

PAW PRINTS

Advisor: Mrs. Poulton

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The Wizards Game

By: Rose N.



The recent Harlem Wizards game in Mt. Laurel was a success, with sold-out seats and 5 digits in funds raised. The Wizards played in a basketball game against staff members from all the Mount Laurel schools. The game was held at Lenape High School on February 24. The Wizards team, created in 1962, focuses on entertaining their crowd with tricks rather than winning games.

The event was organized by the Harrington and Hartford School PTO(HHSPTO). They formed a Wizards Planning Committee that was made up of parents who were interested in helping with planning the event. The co-presidents of the PTO chaired the committee and other members of the committee worked on planning concessions, marketing on Facebook, coordinating sponsorships, and more.

1,150 tickets were sold weeks before the event. The Wizards Game raised over \$16,000. This money from the game will help fund the PTO's budget for the year. This includes paying for clubs, assemblies, and activities at both Harrington and Hartford.

The staff members from Mount Laurel schools that participated in the event are:

Harrington:

- Ms. Arnot
- Mr. Besler
- Ms. Langford
- Ms. Moule
- Ms. Weiner

Parkway:

- Ms. Bieler
- Ms. Cassidy
- Ms. Cloud
- Mr. Conti
- Ms. Todd
- Ms. Wiley

Hartford:

- Ms. DiGirolamo
- Ms. Kennedy
- Mr. Seville
- Ms. Woodend

Springville:

- Ms. Daroshefski
- Ms. Puche

Fleetwood:

- Ms. Siwiec(Coach)
- Ms. Kaler

Larchmont:

- Ms. Sierenberg
- Ms. Skacel
- Mr. Bowman(Referee)

At the event, there were also four souvenir sales staff members from three different schools:

- **Ms. Chen from Parkway**
- **Dr. Madden from Hillside**
- **Ms. Mellin from Hillside**
- **Ms. Vincent from Larchmont**

Ms. Booser, the HHSPTO Co-President, says what they love most about hosting the Wizards game is what a wonderful community event it is. Staff from all eight schools come together for this fun-filled game. Hosting this event would not be possible without the volunteers who play and the parent volunteers who helped everything run smoothly.



These are some of the staff members from Harrington who played in the game. From left to right, the staff includes Mr. Besler, Ms. Weiner, Ms. Langford, and Ms. Arnot. We had a great team of staff who worked together to have fun at this event.

Famous African American Women

Celebrate Women's History Month

By Aarav S and Vik A



Oprah Winfrey is a woman who came from rural Mississippi. She has made a name for herself as a media host, actress, and author. She is most famous for her talk show, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, which broadcasts from Chicago, and ran for 25 seasons and became one of the most successful shows to this day. She has received numerous awards for her work, including two Oscar nominations. Even though Oprah had built a huge empire, she funded a scholarship fund at Morehouse College. Additionally, She wrote multiple books such as *“What I Know for Sure”*. At 17, she won the Miss Black Tennessee beauty pageant, which marked the beginning of her journey to success.



Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama was the former First Lady of the United States and the first African American First Lady. This was because her husband Barack Obama was the 44th President of the United States. She inspired many women, broke multiple stereotypes, and advocated for healthy nutrition, women's rights, and proper education. She is also a well-known author, and some of her popular books include *Becoming*, *The Light We Carry*, and *American Grown*. She is also an attorney.



Barbara Jordan was an American lawyer, educator, and politician. She was a civil leader in civil rights for people of color, LGBT individuals, and people with disabilities. She inspired multiple people, broke stereotypes, and helped bring equal rights. Also, she became the first African American, and the first woman to deliver a keynote address at the Democratic National Convention. Additionally, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Something that we can all learn from is that you can make change happen.



Serena Jameka Williams is one of the greatest female tennis players of all time! She was ranked 1 in singles for 319 weeks by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA). She finished No. 1 at the year-end 5 times! She won 23 Grand Slams which is the 2nd most of all time. Not only that, but she is the only player to get a Golden Slam in both singles and doubles. Besides being amazing at tennis, she has her clothing line, S by Serena, and is a UNICEF International Goodwill Ambassador and she opened two schools in Kenya.

In Honor of Read Across America

Author Spotlight: Jason Reynolds

Jason Reynolds is best known for his poignant portrayals of the urban adolescent experience. Born on December 6, 1983, in Washington, D.C., Reynolds says that his upbringing profoundly influenced his writing, and readers praise him for his authenticity.

Reynolds did not have an easy path to literary success. Despite his passion for storytelling from a young age, he struggled academically and grappled with undiagnosed ADHD, which hindered his ability to focus in school. However, his love for literature continued, and he found peace in books, particularly those that reflected his own experiences.

After high school, Reynolds attended the University of Maryland, where he initially pursued a career in acting. However, that all changed when he discovered poetry slams, where he practiced his craft and found his voice as a writer. His experiences as a performer influenced his writing style, infusing it with rhythm, rhythm, and raw emotion.

Reynolds made his literary debut in 2014 with the novel *When I Was the Greatest*, which gained critical acclaim

and established him as a rising star in young adult literature. Since then, he has penned numerous award-winning novels, including *Ghost*, *Long Way Down*, and *All American Boys*, co-written with Brendan Kiely.

One of Reynolds' greatest strength as an author is his ability to write about the difficulties of being a kid. His characters struggle with issues of identity, race, family, and societal expectations, resonating with readers of all ages. Through his writing, Reynolds confronts uncomfortable situations and challenges, sparking important conversations about race, justice, and equity.

In addition to his work as a novelist, Reynolds is a passionate advocate for literacy and youth empowerment. He visits schools and

community organizations to speak about the power of literature and the importance of representation in storytelling. He believes that all kids should be able to see themselves in the books that they read.

Jason Reynolds' impact on young adult literature is undeniable. Kids who

pick up his books feel a sense of belonging, and his powerful storytelling and ability to tackle difficult issues, make him a favorite amongst readers across the world.

π

By Anuja G. and Maddison D.



The History of Pi

A lot of people at least know what Pi is. A lot of math nerds celebrate Pi on 3/14, Pi Day. But Do you know where it came from?

Pi is older than you might think. It's been around for almost 4000 years. So it's pretty old. The first ones to calculate the first digits of Pi were the Babylonians.

"The first calculation of π was done by Archimedes of Syracuse \ (287–212 BC), one of the greatest mathematicians of the ancient world. Archimedes approximated the area of a circle by using the Pythagorean Theorem to find the areas of two regular polygons: the polygon inscribed within the circle and the polygon within which the circle was circumscribed." states The San Francisco Exploratorium.

Fun fact! Pi is the 16th letter in the Greek alphabet (π)

However, the history of Pi Day? When and why was it first celebrated?

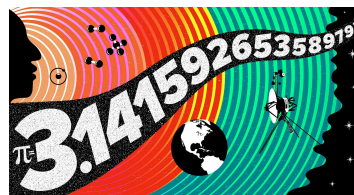
According to NASA, Pi Day was first celebrated on March 14, 1988. Of course, it included the consumption of fruit pies. It was held by a physicist at the Exploratorium (mentioned above). The reason it became celebrated is because math teachers realized how much easier it would be to get their students to be excited about Pi if they bribed them and made it fun with pies.

Celebrations of Pi Day

We all know that Pi Day is celebrated on March 14. But how can we celebrate it? What are the most common ways people celebrate Pi Day?

Well, the two most common ways to celebrate are hosting an eating pie contest or a Pi recitation competition. A pie-eating contest is exactly what it sounds like. There is a group of people being timed to see how fast they can eat several pies without using their hands. A Pi recitation contest is when you have multiple people trying to recite as many digits of pi from memory as they can.

Some other things you can do to celebrate are, bake different circle-shaped dishes, have a circle potluck, and host a pi party!



Happy Pi Day 2024!

Best Fantasy Baseball Prospects

By : Aashray S.

#3 - Yoshinobu Yamamoto

Yoshinobu Yamamoto is the best pitcher right now in my opinion. He has a fastball, curveball, changeup, etc to go along with his nasty splitter. He is the best pitching prospect to come out of Japan this season and I am expecting big things out of him.

#2 - Mookie Betts

Mookie Betts is an absolute stud. He can hit like a demon and plays surprisingly good defense. Coming off of an MVP-caliber season , Mookie Betts is expected to do the same this year. He will easily get you 400 - 500 fantasy points giving you a huge upper hand.

#1 - Julio Rodriguez

After two great rookie seasons for Julio, people expect him to break through this year making him a contender for the MVP award. Julio hits for power and plays outstanding defense in the outfield having won 2 Silver Slugger awards. I expect him to easily get you 490 to 500 points.

Unfinished story

(I started it so that you can finish it)

by SSS

The sunlight casts a golden glow over the school as if to say goodbye to the students for the day. Across the street, Emily's house looked inviting, with its red brick walls and white curtains. Emily and her friend Emma walked home from school, chatting about their plans for the weekend. They had been best friends since kindergarten, and they shared everything..

"Are you going to the dance on Friday?" Emma asked.

"I don't know maybe.. I don't have a date, though," Emily said.

"Me neither. But who cares? We can just go and have fun by ourselves. Maybe we'll meet someone there," Emma said, winking.

They reached Emily's house and hugged goodbye. "See you tomorrow, Em. Call me later, okay?" Emma said.

"Sure, Em.Bye," Emily said.

She opened the door and stepped inside. She took off her shoes and put them on the shoe rack. She smelled something delicious coming from the kitchen. She walked towards the dining room and saw her mom sitting at the table, smiling from ear to ear. "Hi, Mom. What's cooking?" Emily asked.

"Hi, sweetie. I have some great news for you. Guess who's coming to visit us?" Her mom asked. Emily felt a surge of excitement. She had a feeling she knew who it was. She hoped it was true.

"Is it.. Dad?" She asked.

Her mom nodded. "Yes, it is. He just called me. He's on his way. He'll be here in an hour." Emily wouldn't believe it. She hadn't seen her dad in over three years, since he was lost overseas fighting

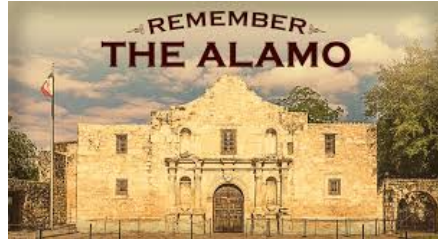
the monsters. Emily and her dad were really close; she missed him so much. She ran to her mom and hugged her. "Really? Dad's coming home? Oh, Mom, this is the best day ever!" She exclaimed.

"I know, honey. I'm so happy, too. He said he had a surprise for us. I wonder what it is," her mom said. They sat down at the table and waited for the doorbell to ring. Emily couldn't stop smiling. She couldn't wait to see her dad again. She wondered what he looked like now, what he would say, what he would bring. She hoped he would stay for a long time, and wouldn't leave again.

Chapter 2 -

Will not be continued.....unless you are up for the challenge??

The Battle of the Alamo



By Will W.

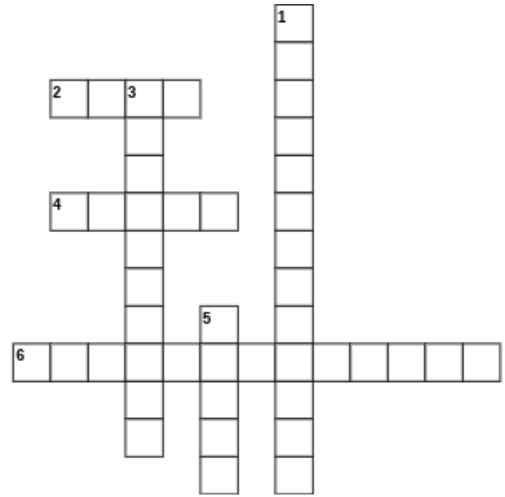
On March 6th, 1836, a legendary battle in U.S. history occurred. The Battle of the Alamo was a battle between Texas settlers and Mexico. On March 4th, 1836, the Mexican president Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, better known as just Santa Anna, received a letter from a town called Bexar in the Texas territory of Mexico. The Mexican government had allowed American settlers to put down roots in Texas years ago. However, this letter claimed that Texas was an independent nation and that the Texas Republic laid claim to all territory north of the Rio Grande River. Infuriated by this, Santa Anna sent his brother-in-law, a military general from Mexico, to head up to the Alamo, a fortress held by Texan soldiers.

The Mexicans sent 1,500 soldiers to fight the 200 Texan soldiers defending the Alamo. Once the Mexican army made it to the Alamo, 13 days of intense fighting ensued. On the final day, Mexico raised a red flag at the top of a steeple (Church tower) outside of the Alamo. This meant "Take no quarter", a.k.a. take no prisoners. The Mexicans did just that, killing 189 of the 200 defenders. Of the 11 who survived, one was a messenger sent to ask for reinforcements and was delivering the message when the battle took place, and the rest were women and children.

On April 21st, Sam Houston, the governor of the Texas Republic, led Texan forces in taking back San Jacinto. The battle cry of the Texans was "Remember the Alamo!", a now famous statement forever etched into American history. During the Battle of San Jacinto, General Santa Anna was captured trying to leave the camp by himself. After being held prisoner for 3 weeks, Mexico agreed to a peace treaty in return for Santa Anna. 10 years later, the U.S. annexed Texas, making it the 28th state.

March Puzzles

By: Emily A.



Across

- 2. pot of _____
- 4. the month is
- 6. the famous holiday

Down

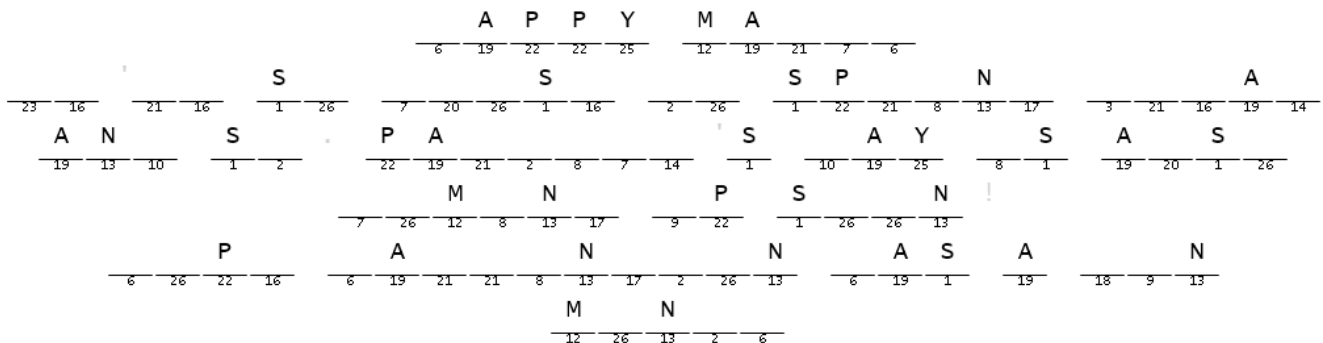
- 1. a chocolate treat in the shape of gold
- 3. a man with a orange beard and has buckle
- 5. march zodiac sign

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

- MARCH
- GOLD
- CLOVER
- LEPRECHAUN
- LUCKY
- GREEN
- BUCKLE
- STPATRICKSDAY
- IRISH
- HOLIDAY



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Book Review

By Aarov

Name: Code Talker

Author: Joseph Bruchac

Genre: Historical Fiction

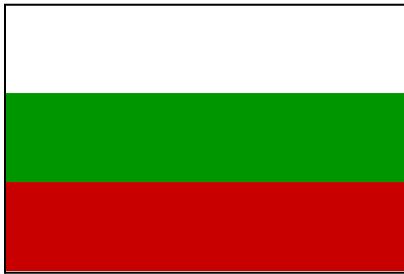
Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac is a very informational story, based on the lives of the Navajo Code Talkers from World War II. The novel follows the sixteen-year-old boy, Ned Begay, who has always been told that the Navajo was a bad language, and would always get harshly punished for speaking it, as a child, by the bilagaanas (white people). But now, the Navajo language is one of the most crucial things to help win the war. This story follows Ned's journey, all the way from boarding school, to creating the code, to being out in the battlefield, and so much more!

I recommend this story to sixth graders above because the story is a bit violent, but nothing too much to handle for older children, but also incorporates a bit of racist elements towards the Navajo people and Native Americans (in a historical context), and in moderation, for example, demeaning speech.

I really enjoyed the character development in this story. The plot was fixated around Ned Begay, and all the events were vividly described. It was easy to picture everything, and also gain deep insight into this character and his thoughts, emotions, etc.

That being said, the story just didn't captivate me, as much as I would've liked it to. Sometimes it was very easy to get bored, during the most thrilling parts, such as the battles, because it felt very repetitive and slow. But at the same time, it also made the story more in-depth, so the opinions could vary, depending on the reader and their interests.

I would rate this book 3 stars out of 5. I liked it, but it could have been improved. The character development was good, and so were the visualization elements, but personally, I thought it was slow and boring at times. But, who knows, maybe you will enjoy it more than I did!



(Flag of Bulgaria)

Country of the Month

- Bulgaria -

By: Sophia K.

Here are some interesting facts about Bulgaria!

P.S. my family is from Bulgaria, and the information is coming from either myself or my parents!

- The main language is Bulgarian, while Romani and Turkish are also spoken in some areas.
- Here are four of the important holidays/celebrations in Bulgaria:
 - a. March 1st is Baba Marta, a celebration where we wear red and white bracelets until Spring Equinox to say goodbye to the winter and welcome spring. On the equinox, we hang up the bracelets on trees, and if a bird grabs it, it means good luck!
 - b. March 3rd is Bulgaria's Independence Day. On March 3rd, 1878, Bulgaria was liberated from Ottoman Rule. There are official celebrations across the country, and at many national monuments.



- c. March 8th is International Women's Day, it's also Mother's Day. Although it is not a national holiday, it is a major celebration in Bulgaria. We celebrate it by honoring women, grandmothers, and other important women in our lives. There are also parties around the country.
- d. May 24th is the day we celebrate the Cyrillic Alphabet. Two brothers, Kyrli and Methodius wrote the original Cyrillic script. Over 250 million people in 8 countries officially use the Cyrillic script to this day.

Аа Бб Вв Гг Дд Ее Жж Зз
 Ии Йй Кк Лл Мм Нн Оо Пп
 Рр Сс Тт Уу Фф Хх Цц Чч
 Шш Щщ Ъъ Ьь Юю Яя

- Bulgaria's population is almost 7 million people (as of 2021).
- The second longest river in Europe - the Danube, ends in Bulgaria, and empties out in the Black Sea.
- The currency is lev - a lev is worth 55 cents
- Most of the world's rose oil is produced in Bulgaria! I bet some of your favorite rose perfumes contain some trace of Bulgarian roses.
- The countries/seas that border Bulgaria are Romania (to the North,) Greece and Turkey (to the South,) Serbia and North Macedonia (to the West), and the Black Sea (to the East).
- In my opinion - Bulgaria has one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world, and the most diverse. In Central and Western Bulgaria, there are beautiful mountains, while on the Eastern side of Bulgaria there are serene beaches. You will never get bored no matter where you are in Bulgaria!
- Bulgarian food is to die for! Some of my favorites are...
 - a. Banitsa (a phyllo pastry with different fillings, such as feta cheese, and spinach)
 - b. Sarmi (Also a Middle Eastern food, it comes in different variations, such as stuffed grape leaves or stuffed cabbage)
 - c. Moussaka (Again, a popular Middle Eastern and Greek food, it is a potato based dish consisting of ground meat, vegetables, and sometimes cheese)
 - d. Shopska Salata (A salad with tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, and feta cheese - it may sound basic but once you try it, you will crave it often)
- One of the live bacteria essential for making yogurt called Lactobacillus Bulgaricus was discovered in Bulgaria, 120 years ago. Next time you shop for yogurt, check if it is listed, and that is how you know if your yogurt is real! :)

All in all, if there is one country that you must visit at least once, it's definitely Bulgaria. It's for sure a hidden gem, and you really feel alive there. I am very proud of my background, and I hope everyone else is! Knowing where I come from and my culture is a gift that I am very grateful for. Do Skoro - it means see you soon!

Saint Patrick's Day Facts

By: Sophia K.



- Saint Patrick wasn't Irish! He was actually born in Britain during the 4th century!
- Saint Patrick was kidnapped at 16, by Irish Raiders
- The first parade took place in NYC, in the year 1762
- Saint Patrick was the first bishop of Ireland
- A common tale in Ireland is that Saint Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland
- Every year, the Chicago River is dyed green for a few hours on March 17th, the first time was in 1962!
- On Saint Patrick's Day, many families gather to eat corned beef with cabbage, shepherd's pie and Irish soda bread
- The color of Saint Patrick's Day was originally blue!
- There's a legend that each leaf of the four-leaf clover has a meaning - Hope, faith, love, and luck (In fact, Saint Sophia's two children are Hope and Faith, so there might be a connection between the two.)
- Your odds in finding a four leaf clover are 1 in 10,000! (I've only found one!)

Sources: <https://www.proflowers.com/blog/interesting-st-patricks-day-facts>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Saint-Patricks-Day>

Best Baseball Movies For Opening Day

By Siena Slepian



Did you know that opening day is on March 28th this year? That's pretty early for baseball to start, but if you can't wait before then, here is a list of baseball movies to watch in the meantime.

4. The Rookie

Now a high school teacher, Dennis Quaid's dream was to be a pitcher in the major leagues. Still an extraordinary pitcher, he made a deal with the high school baseball team he coaches that if they won the district championship, he would try to get into the major leagues.

3. Field of Dreams

A farmer in Iowa who keeps waking up every night to voices saying, "If you build it, he will come," feels the need to do something about it. Even though he doesn't have much money, he builds a baseball field. Soon after he does this, the ghosts of deceased major league players start to show up on the field to play. Although it is cool that these old baseball players come to play, it's much more than the "best" coming to play.

2. The Sandlot

Scotty Smalls, who just moved to California, and doesn't even know who Babe Ruth is, meets a group of boys who teach him how to play baseball at a sandlot. Together, they go through many fun and exciting adventures.

1. A League of Their Own

When most major league baseball players get deployed due to World War 2, an all-women's baseball league is started to replace MLB for the time being. This movie takes you through the experiences that these women go through while playing in this league, and how women are just as good as men.

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Courtesy of Shawn H.

If you didn't just skim through our latest issue, you might've noticed an advertisement in our pages. Due to slipping funds, we've had to request the help of some.. strange sponsors to cover the rest of the costs. No one else wants their ads, but here at Paw Prints, we say that one paper's trash is another's next page! If

you want all the Paw Prints madness without the ads, try joining the Cougar Club (\$199 per month), it really helps. Unfortunately, we may be running out of sponsors soon, and we only have enough cash for the next three issues. We'd like to give a big thank you to you and other like-minded people for taking the time out of your busy day to read our paper, and for your unwavering support through these trying times.

See you next issue! HAHA!