints had to go down the field and score a touchdown and a 2 point-conversion to win. They actually did drive down the field (Note: The Saints lost 11 times in 17 games the Lions only lost 5 games) and scored 30-31.

Then instead of trying to tie the game to keep it tied they went for the 2 point-conversion, and they... unfortunately didn't get it! They lost 30-31. One point! They were the underdog.

Game 4: "2022" Colts vs. Vikings - December 17th, 2022

Let's travel back in a time machine! This memorable football game happened on December 17th of 2022, and it had very high stakes. If the Vikings won, they'd win their division and make it to the NFL playoffs. If the Colts won, they'd still have a chance to make it to the playoffs. But if the Colts lose, they would be eliminated from the playoffs!

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At first, the game wasn't close at all. The score was 33-0 at the end of the first half, with the Colts winning. Star Quarterback Kirk Cousins had 2 interceptions (or bad passes) and 7 sacks! Then the Vikings scored with a 2 yard pass to WR (wide receiver) KJ Osborn for a touchdown. The Colts would go and score a field goal. Then the Vikings drove down the field. And then their backup RB (running back) C.J. Ham rushed 1 yard into the end zone for touchdown.

So now it's the 4th Quarter (which is 15 minutes), and it's 36-14. The Vikings are still losing by 22! Then the Vikings drove down the field and scored with an 8-yard pass to star Wide Receiver Justin Jefferson. Then Kirk and the Vikings Offense scored with a 16-yard pass to Adam Thielen. So now it's 36 to 28. Then the Vikings defense forced a fumble, and their offense got a touchdown with a pass to their star Running Back, Dalvin Cook.

Dalvin ran with a 64-yard pass to the house (touchdown). So now it's 36-34. If the Vikings go for two points and make the 2 points, they will send it to overtime. If they don't, the Colts will probably win. But they got it! The Vikings got it on a pass to Tight End TJ Hockenson. With a score of 36-36, the Vikings sent it overtime! Then they drove down the field and scored a field goal to WIN!

This is one of the biggest comebacks ever! So kids, never ever give up. You can do anything!

Life & Style – Food

Why Chick-fil-A is the Best Fast-Food Restaurant

By: A ziyah Hutson, 5th

In my opinion, Chick-fil-A is the best! Chick-fil-A is a really good fast-food restaurant famous for its chicken sandwiches and waffle fries. A guy named Truett Cathy invented Chick-fil-A's signature sandwich in 1964 and opened the first official Chick-fil-A restaurant in 1967 at the Greenbriar Mall in Atlanta, Georgia. But Truett Cathy started the tradition of closing on Sundays before the restaurant

even existed! He made the rule for his other restaurant, Truett's Grill, in 1946, because he wanted employees to have a day to rest and go to church with their families. When he opened the first Chick-fil-A, he kept that rule, and it still applies to all locations. Even the stadium ones! Not only is their food good, but they also have a cool history, and that's why I think Chick-fil-A is the best.

Wendys is Just OK

By: Zaria Jackson, 5th

In my opinion, Wendy's is ok. It's not great, it's not bad, it's ok.

The first reason why Wendy's is just ok is that their food is chewy. When I bite a chicken nugget, it is so chewy. It tastes good, but why is the food so chewy? It should not be that chewy. That is my first reason why Wendy's is ok.

Another reason is that my family always gets Wendy's. Every time we go somewhere, we always get Wendy's to eat. When you eat the same food over and over again, it gets annoying and nasty. That is my second reason why Wendy's is just ok.

My last reason is that Wendy's food is kind of fake. It can mess

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up your stomach, which makes you feel bad and have to use the restroom. That's annoying and can't be good for you.

Wendy's tastes good, but these reasons show why it's just ok. The food is chewy, you can get tired of having it, and their food is fake.

Those are the reasons why Wendy's is ok.

My Favorite Food

By: Ariel Settles, 5th

My favorite food is tacos. I like how you can make them so many different ways depending on how you feel. I like to eat mine with Doritos. Sometimes I eat them with a hard taco shell, but not all the time.

Tacos can also have different flavors and spices. They can be

spicy, mild, hot, or classic. I like spicy and mild, but I prefer spicy tacos. My favorite taco spot is a local Mexican spot.

I like my tacos to be nice and warm. Sometimes like them in a hard shell, but I usually like them soft. Sometimes I put lettuce on it, but I rarely do. That's why tacos are my favorite food.

Science Corner — What scientific facts are interesting our students?

Mars Unlocked!

By: Fatima Jawara, 4th

Did you know that Mars is actually a giant, frozen world covered in rust? Even though it looks burning hot and fiery red from Earth, its reddish color just comes from rusty iron minerals in the dirt, and the weather is usually freezing cold!

Mars is full of mind-blowing surprises, like being home to Olympus Mons, a giant volcano that is three times taller than Mount Everest! It also has a canyon so huge that it could stretch all the way across United States! It

also has two lumpy moons, Phobos and Deimos, which are shaped like potatoes instead of balls!

Best of all, because Mars has much weaker gravity than Earth, you could jump nearly three times higher there, making you feel like a real superhero hopping across a red desert!

Dog Facts

By: Ariel Settles, 5th

Do you like dogs? I love them, and here are some facts about them.

Dogs are mammals. They are mammals because they have

live births (birth puppies, not eggs). They nurse their puppies with milk. Dogs are warm-blooded, and dogs also maintain a constant internal body temperature.

But what makes them special is their amazing hearing and smell. Dogs can smell a mole underground. They can hear stuff in the ground and walls before humans can. Dogs can only see blue, yellow, and gray, which means they're color blind.

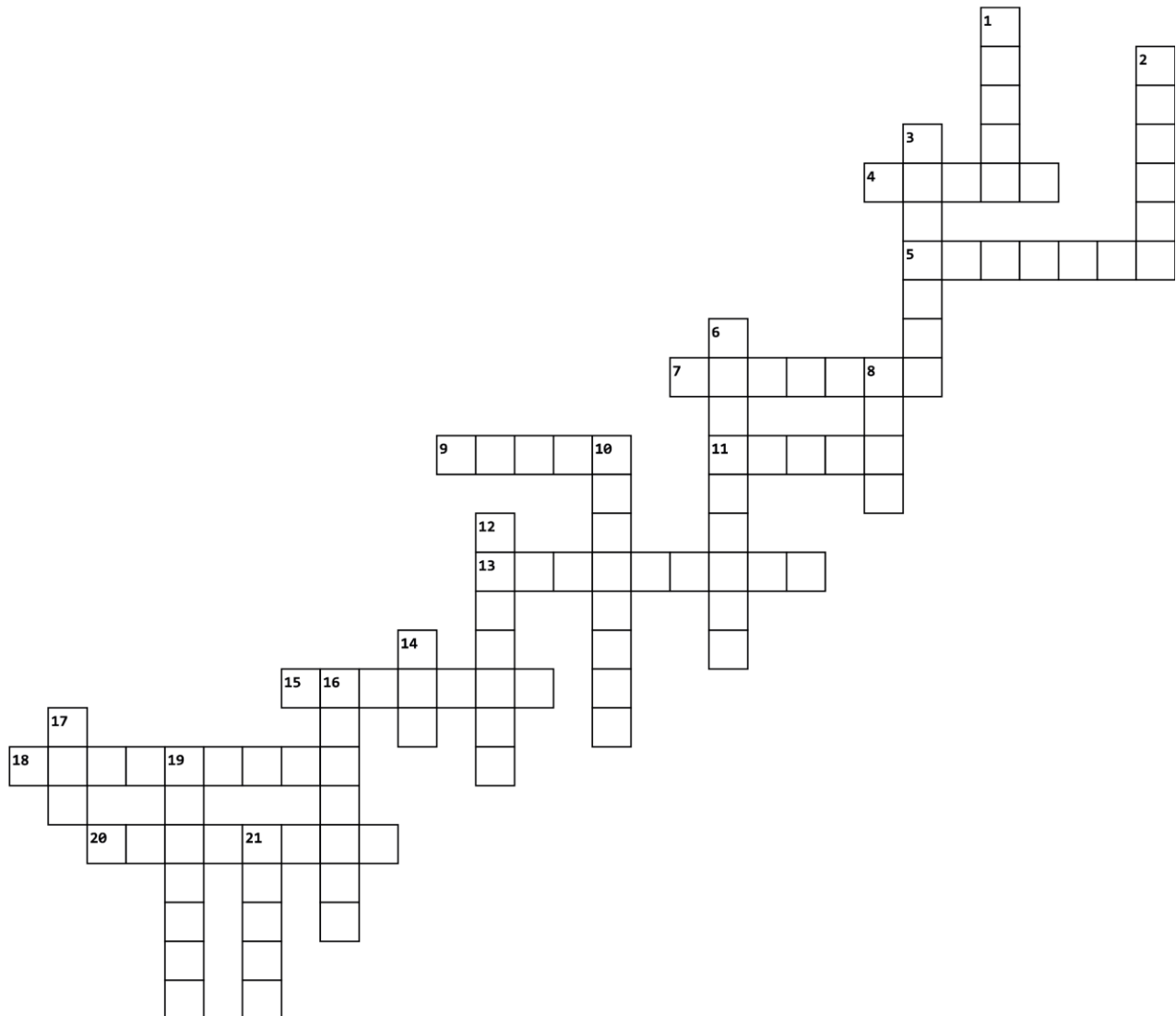
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Bobcat Brainteasers



Across

4. Something sweet collected while trick-or-treating.
5. An orange fruit often carved into a jack-o'-lantern.
7. What you wear when dressing up for Halloween.
9. A person who rides a broomstick in Halloween stories.

Down

1. A sweet food often shaped like bones and placed on an ofrenda.
2. Another name for the fall season.
3. A creature that sleeps in a coffin and has fangs.
6. In football, scoring six points is called a _____.
8. The planet known as the Red Planet.
10. School assignments students complete at home.

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11. A drink made from apples that's popular in autumn.

13. People who are remembered and honored during Día de los Muertos.

15. The month when Halloween takes place.

18. The holiday celebrated on October 31.

20. A bright orange flower often used to decorate Día de los Muertos altars.

12. The gathering of crops during the fall season.

14. This animal is known as man's best friend.

16. These are lit to help guide spirits during Día de los Muertos celebrations.

17. A flying mammal often associated with Halloween.

19. A special offering or display created to honor loved ones who have passed away.

21. A spooky creature that says "Boo!"