



April 2026

THE PAW PRINT CUB EDITION

KINDERGARTEN CUTIES

By Winona Christensen, Alianna Mora & Lithuli Wijenayakage



On Tuesday, March 31, 2026, the kindergarteners had a very special event – the Kindergarten Fashion Show! Each and every one of them had smiles and excitement on their adorable faces. Before they had headed into the auditorium, they were held in the dance classroom to prepare their lines to walk out. To introduce the kindergartners, Ms. Ponzi, our elementary assistant principal, told all of the parents what their kindergarteners were going to do that day. We were fascinated by all of their cute and fashionable suits and dresses. Then, they walked down a red carpet, and were breaking out their dance moves to a very upbeat and groovy song called “Golden” from the movie K-Pop Demon Hunters!

(Continued on page 8)

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

By: Winona Christensen, Leo Mezzacappa, Lithuli Wijenayakage

For this month's teacher's spotlight we interviewed a 2nd grade teacher who has worked here for 21 years. Before she became a teacher, she worked in a book store and an advertising company in New York City. If she wasn't a teacher, she would go back to the advertising company in New York because she loves people, and being creative and organized.

Over her 21 years of teaching, she has taught kindergarten, 2nd grade, 5th grade, 6th grade ELA, and college reading. Her favorite grade is 2nd because she likes their age and gets to read fun books with them. She likes to teach because she enjoys getting to know her students, getting to see her students grow, and she feels pride and joy getting to do that. On the first day of school, she likes to learn their names, find out about each student, and have all of her students draw self portraits and write about what they want to learn.

Her favorite thing about Petrides is that we are a Pre-K through 12th grade school which means she gets to watch her former students grow up and loves when they come back to visit their 2nd grade teacher again!

This teacher loves to travel! She has been to 10 different countries and can't wait to explore more of the world. Her favorite subject when she was in school was reading, art and science.



Her favorite memory as a teacher was during her first year at Petrides when she brought her baby Hannah with her to visit and her students made Hannah a baby book just for her.

If she had any superpower it would be invisibility because she thinks it would be funny to prank her students and see what they are doing, and then surprise them. Have you guessed the mystery teacher? If you didn't know, it is Mrs. Brancaccio! Stay tuned for the May edition to read our next teacher spotlight!

WE ASKED, YOU ANSWERED

Favorite Pizza Topping

By: Alianna Mora, Daniel Selby and Elsa Wang

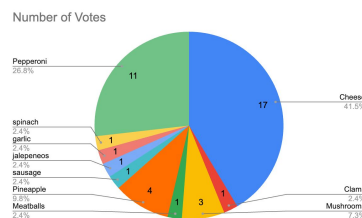
Hi!! It's the Elementary Newspaper Club and today we have our newest opinion piece... ***What is your favorite pizza topping?***

We asked 41 Petridians what their favorite pizza topping is and these are the results:

11 people chose pepperoni,
17 cheese, 1 chose clams,
3 for mushrooms, 4 pineapple,
1 for spinach, 1 garlic, 1 jalapeno,
1 chose sausage, and 1 meatball.

The #1 favorite pizza topping selected was... EVERYONE CLAP FOR CHEESE!!! Pepperoni came 2nd and pineapple scored 3rd place.

As you can see a lot of people love pepperoni and cheese. Personally I love clams on my pizza, Elsa likes pepperoni, and Daniel likes cheese on his pizza. No matter your favorite topping, I think everyone can agree - **pizza is just delicious!**



THIS OR THAT

A Friendly Debate about.....

Which Class is Better?

By Abigail De Los Angeles (Science) AND Daniel Selby (Physical Education)

I think science is the best subject and here is why. Science teaches you many things in life. Science gives you information about things but it can also give you an opportunity to do experiments. For example, if you're learning about volcanoes and how they erupt, you can also do a science activity that imitates an eruption. In science, you also learn about animals and how they live in the wild and survive. I learned about Snow Monkeys and how they cuddle together so they can keep warm. Through science I also learned that Bumble Bees collect pollen so they can make honey. I think science is very interesting and gives us a lot of information about the world.



I think physical education, also known as gym, is the best part of school! It is so much fun when we get to go outside because the fresh air feels really good. We play all kinds of cool games like dodgeball, jump rope, and turtle tag. Turtle tag is my favorite because you can pretend to be a turtle in a shell to stay safe from the tagger! I also love jumping rope because it's a big challenge to see how many jumps you can do without stopping. Challenges are great because they help you practice, and when you practice, you get better and better until you ace it! Physical education helps our bodies by building muscles and increasing our endurance (running and moving without getting out of breath). Gym is fun but it is important too!



OUR ENDANGERED FRIENDS

KOALAS

By: Julianna Buckheit



This month's endangered animal is the Koala. First of all, we have to agree on one thing... Koalas are one of the cutest animals on earth. Good, now that you agree, this is the moment you have been waiting for! I am here to tell you all about Koalas.

Koalas have very soft fur. They look like cuddly teddy bears! Did you know that a baby Koala is called a joey? Most Koalas grow up to 24 to 30 inches, but a joey is as small as a jellybean?! Joeys are blind, earless, and hairless when they are born. EW! I'm not going to want to go to the zoo and see a joey anytime soon! Koalas are very good tree climbers. Koalas love to eat eucalyptus leaves. Koalas are usually found near Australia. These cute and cuddly creatures are the best! Don't you agree? Let's learn more about them! Koalas can sleep for 18-22 hours a day! That means that they only have two hours before they go to sleep, AGAIN! Did you know that sleeping actually helps Koalas save energy? Koalas are very lazy. They spend 95% of their time in trees! That is like you staying inside of your house for 22 HOURS and 48 minutes per day!

Koalas have very large, cute, and VERY FLUFFY ears! Koalas are usually referred to as "Koala Bears," but unfortunately this particular name is incorrect. They are not bears. So, if you ever hear anyone say "Koala Bears," tell them that that is incorrect. Thank you!

Did you know that Koalas smell like cough drops? Yes, you read that right. They smell like cough drops because they eat eucalyptus leaves. Koalas have excellent hearing. Their scientific name is *Phascolarctos Cinereus*. Koalas actually prefer to live alone! Koalas are related to wombats and kangaroos.

Okay, let's get to the point of this article! Koalas are ENDANGERED! "Oh No!" "Why do Koalas have to be endangered?!" "Well that is what I am going to tell you right now!" Koalas are endangered because of bushfires, climate change, and disease. Farming and the building of shelters has caused Koalas to be driven away from their homes. However, you can help Koalas by adopting one."Oh my gosh!" You can volunteer or donate to: Australian Koala Foundation, WWF-Australia, and Friends of the Koala. You can also (in Australia) plant eucalyptus trees to help Koalas. I hope you liked learning about Koalas! Claws out and have a Koala filled day!

EARTH DAY

By Ava Abu Laban, E'Laysia Mendez, Haven Weah



Do you know what Earth Day is? Earth Day is on April 22, and it started in 1970 because Senator Gaylord Nelson wanted people to care more about the environment. Earth Day helps us learn how to protect nature and our planet. For example, in 2011 volunteers helped plant millions of trees in Afghanistan to make the land greener. In 2012, over 100,000 people in China rode bikes to cut down on CO2 and fuel use. In 2024, more than 400 Guayacán seedlings were planted in Panama to help save that tree from disappearing. Earth Day and the people who celebrate it have also helped push for important laws like the Clean Water Act and rules about waste and chemicals so our water and land stay safe. If you didn't know, Earth Day is a day each year when we all try to take care of the world.

MOVIE REVIEW

The Truman Show

By Lithuli Wijenayakage

There are many movies for kids, adults, and teens. Some are animated, and some have real people. There are funny movies and scary ones too. No matter what kind of movie you like, they all have a message or lesson. I'm going to tell you about an amazing, fun movie: *The Truman Show* from 1998!

At the start, Truman thinks he lives a normal life. But something sad happened—his dad “died” by falling off a boat. Because of that, Truman is super scared of water. He can't even drive across a bridge! He has a cheerful wife, a very protective mom, nice neighbors, and good friends. But one day, he starts to think that someone—or even everyone—is watching him.

You know how TV shows have commercials? Well, one morning at breakfast, his wife suddenly talks like she's in a commercial! She says, “Why don't you let me make some Mococoa drink? It's all natural and has no fake sugar.” Truman gets confused and says, “What are you talking about? Who are you talking to?” She keeps going like nothing is wrong! Truman gets upset and wants to know what is happening. Then his friend Marlon comes in and calms things down.

Later, Truman and Marlon sit together, and something surprising happens. Truman sees his dad again! It's very emotional. But guess what? It's not really his dad—it's just an actor! Truman doesn't know that. He also remembers a girl named Lauren, who he liked more than his wife. She once told him that everything in his life is fake and that he is on a TV show! She even said her real name is Sylvia. But before she could explain more, she was taken away.

At the end, Truman decides to find the truth. He sails across the water, even though he is scared. He finally reaches the edge of his world and learns the truth. Then he says his famous line: “In case I don't see you, good afternoon, good evening, and good night!” In the end, this movie teaches us a lesson: always be yourself and be kind to others. Thanks for reading, and have an awesome day!

THE Legend OF THE RING TAIL

A Short Story Series by Leo Mezzacappa

Chapter 2: Storm Stops

By the time Dad checked the storm, it was over. Their house was mangled, shredded and ruined. They didn't even have a mailbox. "I heard one of the rings on the Ring Tail can give you three wishes." Grandpa Henry said. All they had left was a survival bunker with 6 beds, a mini freezer and a closet. Elijah is terrified of that closet, she thinks monsters go in there. "Dad, how about you go with Elijah and Max on an adventure to find that Ring Tail?" Dad said. "Finally I get to do something fun with Elijah!" Max said. Elijah just rolled her eyes. "Max you are so annoying," Elijah said. Mom realized Grandma was missing. "Mom, mom, where are you?" As Mom said that, Grandma fell from the sky right into Mom's face, sending her backwards onto the ground. "Oh, heavens sake that was a wild ride," Grandma said. Mom got up off the floor feeling dizzy. Grandpa Henry, Max and Elijah went off waving to Mom, Dad and Grandma. The storm was so fierce that animals from all over, including the local zoo, were flying everywhere! A penguin flew down from the sky and stayed with Grandma, Mom and Dad. Another mouth to feed! "Let's get this party started guys!" Grandpa Henry said. Elijah and Max at the same time both said "Alright!"

Pick up next month's Cub Edition to read more!

BOOK REVIEW

By Julianna Buckheit



I just finished Dork Diaries book #8, Tales from a Not-So Happily Ever After, by Rachel Renee Russell and you should read it! Nikki wakes up late because her little sister Brianna keeps taking her alarm and makes weird PB&J-with-pickles sandwiches. At school Nikki is embarrassed when Mackenzie teases her and a sandwich ends up all over her new sweater—so gross! In English class Nikki writes a fairy tale with Brandon as the hero and gets lost in the story. There's also a chance to go to a journalism camp as the cartoonist, but Brianna drains Nikki's phone battery so she misses a message. Later Nikki plays dodgeball and gets hit in the face by Mackenzie—then something big and mysterious happens. Read the book to find out what happens next—it's funny and full of surprises!

ELEMENTARY EVENTS

April

By: E'Laysia Mendez

The flowers are starting to bloom, it's getting warmer outside, today is the day to get ready to have some fun, because Spring Recess is right around the corner! Spring Recess is relaxing but right after, we have to get back to work! Attention 3rd graders and 4th graders! Get your thinking caps on because State Testing is coming up after Spring Recess on April 15 - 16, as well as April 28 - 29.

Also, for 4th graders, the Alice Austen House Program finally begins on April 23! Next up, 1st graders, get ready to pack your lunches because you are going to the aquarium on April 24! The Petrides Theater is getting a lot of use this month! The PAL talent show is coming up on May 1 and practice is taking place throughout the weeks in April.

Our high school is also using the Petrides Theater this month as they put on the play Little Shop of Horrors from April 24-26. You can buy your tickets online or at the door. Well, that is all for April! Stay pawsome!

CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD

Australia

By: Yasmin Buschmann

I recently took a trip to Australia to see my mom's side of the family. My cousin told me about his school, and I decided to write an article in our newspaper about how the schools are different and how they are similar. Here are some things that my cousin told me.

School in America starts at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 2:20 p.m., but school in Australia starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Another school time difference is America has 1 recess period that is about 25 minutes, but Australia has 1 recess that is about 30 minutes.



America has 1 lunch period and a recess period. Australia has lunch period and a snack attached to recess. Another way the lunches differ is that Australia has no cafeteria, and America has a cafeteria.

America has buses, walkers, and afterschool. Australia has walkers and after school.

In America, pre-k is called kinder but in Australia, kindergarten is called prep, and elementary school is called primary school. Also, in Australia, high school starts in 7th grade and is called college; college is called college university.

Even though schools are different in America and Australia, I think that all schools are wonderful wherever they are. I hope you enjoyed my article on schools!

Kindergarten Cuties from page 1

They must have practiced a lot! Soon after, Mr. Lyman, the elementary dean, told everyone what the cuties' names were and what they want to be when they grow up. First up, Ms. DeAngelo's class! What cuties! They are so adorable! K020 was next! Ms. Komar and Ms. Sims class! Cute poses. Some of the boys did the Spider-Man pose, meanwhile, the girls did cute hands-under-chin- pose or a peace sign or sassy poses. After that, K021, Ms. Kambouris's class! Well dressed! The girls had on smocked dresses, fit-and-flares, tutus, and tiered designs. The boys wore patterned blazers, branded graphic tees, trendy joggers, stylish sneakers, designer suits with bow ties, branded hoodies with joggers, or trendy linen rompers. Not bad! K022 showing off their fashion. The "little-ladies" were showing off their sparkly dresses while the "mini-gentleman" were wearing proper suits! In the end, Mr. Lyman concluded the show and thanked the parents for coming and thanked the helpers who helped make this show happen. Hope you enjoyed reading! Stay tuned for the next newspaper!



THE GREAT CHOCOLATE DEBATE

Milk vs Dark

By Tire Kuju (milk chocolate) and Leo Mezzacappa (dark chocolate)



In my opinion, dark chocolate is better than milk chocolate. Dark chocolate is good for you. You see, dark chocolate has nutrient dense cacao, iron and magnesium. Dark chocolate is also tasty! People from all around the globe love its melty deliciousness. Most healthy foods don't taste very good for most people, but dark chocolate is the best with its scrumptiousness. Dark chocolate is also dairy free, which is amazing news for people with dairy allergies. In my research, I learned that dark chocolate comes from cacao beans, then turned into chocolate, without cow's milk. Everybody probably knows the company named Hershey that makes those candy bars. You might think Hershey only makes milk chocolate. Well, you're in luck because they make dark chocolate too! Not to brag, but I've been to Hershey Park before so I know. Have a lovely day and it doesn't have to be this exact day, but maybe try some dark chocolate. You never know, you might like it!

Continued on page 9

EASTER

By Ashlynn Olah



Easter is a really fun holiday where you get to celebrate the day that Jesus rose from the dead. Even if you aren't Christian or Catholic there are still fun ways you can celebrate like hanging out with family or doing an Easter egg hunt.

There are many ways you can celebrate Easter. One way is having an Easter egg hunt. Either you or someone else can hide eggs and people have to find them. Another way to celebrate is having a nice breakfast, brunch, or dinner with family, relatives, or friends. Those are some ways to celebrate Easter.

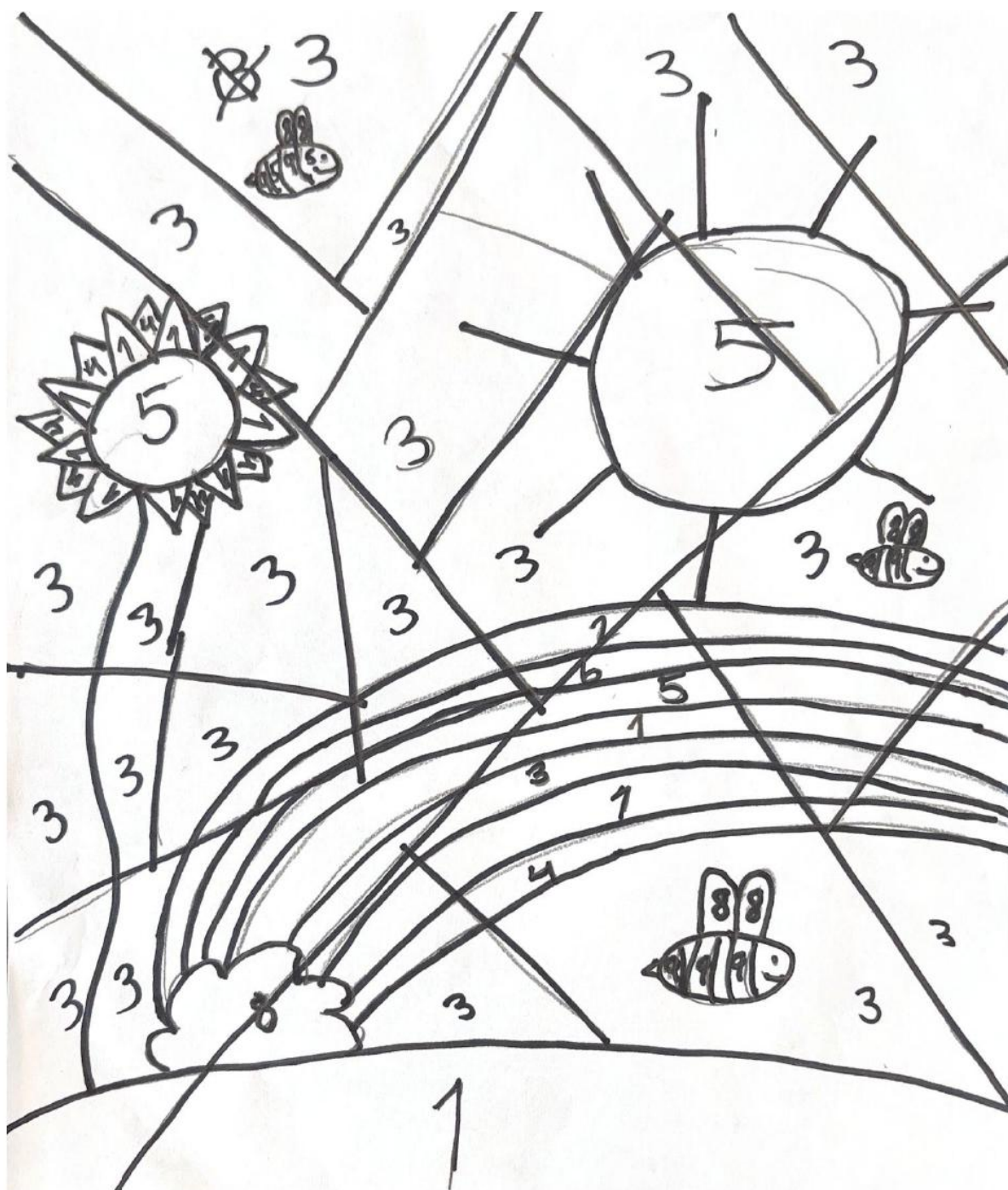
Easter isn't just about the gifts and candy but about how Jesus rose from the dead. Yes, it's true he actually rose from the dead. Jesus was forced to carry his cross that he was going to be crucified on. He was also forced to wear a "crown of thorns" on his head. He carried the cross 2,000 feet, and 600 meters for more than an hour. He was nailed to the cross.

Well in this article I told you all about Easter and I hope you enjoyed it.

The Great Chocolate Debate continued from page 8: In my opinion, milk chocolate is better than dark chocolate. One reason why I think milk chocolate is better than dark chocolate is because milk chocolate is sweeter and creamier than dark chocolate. I also like milk chocolate because it doesn't taste bitter like dark chocolate. In my research I found that, milk chocolate is different from dark chocolate because "milk chocolate (10 - 50 % cacao) is sweeter, creamier, and contains added milk solids/powder. While dark chocolate (50 - 90 % cacao) is richer in antioxidants and lower in sugar, offering a bitter, intense taste compared to the sweeter, creamier, and milk-heavy milk chocolate. Milk chocolate typically consists of cocoa solids (cocoa butter and cocoa mass), sugar, and milk powder, forming a creamy, sweet confection, often containing at least 25% cocoa and 14% milk solids." Another reason why I think milk chocolate is better is because milk chocolate is more popular and well-known than dark chocolate. For example, most Hershey products are made with milk chocolate. If you have ever eaten chocolate eggs, you've tasted a treat made with milk chocolate! Chocolate milk is also made using milk chocolate. That is why I like milk chocolate more than dark chocolate. Hope you get a chance to try it.

COLOR BY NUMBER

By Ashlynn Olah



0 - White

1 - Green

2 - Red

3 - Blue

4 - Pink

5 - Yellow

6 - Orange

7 - Purple

8 - Grey

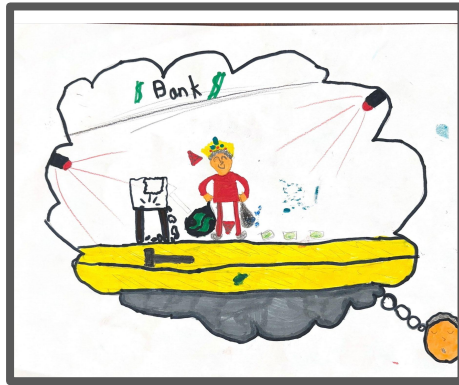
9 - Black

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

Joke of the Month

By Yasmin Buschmann, Seth Destajo, Alianna Mora, Mazen Sallam

Why did the police arrest the little boy who was taking a nap?



Answer: Because he was under a rest!

APRIL WORD SEARCH

By Abigail De Los Angeles and Daniel Selby

A	W	E	I	N	X	Y	V	N	A	E	L	C	D	A
X	P	F	K	W	F	D	N	C	W	X	Y	N	N	X
P	A	R	A	I	N	A	K	N	Z	Y	N	O	F	Y
K	S	U	I	Z	E	P	C	M	U	N	O	C	N	D
W	S	Y	X	L	Z	R	O	P	Q	B	C	O	P	O
L	O	W	N	I	V	I	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	K
N	V	K	T	H	Q	L	U	R	S	T	A	A	H	L
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Z	F	R	R	Y	G	O	A	T	Y	Z	Z	S	X	Z
V	W	K	C	T	S	L	Y	A	B	C	E	X	W	I
X	Z	Y	M	N	H	S	G	R	A	I	N	B	O	W
W	O	Q	S	W	W	D	Z	Y	E	K	W	S	E	Q
K	V	W	X	Y	K	L	A	O	P	R	Z	X	R	F
S	U	C	H	I	C	K	S	Y	S	Y	O	N	N	Y

WORD BANK

April fools	Chicks	Earth day	Flowers	Rainbow
April	Clean	Easter	Passover	Rain
Bunny	Chocolates	Eggs	Planet	Sunday