



The Paw Print

April 2024 Issue



Spring Flowers

by Quinton Knight

March is known for the start of spring but it is also nicknamed the flower month. It is called the flower month because it's the time that flowers bloom. There are many different types of flowers but some of them only bloom in the springtime because of the conditions that spring gives.

Daffodil

Daffodils are yellow flowers that turn white as they get older. They last for about six weeks to six months. The name Daffodil is the alteration to the name Asphodel but no one really knows where the D came from. Daffodils are a sign of new beginning and friendship. Whenever you see a big bunch of Daffodils, that is them after they have multiplied. They multiply by fanning out their stem and then growing more flowers off of them. This cycle does come to an end because they die so you will not see a full grassy area with Daffodils. Daffodils are not just pretty flowers, they are also useful because they're used in traditional medicine.

Tulips

Some people say spring wouldn't be the same without Tulips. Tulips are unusually large flowers that are red, orange, pink, yellow, or white. They also have blue-green leaves. These flowers are cup or star shaped. These flowers make the perfect Easter decoration. These flowers represent passion, love, and happiness. Tulips usually peak in April and May. Some of these flowers bloom earlier.

Cherry Blossoms

Cherry Blossoms peak around April 4. Cherry Blossom trees can get up to 25 to 50 feet tall. These flowers originated in China's Himalayan highlands. These flowers represent renewal and impermanence.

There is even a festival for these flowers, that is from mid March through mid April. Macon, Georgia is called the "Cherry Blossom Capital."

Crocus

Crocuses are blue, purple, white, and orange. They are one of the few flowers that bloom first. Crocus symbolizes Spring and new beginnings. These flowers last for about five years with proper care. There are two types of Crocus, one that blooms in the Spring and one that blooms in the Fall. They are both toxic. Crocus got its name from the Greek word crocatus, meaning saffron yellow. The Greek word saffron means krokos but in Arabic it means yellow.



Reese & Rory

by Kailyn Helbig

“Mom!” Yelled Reese. “ It's spring!It's finally spring!”. “Come on Mom, let's go hop through the fields”.“Wow”, It feels amazing out here!” Said Reese. “Look!” “The daffodils are blooming!” “And look at the bright flowers on the trees!” “Look!” “The field is filled with flowers!” Reese And her Mom hop through the field. Reese jumps into the long grass. Reese can feel the rays of sun shining down on her.“Well, we better get back home, Rory is waiting for us!” Said Reeses mom. They walk home. “Rory!” Shouted Reese. “Reese!” Shouted rory. Reese hasn't seen Rory, her cousin since last spring. They can't wait to catch up while they go for a splash in the pool. “Do you have any floaties?” Said Rory. “Yes, I do!” “There in the shed right over there.” “Thanks,” Said Rory. Reese and Rory grab floaties and hop in the pool. “GIRLS!” Yelled Reeses mom. “Lunch is ready!”. “OOoooh! Yelled Rory”. “I wonder what it is,” Said Rory as they got out of the pool to eat lunch. “Beat you there,” Said reese. “BET I'LL WIN!” said Rory “Haha, i beat you, said Rory. Awe”, said reese. “Mmmm” “What's that delicious smell?” “CARROT CAKE!”. They both yell. They run inside to see a cake sitting on the counter. Reese's mom says “SURPRISE!” “But you never let me eat carrot cake for lunch. Said reese. “Well, since Rorys here, I decided we can celebrate with carrot cake and a movie!” “YAY!” Yelled reese and rory. Reese and Rory run to the living room to find a movie. “OOooooo! Let's watch Peter rabbit!” Said Reese “THAT'S MY FAVORITE!” Said rory. Reese and Rory run down the stairs to watch the movie. “BEST DAY EVER”, They laughed and they lived hoppily ever after.



PHIL!

by Sophia Hickman

It's February 2nd,
What's it going to be?
I'm not so sure yet.
Everyone is counting on
me.
When I go out
I either see

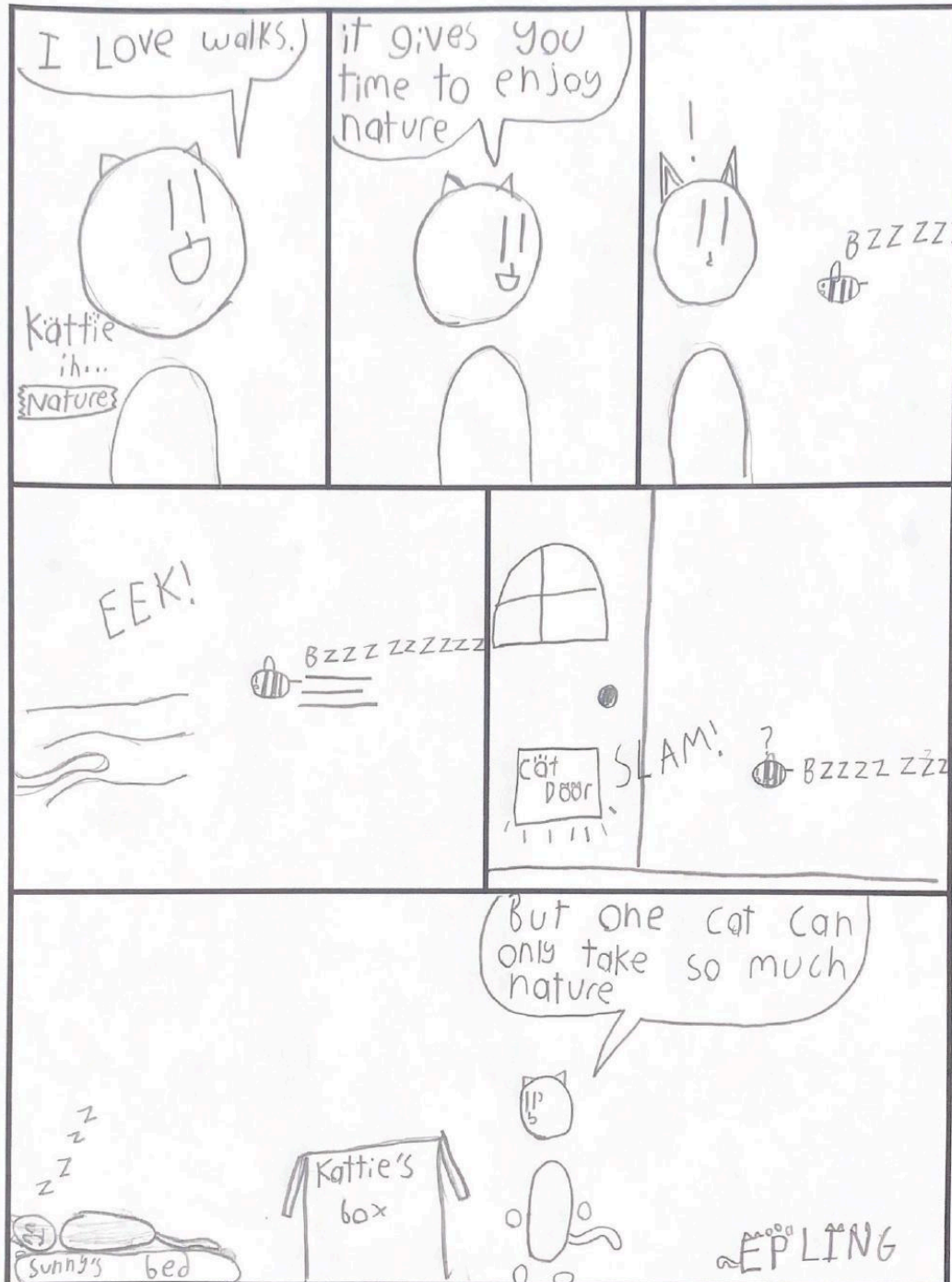
My shadow or
Spring will be!
The time has come
Soon I will Know
I'm so Stressed
But I'll go with the flow!
“2024!!!

Phil's prediction will be
Spring will be.....
EARLY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”
My job is done
For this year
It was so much fun
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



Kattie in... NATURE

by Landon Epling





Best Spring Sports

by Bentley Thornton

Winter and fall sports are fun in all but it's just so cold out, summer sports are nice too but it's just too hot. So that's why I think that spring sports are the best. In this passage I'll be telling you about many spring sports including baseball, ultimate frisbee, volleyball, and many more.

BASEBALL

First we have baseball, baseball is a great sport to play. There's many positions to play including 1st base, 2nd base, 3rd base, catcher, pitcher, and the three out fields. Baseball can be played as a travel team, county team, or school ball. This sport is fun, you will win a lot and lose a lot. Besides that you can have many fun adventures playing baseball.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Second we have ultimate frisbee, Ultimate Frisbee is a mix of football and frisbee. The point of the game is to get into the other team's end zone. You can play this sport professionally or just for fun, over 800 colleges support this sport. Free play ultimate frisbee can be played all year around, with college playing it from early January to the end of April.

Volleyball

Another sport is volleyball, there's different types of volleyball but the two main types are beach volleyball and indoor volleyball. At the beginning the two teams flip a coin, whoever calls it gets to serve first. After the serve the 2 teams rally or hit the ball back in fourth. There are five sets, the team with the most points at the end wins the match. It's a fun indoor and outdoor sport and you could look forward to playing it this year.

TRACK AND FIELD

Do you like running? If you do this is the sport for you. Track and field has a lot of running, cross country also has a lot of running but has way longer races. In track and field there are 44 events, including 100m Sprint · 200m Sprint · 400m Sprint · 800m Run · 1500m Run · 5000m Run · 10,000m Run · 110m Hurdles ect. Most people would say that 400m hurdles are the hardest event, but the 10,000m run sounds really hard too.

Field Hockey

Field Hockey is one of the oldest team sports, and around 4,000 years old. The modern sport of field hockey evolved in England in the mid -19th century. Australia is the country with the most field hockey players and is ranked number 1 in the world as of 2022. Over two billion people play field hockey in the world right now, but not including the 3.5 billion fans.



Teacher of the Year: Ms. Downs!

By Samantha Rousseau

-How Do You Feel About Being The Teacher Of The Year?

I was surprised and I wasn't there when she announced it so Mrs. Hudgins had to tell me!

-Do You Have Any Pets?

I have a beagle named Scout who is totally spoiled rotten.

-What Is Your Favorite Holiday And Why?

I think Christmas because I like decorating

-Do You Have Any Kids?

I have a son who is 22 years old

-What Makes You Want To Be A Guidance Counselor?

I really like working with kids and when I was in highschool my parents had another child so I was the older sister

-How Long Have You Been teaching?

I have been teaching for 26 years! All at this school.

-Do You Have Any Favorite Sports Team?

No, not really. I don't follow sports.

-Any Favorite School Subjects?

As a grownup I would have to say reading.

-Do You Have Any Hidden Talents?

I love cooking, I don't know if that's a hidden talent

-What Is Your Dream Vacation?

Somewhere near the beach and the ocean.

Thank you Mrs. Downs for taking the time to chat with me!



The Daffodil Festival

By Wren Waters



This is the 37th Daffodil Festival. The 2024 Daffodil Festival is on Saturday, April 6, and Sunday, April 7. The Daffodil festival was first established in 1926 but it spans way back to 1651 when Gloucester officially became the county off of York county. This year there was music, food, and stands. I overheard a man playing music, who asked for a volunteer to come on stage and play the tambourine. I also saw lots of booths but to name a few there was this place that sells homemade play dough. I bought a pack of it and if you wanted to buy a container of playdough the cost would be five dollars. There was a place that sold rings, stickers, croc charms, etc. I saw lots of stands with homemade arts and crafts like soap, jewelry, stained glass, and last but not least, wooden and metal sculptures. Now for the food there were many things. I went to my favorite place. There was an ice cream stand and also a little food truck but many more. So you should try going with your parents next year to the Daffodil Festival.



Spring Activities

By Joleigh Bain

Do you enjoy spring but get bored really easily? Well if you do I will be listing four different spring activities for you to try. These include , bird watching, making wind chimes,gardening and going for a picnic.

Bird Watching

Do you enjoy listening to the birds chirping in the morning? Well if you do ,I think you will enjoy bird watching. Bird watching is fun, but there is a lot to it. First you want to make sure you have everything I have listed. First, you want to fill up your bird feeder or if you don't have one I would suggest you go to your local supermarket and get one. It would help you attract birds better. Second, find a good pair of binoculars. It would help you get a good look at the bird. Third, you should try a camera so you can take a photo of the bird you see.

Going for picnic

Do you like to eat and go outside? Well going for a picnic is a great idea! Going for a picnic can help you relax and calm down from being stressed. It is also a great way to go outside and see how amazing nature is. Also breathing in too much air inside can be bad for you so that is another reason why you should go on a picnic. Also it gives you a moment to bond with your family and friends. It also gives you a moment to reflect on what happened that day and just let go of it.

Planting a garden

Planting a garden can be hard only if you don't know all the simple ways to plant a garden. I will name some of the easiest fruits and vegetables to grow. These include bell peppers, blackberries and raspberries and cabbage. Those are only some of them but if you search up the easiest fruits and vegetables with show up on your screen. To start your garden you have to pick a spot and it is best to put a fence or put chinkwire around your garden so animals won't dig up your fruits and vegetables. Then you want to find a weed strategy and also make sure your plants can get sunlight and make sure to water them everyday.



Gloucester Day

By Jack Ankrom

This article is an informational text on Gloucester's Day. Gloucester Day is a holiday that takes place this year on June 4th, and is a global phenomena! A county spokesman, Quinton Sheppard, said the idea for the international holiday that Gloucester around the world celebrate came about in 2018 when a group of Gloucester, VA residents had the idea to go see Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester in Britain.

It dates back to 1643, when the Siege of Gloucester occurred, during the siege, the city retaliated against Royalist forces. At the time, the First English Civil War was raging on. The first of the modern-day celebrations were organized by Town Crier Alan Myatt, and this included a parade that originated at St. Michael's Tower. Here, I conclude that Gloucester Day is a quirky, funny, unique idea for a holiday and it has a very intricate backstory that adds to its importance.



Spring Book Recommendations

By Dylan Fox

Applesauce Weather by Helen Frost. When the first apple falls from the tree Faith and Peter know that it's applesauce weather. That means Uncle Arthur should come and stay. But maybe he needs a little more grief. Uncle Arthur shows up but his finger seems to be missing and there are no stories and no twinkle in his eye. With the Help of Faith's love and the spark of Peter's Growth Uncle Arthur might have to start a new story.

Mouse and Mole find feathered friends by Yee Wong Herbert. It is a blustery spring day, and Mouse and Mole are very excited to go bird watching. They are planning to make bird books! Mouse and Mole pack paper and crayons and hurry outside. It turns out, birds are not so easy to watch. Splashing in puddles scare them away. Stepping on crunchy leaves does too. *Recommended K-3*

Tiger and turtle by Rumford James. Tiger says he saw the flower first, but Turtle disagrees. Through pages of glorious color, Tiger and Turtle continue their argument. They're worthy opponents as a tiger's claws could not harm a turtle's shell any more than a turtle's feet could outrun a tiger's. The battle intensifies, as does the artist's palette: from golds to fiery reds to luxuriant blues, as the two resolve their conflict and become friends. *Recommended K-3*

Letter from our Staff Sponsors

By Ms. Hickman, Ms. Bains, & Ms. Carino

Bulldogs, The next issue of the Paw Print will be a collaborated issue with our uprising middle schoolers and our new 5th grade newspaper staff! We will be saying Hello to our new staff and "Goodbye and Goodluck" to our beloved staff that are onto bigger and better things! Keep your eyes peeled for that special issue!

April is Month of the Military Child!

By Ms. Woods, MFLC

Across the nation, April is marked as Month of the Military Child. During this time, more than 1.6 million military-connected children are celebrated for the tenacity, resilience, and courage they display on a daily basis. Although many children are required to persevere throughout life, military connected children face unique obstacles and limitations due to their parents' service to the country. These challenges include being separated from their parents for extended periods of time, relocating throughout the United States (and even overseas), struggles with making/maintaining friendships, and disruptions to their educational journey. Despite these difficulties, military children continue to navigate as best as possible. During April, we concentrate on these children/students to show recognition of the obstacles they face, our appreciation to military families, and display gratitude for the contributions they bring to our lives.

Here at Botetourt Elementary School, we strive hard to highlight our military connected families. We aim to show support for military connected students and the selflessness, sacrifice and service they display regularly. Each year, we acknowledge over 90 military connected students hosted at our school, and provide various points of recognition to show our appreciation. These include Spirit Week, Purple Up day, Spotlights during morning announcements, and various banners and posters throughout the school. This year, we were also able to highlight a student's parent's return home during the morning announcements!

These special events are so very important to, not only the students and their families, but the community as well. The recognition allows us to continue in cohesion. The collaboration and cooperation from us all help the progress of the school, neighborhoods, and nation, as a whole.

