



May 2026

THE PAW PRINT CUB EDITION



3RD GRADE BEAUTY AND BRUSH STROKES



By Ashlynn Olah

Throughout the past 2 weeks, second and third graders worked on a Mother's Day painting project with a lady, or other adult, that is special in their lives. I interviewed third and second graders and asked them all about the event. I asked them when they did it, who came, what did you do, and what was your favorite part. This is what each of them said. Third grader Tire said that they did the painting on May 4. Her mom came and together they painted beautiful roses. She said her favorite part was the end because in the beginning it was just a circle but at the end it was a pretty rose. Then I interviewed third grader Abigail. Her class did their paintings on May 5. Her aunt came and they also painted flowers. She said her favorite part was how she painted the leaves of the flower. I then interviewed second grader Denym. She did this project on May 7. Her mom came and they also painted flowers. She said her favorite part was that it was in the morning and she got to do it right when she got to school. Lastly I interviewed second grader Jeremy. His class did it on May 3. His mom came and yes, they also painted flowers. He said his favorite part was coloring it in. In conclusion, this is the feedback I heard from the kids I interviewed. I hope you enjoyed!

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

By: Tiwa Kuju and Alianna Mora

For the month of May, we interviewed a special teacher! Ms. McFarland!

She said her favorite food is pizza, her favorite drink is Gatorade, and her favorite snack is Original Oreos. Her favorite fruit is strawberries, and her favorite pizza topping is buffalo chicken. She also loves mint chocolate chip ice cream and regular chocolate ice cream.

This teacher's favorite animal is a sea turtle, and she has a dog named Jackson.

She was born in 1993, and now it is 2026—do the math to figure out her age! Her favorite thing about being a teacher is sharing her passions with her students, and she truly loves teaching. Her birthday is on August 15th. Before becoming a teacher, she worked in Brooklyn.

Thank you Ms. McFarland for being a great teacher!



MOTHERS DAY & MAY BIRTHDAYS

By: Winona Christensen

This month is May and Mothers day is coming up! Also, some very important celebrities have birthdays in May. They are:

- 1.)- (May 1) Jamie Dornan, Wes Anderson
- 2.)- (May 2) David Beckham
- 3.)- (May 5) Adele
- 4.)- (May 7) Mr.Beast
- 5.)- (May 11) Sabrina Carpenter
- 6.)- (May 19) Jojo Siwa

And someone in my family also has a birthday in May! *drumroll* And It is... my little sister VIOLET!!! On May 8th, Violet will be turning 4. WOW! She's getting OLD!!! Personal little note, Happy birthday Violet! I love you so much and I hope you have the best day of your life!

Mother's Day will be two days later on May 10th! Don't worry mom, the kids will handle EVERYTHING. Shout out to all the moms out there and kids - make this Mother's day one to remember!



THIS OR THAT

A Friendly Debate about... The Best Candy

By Julianna Buckheit (Sour Patch Kids) and Lithuli (Snickers)

I think Snickers are better than Sour Patch Kids because they have a tastier flavor than the gummies. Also, believe it or not, chocolate is healthier than Sour Patch Kids. Snickers are eaten more than Sour Patch Kids. In fact, Snickers are the best-selling chocolate in the whole world! They are made with peanuts, a chocolate outside, and the chewy caramel inside. Snickers are known worldwide. While Sour Patch Kids are sour, and some people like that, I think they are too sour. They are also too chewy, and they can stick to or teeth which can cause dental problems. They are also made with artificial colors and flavors, and have 24 grams of sugar and 110 calories per serving. Snickers provide us with some calcium from the milk. This is why, in my opinion, Snickers are better than Sour Patch Kids.



I think Sour Patch Kids are better than Snickers because... Wait, Wait, Wait. I didn't tell you. I don't like chocolate so I LOVE GUMMIES. Even though junk food is bad for your health, I have it (only sometimes though.) I think Sour Patch Kids are better than Snickers. One reason I think Sour Patch Kids are better than Snickers is because the sourness adds flavor to the gummies. Another reason I think Sour Patch Kids are better than Snickers is because Sour Patch Kids comes in all different shapes, sizes, colors, and a million flavors! For example, there are watermelon shaped, spring themed and so much more! While Snickers on the other hand does not have many shapes, sizes, colors, or flavors. Okay, I can't fight with Lithuli about the ingredients, they are not the best for you, but Sour Patch kids are just a nice snack to have sometimes. This is why I think Sour Patch kids are better than Snickers.



DID YOU KNOW?

Black Holes

By Tiwa Kuju

Have you ever wondered about one of the biggest mysteries in the whole universe? You've probably heard of it... that's right—BLACK HOLES!

People say if you fall into one, you'll stretch like spaghetti and never come back! Some think black holes are just science fiction, but space scientists believe they're real. They're so strange that they almost break the laws of physics.

Gravity and How It Works

To understand black holes, we have to talk about gravity. Gravity is what pulls us down to the ground. A long time ago, Isaac Newton figured this out when an apple fell from a tree. He made a theory that said heavier objects fall faster than lighter ones.

But then came Albert Einstein, who took gravity to a whole new level. Newton's ideas worked for about 250 years, but Einstein discovered something even cooler. He made two famous theories:

1. Special Theory of Relativity (1905) – about matter, energy, and the speed of light.
2. General Theory of Relativity (1915) – about gravity and how it shapes space.

Einstein said gravity isn't just a force—it actually bends space! Imagine space as a big stretchy grid. When something heavy, like a planet or a star, sits on it, the grid bends down. The heavier the object, the deeper the bend. Other things nearby roll into it—kind of like how a marble rolls into a pit. Black holes are the deepest pits of all. If the pit is shallow, you can climb out. But if it's super deep—like a black hole—you can't escape.

How a Black Hole Is Born

A black hole starts as a star, just like our sun. When a star runs out of fuel near the end of its life, it grows much bigger and hotter. Scientists think our sun could grow more than 200 times its size one day! After that, the star might cool into a white dwarf or explode in a giant supernova (or even a hypernova!). What's left then collapses under its own gravity, and that's how a black hole forms.

The Big Mystery

Some people think black holes might be tunnels to other universes. Others believe there could be white holes, which do the opposite—they spit things out instead of pulling them in!

No one knows for sure, but black holes and white holes are still some of the biggest mysteries in space!



OUR ENDANGERED FRIENDS

Polar Bear

By Lithuli Wijenayakage

Hi Panther Nation!

Can you imagine a world without some of the animals we know and love? Animals like the Javan rhinoceros, Amur leopard, and Hawksbill sea turtle are all endangered. “Endangered” means they are at risk of disappearing forever.

One of the world’s most endangered animals is the Vaquita, a rare type of porpoise. Scientists estimate that only 6–8 remain in the wild. Another endangered animal is our fuzzy Arctic friend, the Polar bear. While there are still about 22,000–31,000 polar bears left, they are listed as a threatened species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

You may think, “That sounds like a lot, so they must be fine.” Unfortunately, that is not true. Polar bears and many other Arctic animals, such as Penguin, Seal, and Sea lion, are struggling because their habitats are changing rapidly.

As factories and vehicles continue to burn fossil fuels, Earth’s temperature rises and Arctic ice begins to melt. This melting ice can separate animals from their families, mates, and young, making survival even more difficult.

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FIRST TIME TAKING THE TEST

By: Abigail De Los Angeles and Tire Kuju

In April and May, our third graders took their first State ELA and Math exams. Here’s what we thought about it.

Tire:

My feeling on the state test is that it was easier than I thought it was going to be. But on the morning of day 2, the computers weren’t working. We waited a little while but we couldn’t log into the test. So, the third and fourth graders went to lunch and were told we would try again later. In the afternoon, we tried logging on again and it worked! When I did the math, there were fractions, which was simple, but I made sure to check myself on the paper to make sure I got it correct. There were different versions of the test. Other people got a lot of clock questions but I only got one or two. It was simple and fair. There were some multiplication, addition, subtraction, and division problems. In reading, I think all third grade had the same questions and stories. I didn’t mind taking the state tests. I actually liked it!

Abigail:

Actually, it wasn’t bad after all! At first, I was nervous and I thought I was doomed. But when I started it, it seemed very, very easy. Test 1&2 for reading was just the same feeling I had for Math. That’s how I felt in Reading & Math.

THE Legend OF THE RING TAIL

A Short Story Series by Leo Mezzacappa

Chapter 3: Adventure Begins

Elijah, Max and Grandpa Henry packed a tent, some food and officially went off. “AHHHHHH A BEE GET IT OFF AHHHHHH!” Max screamed. “Welcome to Wildwood Forest, home of Rooftop Mountain!” Grandpa Henry said. “Whats so good about a mountain Grandpa Henry?” Elijah Asked. “At the summit there is a portal that takes you to Candyland, and if you travel east of Candyland, you find the Ring Tail.” Two hours later, Grandpa Henry said “I’m so tired. Can we rest now?” Elijah asked with sweat dripping down her face. “Sure, you’re not the only one who’s tired” Grandpa Henry said, taking out the tent and placing it on the ground. Elijah was so tired she fell asleep, Max was chilling, and of course Grandpa Henry was reading his boring ol’ newspaper. There was a huge growling sound outside and Max decided he was brave enough to check it out. IT WAS A BEAR! “AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!” Max screamed. Elijah woke up and elbowed Grandpa Henry. “Uhh Grandpa,” Elijah said. “Look out the tent.” “OH MY GUACAMOLE, MAX!” Grandpa Henry yelled. Grandpa Henry grabbed his newspaper and hit the bear. The bear was dumb enough to be scared of rolled up paper and it ran away. Grandpa grabbed Max and ran into the tent. “Are you okay Max?” Grandpa Henry asked. Max had a few scratches and bruises from head to toe, but he was okay. The next day, Grandpa Henry said “You see, Rooftop Mountain is also famous because it is the 2nd tallest mountain in the world and it has snow at the top.” Everyone was sweating and tripping over things as they walked up the giant mountain, but they never gave up. Only 10 more steps.

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

Polar Bears from page 5

The good news is that we can all help protect endangered species and our planet. You can save energy, recycle plastic, walk or ride a bike instead of driving, and encourage others to care for the environment too.

So remember: do your part to make the world a better place. Claws out, Panthers — and let’s protect polar bears, endangered species, and the Earth!

MEMORIAL DAY

By Julianna Buckheit

Memorial Day is a very special holiday that not only honors fallen soldiers but also shows America how brave these people were! I mean, they risked their lives just to fight for their country. These people have a very special celebration just for them. It is called Memorial Day.

Memorial Day is important because it honors the fallen soldiers who fought in wars and have passed away. They sacrificed themselves, not knowing if they would come out alive. They didn't care. These Americans spent hours, days, weeks, months, years, away from their families just so they could fight for America.

On Memorial Day, a lot of people go to cemeteries and bring poppies which were inspired by a famous poem. People also throw parties, barbecues, and special celebrations for the veterans who fought for our country!

Memorial Day started on May 30, 1868. Memorial Day used to be called "Decoration Day," but that soon changed after 1967 when it officially became Memorial Day.

So, the next time Memorial Day comes around, remember who fought for our country, and what it's really about!



GIVE THE TEACHERS some Love



By: Seth Desajo

Last week it was Teacher Appreciation Week. We celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week to appreciate the teachers who help us enhance our knowledge and help us focus more throughout the school year and makes us better at listening. Our teachers do so much for us throughout the year so its nice to thank them for all they do. To show your appreciation, you can gift your teachers with flowers or gift bags or a thank you card to show how much you appreciate them! Even a little something like a hug and telling them how much they mean to you will make them happy. I appreciate my teachers Ms.Grissler, Ms.Carwana and Mr.Lyman for helping me learn throughout this school year! Thank you to my teachers and all the teachers at Petrides for all they do for their students!

UPCOMING ELEMENTARY EVENTS

By Mazen Sallam and Daniel Selby

There are so many activities on the Petrides campus at the end of the school year. Here are some of the activities that are happening in May and June for our elementary students.

On the 15th there will be a Soap Box Derby at our school! If you want, you can watch it happen! It's a fun event. On MAY 19-21 the Scholastic book fair will take place in our library. Make sure you bring your money! MAY 20th there will be a celebration for Memorial day on our campus and on May 22nd, our PTA will be giving us a carnival. Make sure you are prepared with socks and sneakers! The 25th is Memorial Day and there is no school that day. The 27th is Eid al-Adha. Another day off! Finally, on May 29th there will be the 1st grade picnic. Make sure you pack good snacks and sunblock!

June is full of excitement at Petrides. On June 2nd there will be a Readers are Leaders celebration in the cafeteria. On June 4th and 5th students do not have school...but teachers do! On June 9th Kindergarten and Pre-K have their moving up ceremonies. Happy graduation to Pre-K and Kindergarten. On June 11th the PTA is having an ice cream sale. Make sure to bring money. On June 19 we will have the day off because of Juneteenth. And the best day of the year...June 26 will be the last day of school!

LEARN FRENCH

A POEM FOR MOTHER'S DAY

By Yasmin Buschmann

For Mom

I love my grandma, grandpa, mother, and father.

I love them all so dearly,
Though there is one so lovely,
Mothers clean and care for the house,
They keep the children happy,
They drive them to school every day,
To help their education,
I love my mother!

Pour Maman

J'aime ma grand-mère, mon grand-père, ma mère et mon père.

Je les aime tous si tendrement,
Bien qu'il y en ait une si adorable,
Les mères nettoient et prennent soin de la maison,
Elles rendent les enfants heureux,
Elles les conduisent à l'école tous les jours,
Pour les aider dans leur éducation,
J'aime ma mère!



LET me TELL YOU ABOUT... BLUEY!

By Lithuli Wijenayakage

Everyone has their favorite show. Power Rangers, Paw Patrol, Peppa Pig, SpongeBob, and many more. And almost everyone enjoys watching them. From the sad parts to the funny parts, the iconic parts to the surprising-plot twists! I'm describing an all-time best TV shows that started in 2018. There will be a movie of it, and there's a minecraft mod of it too. Have you guessed it yet? If you didn't, it's Bluey! It's a very popular show! Read on to about one of the episodes, *The Sleepover!*

It begins when Chillli Heeler, Bluey and Bingo's mum saying their cousin Muffin can stay for a sleepover. What starts as a fun night quickly becomes chaotic! The sisters soon realize why Muffin is more energetic than usual. She did not have her nap! So, now they have a problem. They get to stay up late if Muffin is there, but Muffin is tired and she needs to go to sleep. Quick thinking, Bluey and Bingo try to play games to help Muffy stay awake so they can stay up too, but that soon backfires. Being so overtired, Muffin becomes cranky. Bluey soon realizes that they need to take care of their cousin and let her rest and that that is more important than staying up late. If you haven't watched Bluey, give it a try. You may like it and learn something new!

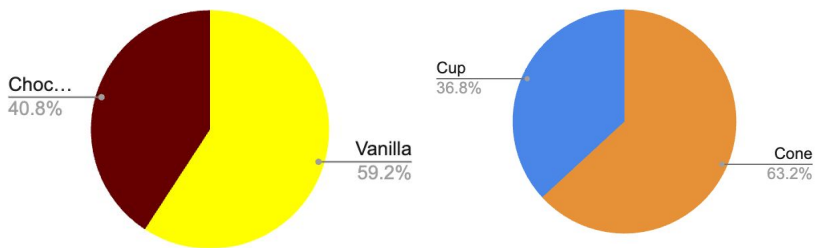
WE ASKED, YOU ANSWERED

Favorite Ice Cream

By

This month we went around asking our fellow Petridians what flavor of ice cream they preferred; vanilla or chocolate. We also wanted to know if they liked to eat their ice cream out of a cone or a cup and this is what they said:

We asked 76 people in all and 45 people said that vanilla was their favorite. The remaining 31 people voted for chocolate. Even though vanilla won, chocolate is still amazing!



When we asked about how people liked to eat their ice cream, 48 people said they liked to have theirs in a cone and 28 said they liked a cup better! Either way you eat it, ice cream is a delicious dessert! What is your favorite ice cream flavor and how do you like to eat it? Inquiring minds want to know!

BOOK REVIEW

By Abigail De Los Angeles

Aphmau: Searching for Home



Today, I will tell you about a girl named Aphmau. She was bullied when she started at a new school. On her first day, she got very bad grades, including an F, which made her feel sad and embarrassed. After school, three girls bullied her even more, and she became very upset.

Then a boy named Aaron stepped in and protected her. Aphmau started to like Aaron because they both have names that start with the letter "A."

Later, when Aphmau's birthday arrived, something amazing happened — the real world suddenly turned into Minecraft, her favorite game! This story was exciting because it mixed real-life problems with a fun adventure in the Minecraft world.

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

MAY RIDDLE

What animal isn't born with wings but has an innate ability to fly?

(innate means abilities that you are born with)



MAY WORD SEARCH

By Winona Christensen

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

WORD BANK

BIRDS	BLOSSOM	BREEZE	BUNNY	BUTTERFLY
CATERPILLARS	FLOWERS	GARDENER	LADYBUG	LILY
MAY	NEST	PICNIC	POLLEN	RAINBOW
RAIN	SNAIL	SPROUT	SUNSHINE	SWAN
TULIP				