Tiger Prints

March 2024

The Official Newspaper of Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School

Vol. 3

Fortune Across Countries

by: Samantha

Do you have a form of luck in your culture? St. Patrick's Day is quickly approaching, but Ireland is not the only country with lucky items and folklore. In this article, we will examine different forms of luck from around the world.

Four Leaf Clovers: Ireland (or is it?)

We will begin with the first and most well-known symbol of luck: four-leaf clovers. This rare-occurring leaf is supposed to bring good fortune, protection, and prosperity. The four-leaf clover is usually associated with Irish culture. The four-leaf clover luck-conspiracy didn't originate in Ireland; however, it has been adopted by different cultures from around the world. Four-leaf clovers are associated with Ireland because they are most commonly found there. But how often do we find one of these lucky leaves? According to recent research, the chance of finding a four-leaf clover is about 1 in 10,000. With that statistic, it is hard to believe that there are such things as five and six-leaf clovers! But despite there being more rarity to those, four-leaf clovers remain the lucky ones.

The Color Red: China

Red is a color of energy, revenge, and passion. But in China, the color red has an underlying meaning. In Chinese culture, the color red is associated with joy, good fortune, and happiness. Red is a good color in Chinese culture. Chinese wedding dresses are typically red! Red is also respected in Chinese culture due to its association with the Lunar New Year (Chinese New Year). According to legends, there had been a monster attacking villages and wreaking havoc among the citizens. But the same citizens recognized that this beast was afraid of loud noises and the color red. As a result of this legend, red has also been believed to ward off evil spirits. Those who believe in this superstition will generally hang up lanterns during the Lunar New Year to shield themselves and their family from bad luck. It seems like there is more to the color red than suspected, did you know about this all-powerful pigment?

Blue Evil-Eye Charms: Türkiye

Now we will be moving across Europe to Türkiye! In Turkish belief, the color blue provides security against evil and absorbs negativity. Hence, the blue evil-eye charm, also known as the Nazar pendant. This amulet represents good luck or good karma in Turkish culture. While the exact origin of the Nazar pendant remains mysterious, it is believed that it evolved from the Eye of Horus, an Ancient Egyptian symbol. Different colored evil eye charms represent different things. Orange provides happiness and protection, yellow relieves fatigue and protects your health, and white gives a fresh start!



Across various cultures, luck takes different forms. From four-leaf clovers in Ireland to blue evil-eye charms in Türkiye, to the color red in China, each culture has its own beliefs on symbolic items that bring supposed luck. While these manifestations of luck take different forms, they unite cultures and give people a better understanding of the world- bringing positivity and prosperity to our homes.

March 2024

The Official Newspaper of Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School

Tiger Prints

Vol. 3

The Oddities of Everyday Life

What we Know About Life's Best Medicine

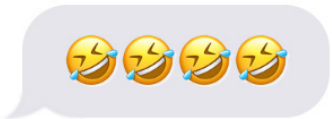
by: Grace

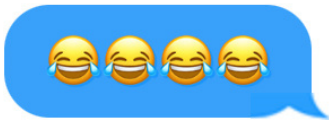
Isn't it strange that when you see something funny, you might show your teeth, change your breathing, feel pain in some places, or even cry? This is the third of a series of articles investigating the oddities of everyday life. So, let us reveal the everyday secret Mother Earth has constructed in all of us- why we laugh.

When you laugh, your abdominal muscles contract and expand which changes the way you breathe at that moment. It also pushes pressure into your chest cavity while pushing air out rapidly. This is why you might hear a snort, wheeze, or other noises, and this might cause your abdominal muscles to hurt.

Sometimes, we laugh when we're nervous, scared, or anxious. As humanity diverged from the apes, we evolved more complex linguistic skills. Laughter eventually evolved into a means of expressing our feelings, which may be one of the reasons why experts believe laughter is contagious. Just hearing laughter can make you laugh, too. When volunteers watched a funny video, they looked at it for longer and laughed longer, but when they were alone, they showed less amusement than if they were laughing with another friend. Human laughter is typically louder than that of other animals in order to attract attention. This proves that laughing is another way humans have developed into social animals.

But why is this little curiosity here? How has it evolved? Where does it come from? Since there isn't any archeological evidence of laughter, it's hard to know how or where it originated. However, scientists do have a theory. Humans aren't the only species to be able to laugh. For example, in the 1990's, scientists discovered that rats were giggling when being tickled. Ever since, scientists found evidence of vocalizations from at least 65 species during social play. Most of them were mammals, but also a few birds! Predictably, some of those species were our closest relatives- apes. While being observed when they were rough and tumble playing or being tickled, scientists are more persuaded that the ancient ancestor of all apes laughed in some form.





So, the next time you hear a good joke and your stomach hurts or you have trouble breathing, you'll know why! Stay tuned for more science articles in Tiger Prints!

Hidden Holidays

If I told you to name the first holiday in March, you would most likely say St. Patrick's Day or National Book Day, but have you ever heard about the Ides of March? It is on March 15th, the day Julius Caesar was assassinated.

Vol. 1

By: Alice & Ally

About Julius Caesar

Julius Caesar was born in Suburra, Italy, in July of 100 BC. Born into a wealthy family, he married three times: to Cornelia, Pompia, and Calpurnia. Caesar had three children named Augustus, Caesarion, and Julia Caesar. He was the Roman Empire's most successful military general. The Roman Republic was in upheaval when Caesar was young. He saw this as an opportunity to become a successful military leader, climb in the political system, and briefly serve as governor of Spain in the Roman territory.

The Assassination

Julius Caesar was assassinated on March 15th, 44 BC. He was 55 years old. Rather than being considered a holiday, the Ides of March was a "day of Doom." Why did he get assassinated, you ask?

Well, have you ever got in a fight with your best friend? Caesar's best friend was so mad he became emperor that he assassinated him. Wait, what?! Yup, you read that right, he was assassinated by Marcus Junius Brutus, Caesar's second choice as heir (and best friend), and Gaius Cassius Longinus. Could you imagine if one day you were the closest of friends, and the next, your best friend killed you because of his anger? Well, he did have a fair reason to kill him. People started to worry about Caesar taking full power. Rome had been governed by a Congress for many years. Congress members were elected every few years. Julius wanted to overthrow Congress to be the king of Rome and have his children be king/queen after him. He probably would have succeeded if Marcus Junius Brutus and Gaius Cassius Longinus hadn't thrown a surprise attack on him. Julius was a great military leader, but he was unarmed and unprepared. Years later, the first emperor of Rome took the throne. Many people thought his assassination was wrong, but just as many thought he should have taken full power.

March 2024

The Official Newspaper of Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School

Tiger Prints

Vol. 3

Spring Forward, Fall Back

Two-hundred thirty-eight days of the year make up Daylight Savings Time. But what is it, and why do we still have it?

by: Lily

An Extra Hour of Daylight!

This is the 106th year of Daylight Savings Time, which began in 1918. Daylight Savings Time starts on the first Sunday of April and ends on the last Sunday of October. This year, Daylights Savings Time will be from 2:00 a.m. on March 10th to 2:00 a.m. on November 3rd. During the start of this time, people turn their clocks one hour ahead so that sundown occurs an hour later than the previous time, called Standard Time. The sun rises an hour later and sets one hour later, giving us more daylight.

Why was it established?

The United States is one of 70 countries that practice Daylight Savings Time. In 1784, while Benjamin Franklin was working in France, he wrote an article proposing the idea of opening and closing shops earlier to save money for electricity. Daylight Savings Time helps save energy because the sun rises earlier and sets later. There is more daylight, which reduces the demand for energy-intensive lighting in the dark.

During World War I, England, Germany, France, and many other countries began setting their clocks one hour earlier every year. On March 31st, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson introduced Daylight Savings Time to the US.

Standard Time

Standard Time is the regular time when it's not Daylight Savings Time. As the days get shorter in the fall, Daylight Saving Time ends, and the clocks reset one hour earlier than Standard Time. During the summer, the days also get longer, meaning one hour of daylight. Moving our clocks one hour ahead results in more daylight.

What is the controversy surrounding Daylight Savings Time?

We've just heard about the history of Daylight Savings Time and how it helps with energy–but what's bad about it? There is lots of controversy about springing our clocks forward by one hour. For some schools that start about 8:30 or later, speeding the clocks forward one hour has students at school from 9:30-4:30 if it was Standard Time since 7 hours is the average length of the learning day. By the time students leave the building, it's almost sundown. Due to this inconvenience, some people want to eliminate Daylight Savings Time.

On the other hand, this extra hour of daylight is safer for kids walking, driving, or biking to and from school instead of when it's dark outside. With more daylight, drivers can see people and have a reduced risk of injuring anyone with their vehicles. So what's your take on this matter? An extra hour of daylight or not?

Lost in Laurania

A Short Story

by: Alice & Ally

"Oh, Maximas, you can't go out like that!" Mom says.
"Like what?" I answered.
"Without a sweater!" she said.
"But mom, it's basically summer!"
My mom raised her eyebrow.
"It's March, Maximas," and I knew I'd lost the argument.
"You know I hate being called Maximas."
"I know," she said with a smile.

I walked off to the school bus in the sweater my mom made me wear. I put my AirPods in to listen to yesterday's soccer game. I got to the bus just in time. I ran to the seat next to my friend.

"Hey Mark!" I said, "Did you see the soccer game?"
"I always knew they would win." We chuckled.

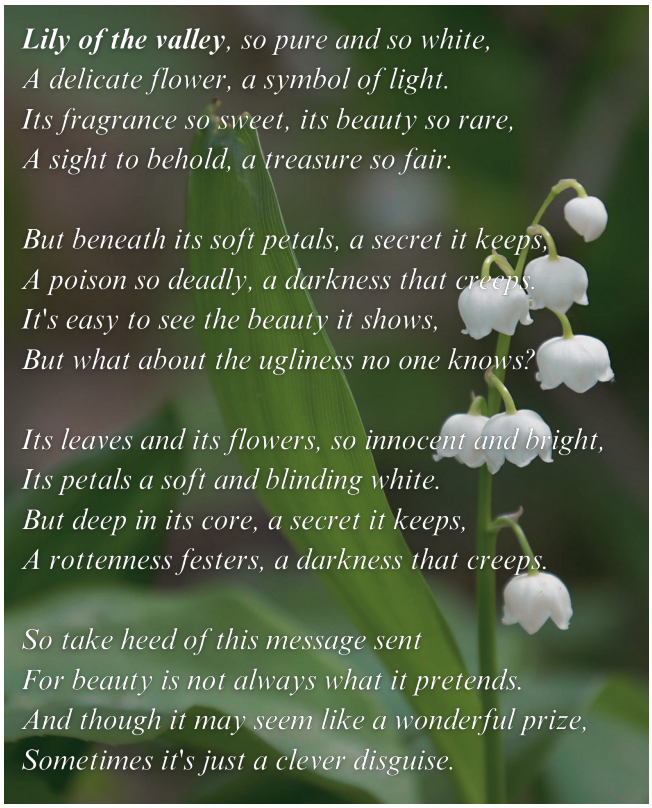
"There's lightning!" A girl in 5th grade yelled.
"Dude," an 8th grade boy said, "It's just lightning. Don't be a baby."
The storm was weird. It came out of nowhere. There wasn't any rain or thunder, just lightning. Suddenly, a lightning bolt struck the bus.
"Aaaah!" a fifth grader yelled.

The bus flipped over in the sky and everything went black.

...Continued page V

Lily of the Valley: A Symbol of Spring and Happiness

by: Emma



The Lily of the Valley is a delicate and fragrant flower that blooms in the spring. It is often associated with purity, innocence, and happiness. However, behind its lovely appearance, there is a hidden danger: the lily of the valley is highly poisonous and can cause serious harm if ingested or touched. This contrast between beauty and toxicity makes the lily of the valley a powerful metaphor for things or people that seem beautiful or pure on the surface but have hidden flaws or dangers on the inside.

Lily of the Valley is a delicate and fragrant flower that blooms in the spring, usually in May. It has white, bell-shaped petals that hang in clusters from slender stems, surrounded by glossy green leaves. The flower is native to Europe, North America, and some parts of Asia and belongs to the asparagus family. The lily of the valley is also known by its scientific name, *Convallaria majalis*, which means "belonging to Maia," the Roman goddess of spring and growth.

Lily of the Valley has a long history and rich symbolism in various cultures and traditions. Let's explore some of the meanings and stories behind this lovely flower.

One of the most common meanings of lily of the valley is a return of happiness. This is based on its seasonal blooming, which marks the end of winter and the beginning of spring, a time of renewal and hope. In the language of flowers, a Victorian tradition of expressing emotions through floral gifts, the lily of the valley conveys the message "You have made my life complete" or "You are the return of happiness to my heart." The flower is also a popular option for weddings, particularly royal ones, because it symbolizes marital bliss and happiness.

The Lily of the Valley symbolizes protection and good luck in some cultures and folklore. Some believe the flower's bell shape can ward off evil spirits and attract good ones. In some European countries, such as France and Finland, a lily of the valley is given as a gift on May 1st, also known as May Day or Labor Day, to wish someone happiness and prosperity. The tradition dates back to the 16th century when King Charles IX of France received a bunch of lilies of the valley as a lucky charm and decided to offer them to the ladies of his court every year. The flower is also a symbol of friendship and loyalty, as it is said to grow back even if it is uprooted.

However, not all meanings of lily of the valley are positive. The flower can also signify sorrow and sadness, as it is used in funeral arrangements and memorials. The flower is poisonous and can cause serious harm if ingested. It contains cardiac glycosides, which can affect the heart and cause nausea, vomiting, headache, and even death. In Romania, it is also a common symbol of tears, stemming from an old story of a girl who lost her parents and got sent to an orphanage. Sad and distraught, the girl cried at her parents' graves. Later, a lily of the valley started blooming where her tears met the ground. The flower is also a reminder of the fragility and brevity of life, as it wilts quickly after being picked.

Therefore, the Lily of the valley could be an example of how beautiful things might have ugly insides or how appearances can be deceiving. It is a plant with positive and negative qualities, and one must be careful not to judge it by its outward charm alone.

March 2024

The Official Newspaper of Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School

Tiger Prints

Vol. 3

Stupid Device!

by: Amanda

We all get mad at our devices, especially our school ones. But in some cases, it's more problematic than just a dead battery. Here are some of the most problematic technology problems that we have experienced here at PVC.

Imagine Math (5th grade iPads only)

This first problem is infamous in 5th grade. Around October, we reset our iPads to have passcodes on them. But it glitched Imagine Math, which is a problem since we use it almost every day. It would take around 10 minutes to load onto the homepage. Then it took about 15 minutes to get onto the lesson player. That would equal 25 minutes just to be able to answer questions! To solve this problem, we use loaner Chromebooks; however, they lag often. But hey, it gets the job done!

Disconnecting Keyboards (5th grade iPads only)

iPads are meant to have on-screen keyboards to type, but with PVC that's a different story. Sure, you still have the option for an on-screen keyboard, but most students prefer to use the physical keyboard that comes with the case that the school gave us. Since these keyboards are not physically connected to the iPad, they are on automatic Bluetooth. This results in the keyboard disconnecting from the iPad at the most random time possible. It even disconnected while I was writing about this problem! The solution to fix this is fairly tedious. We have to completely power off the iPad and start it back up again. It's not the fastest process in the world, but you've got to do what you've got to do!

Asking the PVC community: What is the most problematic technology problem you've had with your device?

"The Chromebook often gets laggy right before it dies. I don't know how to solve it, I just don't use it."
-Aidan, 7th grade

"Losing my remote. Without it, it can make things more difficult than need be. Not having a remote reminds me of a time when having a remote wasn't that common and more effort was needed. It makes you appreciate the smaller things in life. If you ever find a lonely black remote with several buttons on it, it belongs to my smartboard."
-Mr. Lucadamo, 5th grade Science/Social Studies teacher

"I can recall a time when we lost power and then the smartboard had to be restarted, but then I could not get it to work the same way again. I am not sure why. Truth - I need more training on the smartboard / screen in our classroom. I am sure that it can do many things that I do not do. I sometimes wonder how those things would be useful and change our instruction."
-Mrs. Herbert, 5th grade ELA teacher

If I ever have a tech issue with my Smart Board or a Promethean, restarting (off and on) or updating them usually fixes the issue!
-Mrs. Lupfer, 5th/6th grade InDe teacher, 7th grade art teacher

If you ever have issues with your technology, be sure to talk to the tech people around the building or enter a help desk ticket! After all, technology can get pretty hectic!

Lost in Laurania part II *(cont.)*

"Wha- what!?" I stutter. I was facing three kids.
"The bus driver left with the rest of the kids on the bus," an 8th grade girl said. "I'm Brooke. You were the last to wake up. This is Mark." She points to my best friend.
"Oh and these people are Claudia and Jack," She added, pointing to the 5th grade girl who was screaming earlier and the 8th grade boy who told her to stop being a baby. We got out of the bus to explore the area. What we saw was astounding.
The sky was green, and instead of grass there were small trees with brown leaves and a green trunk covering the whole ground.

There was blue grass as tall as trees, but the most astonishing thing was the sun. It was...purple! We gasped, bewildered. We continued walking until we found people, all of them dressed in green and gold. The peoples' hair were every color, from pale green to dark magenta. All of them were only up to my knees.
"I like, totes don't think we're in Kansas anymore." Claudia whispers to me.
"We live in Florida! Stop pretending to be Dorothy!" Jack replied angrily.
"Hi shorties." Jack laughs at the little people. One little person's legs extend until he's twice our size.
"Who's the shorty now?" He grins and Jack almost faints, he's so shocked.

...Continued page VI

Lost in Laurania part III *(cont.)*

"Nice one Leprechaun!" Another little person says.
"Um, excuse me," I said, "do you know how far we are from Disney World?"
A little person answers, "Do you mean World of Dinsey? Because that's about 400 miles, or 2 inches away."
"Those are like, totes two different things." Claudia said.
"Ugh! I've had enough of you saying totes!" Jack exclaimed.
"You need to up calm, those are the famous words of Swiftlor Tay!" said a tiny person.
"Okay, I'm totes done with this world, like, what?!" exclaimed Claudia.
"Well, if you're so 'toe-tes' done with this world, you must talk to Queen Laura about it."
"What!?" asked Jack, "Who is Laura!?"

"You KNOW," said a tiny person, "You should go see the Laura Queen now. Her castle's only 3,452,950 miles away. Turn around, do you see it?"

Behind them was the smallest castle they had seen. As they started to walk in, the castle increased to over 10,000 times its size. Then, it was the biggest castle we had ever seen. We walked inside. The huge building was made entirely from candy.

As I walked closer, I saw a 30-foot tall 5- year-old eating an M&Ms as big as my head.
She looked at us, and in the squeakiest booming voice ever said, "Whaddya big guys want?"

I looked up at her and said, "Um, do you know how to get out of here?"
But before I finished Mark said, "Why are you a baby?!"

Laura giggled. "Everyone knows that babies are smart and BIG, and when you reach ten you're wrinkled, dumb, and small."
"You guys should be wrinkled raisins by now!Oh, and you have to wait a week to get home, the blue lightning bolt only comes on Sunny-day..."
"... Don't worry, in your land it will be a day."
"NOW BRING ME A RAINBOW LOLLIPOP! I told you the information, and it's my turn to receive it." Laura yelled at us.

A wrinkled man brought her the lollipop as she tapped her foot impatiently. I was about to panic when Brooke spoke up.
"The sky is blue." She began. Then she told Laura about Earth as Laura went "Ooo" and sucked her lollipop.
"I'd like to visit eeh-rth one day and meet Taylor Swift. You guys can stay in the palace and be my funny peeps."

Laura escorted us to a room. "You can have my dressing room."
We looked around the room. It was HUGE! The vanity chair was 20 feet tall, and we had to climb the chair legs to get on it.

Suddenly, the drawer opened, and we saw eighteen tiny people laying there, grinning.

"Hello," they said in unison. "We're leprechauns. You'll be sleeping in the other drawer tonight."
I remembered the "little people" from before, and assumed they were leprechauns. Boy, this world was crazy!

We walked over to the drawer and struggled to open it, but once we did, we jumped inside. There were sponges bigger than us! That's what I want to sleep on!

.....

"It's nighttime! The sky is turning red already!" said a pretty leprechaun.
I went to sleep but two seconds later someone said, "Morning!"
The sky was already back to normal, but I had gotten no sleep.

Laura walked into our room. "HELLO EVERYBODY!!!"
Her squeaky voice screeched. "It's time to go home!!!!"
It hasn't even been a week, but this world is so weird and I go along with it. She carries us outside and into the bus.

We woke up right where we were before this chaos. Everyone was back. The bus driver was in his seat and said, "I think we hit a bump." What a wacky day!

Editorial

15 pairs of shoes.
5 styles.
3 colors of each.



People spend tons of money on shoes, showing them off and winning popularity based on the trending style. And don't forget the range of crease guards and other accessories to go with this pricey fashion trend. But should people be so caught up in their shoes? Some look at it as a waste of money and concern. Others say it's a hobby. So, what do we think about the sneaker trends?

Shoe trends can also reflect the technological advancements and innovations of the time. For instance, the development of synthetic materials and rubber soles in the 20th century enabled the creation of athletic shoes that were lighter, faster, and more supportive. Sneakers became more than just a necessity for sports and fitness; they were also a fashion statement and a status symbol. Brands like Adidas, Reebok, and Puma competed to produce the most cutting-edge and stylish designs, often collaborating with celebrities and athletes to endorse their products.

Another factor that influences shoe trends is the social and cultural context. For example, the rise of the punk movement in the late 70s and early 80s sparked a demand for combat boots, leather jackets, and ripped jeans. The boots were symbols of rebellion, resistance, and individuality. Similarly, the grunge style of the 90s popularized flannel shirts, oversized sweaters, and Doc Martens. The shoes were comfortable, durable, and versatile, reflecting the laid-back and anti-consumerist attitude of the generation.

Lastly, customers' environmental and ethical concerns can impact shoe trends. As people become more aware of the fashion industry's environmental and social implications, they opt for eco-friendly, vegan, and fair-trade shoes. Some examples of these shoes are TOMS, which donates a pair of shoes to a child in need for every pair sold; Veja, which uses organic cotton, recycled plastic, and natural rubber for its sneakers; and Rothy's, which makes its flats and loafers from recycled water bottles. These shoes benefit the environment and the individuals who create and wear them.

Some of the most popular categories of shoe collections are:

- **Classic shoes:** These are shoes that never go out of style, such as ballet flats, loafers, pumps, boots, and sneakers. They are versatile, comfortable, and easy to match with any outfit. Classic shoes are a great investment, as they can last for years and always look chic. You can start with singular colors, such as black, white, brown, and navy, and then add some pops of color or prints to spice up your collection.
- **Trendy shoes:** These are shoes that follow the latest fashion trends, such as platforms, wedges, mules, clogs, and sandals. They are fun, trendy, and eye-catching, and they can add some flair and personality to your look. Trendy shoes are typically less expensive than classic shoes but tend to go out of style sooner. You can start with some of the current season's hottest styles and then mix and match them with your existing wardrobe.
- **Designer shoes:** These are created by well-known and reputable brands including Nike, Tory Burch, Sam Edelman, and Birkenstock. They are high-quality, luxurious, and often expensive, and they can make you feel like a star. Designer shoes are usually more unique and distinctive than mass-produced shoes and can increase in value over time. You can begin with some of your favorite designers' iconic and trademark styles, then build your collection with some of their more recent and unique works.
- **Themed shoes:** These are shoes inspired by a specific theme, such as sports, movies, music, art, or culture. They are creative, original, and often collectible, and they can show off your interests and passions. Themed shoes can be more expensive due to their rarity and difficulty finding them. You can start with some of the themes that you are most passionate about and then look for shoes that match or complement them.

So what do you think? Are shoe trends worth it? To us, shoe trends are just another way to express yourself, your time, and your style. But to some, it's extremely pricey and not the same. But compared to all beauty and fashion trends, are sneakers really that different? What do you think? Do you have a sneaker collection? Don't forget to feel free to submit article submissions to agosnell.29@chufsd.org, ee.29@chufsd.org, and skendall.29@chufsd.org. Check for an email from Mr. Plotkin with information.

Editors Avery and Emma
Newspaper designed by Emma