



The Ireland Times

A Student Publication of Ireland Elementary



May 2020

Volume 3 Issue

Things to do During Quarantine by Lexi Elkins and Elena Kelly

Are you sick of staying home? Then read this. Here are 8 fun activities to do while in quarantine.

1. Have family movie night.

Some good movies you might want to watch are Lion King, Greatest Showman, Beauty and the Beast, The Cat in the Hat, Annie, Back of the Net, and the Bridge to Terabithia.

2. Have a wiffle ball game in your backyard. If you don't have a backyard, play in your front yard!

3. Have a Wii competition. If you don't know what a Wii is, it is a type of technology that is controlled by a remote and you can buy discs to play games. Some games are Mario Kart, Wii sports, Mario Bros, Mii, Mario and Sonic Olympic Games, and Just Dance.

4. Take your pet on a walk. If you don't have a pet that is okay just walk with your family. You could walk around your neighborhood. Or offer to take a neighbors pet!

5. Take a nap. You probably will get tired with everything else that is going on in your house so the best thing to do is take a nap. It's true everyone needs a nap!

6. Bake anything you would like. Some things we recommend you to bake are chocolate chip cookies, brownies, cake, cupcakes, and cobbler. Or maybe try making homemade popsicles.

7. Plant a tree. If you don't have enough space to plant one, then hunt for flowers.

8. Read a book. Some good books are Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Junie B. Jones, Rainbow Magic, and Elephant and Piggie books are always good. These are some of the many fun things to do while in quarantine.

Kierstin Helm - I get to sleep in and stay in my pajamas.

Bees, Please

by Alex Potter

Have you recently heard someone say that bee populations are on the decline? Well, they're right! Have you recently heard someone say that without bees, we wouldn't have enough oxygen? Despite what you may think, they're wrong! North America, South America, and Canada thrived for thousands of years without ANY BEES. In the 1600s, European settlers brought the first bees to North America. Now, you may ask, "How did the Native Americans survive without bees?"

Well, some other insects such as butterflies and ants actually pollinate flowers, too. Now, without honey bees, we wouldn't have honey, but we won't go extinct without honey. If bees disappeared all of a sudden, then lots of places would face extreme economic failure. But if bees go away slowly over time, then there won't be as much of an economic dent.



Third grader Elena Kelly's cat had a litter of kittens during the time she was at home. This kept her very busy!!

Last Day - by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

I'm a little bit excited.

I'm a little bit sad.

I'm a little bit nervous.

I'm a little bit glad.

I'm a little bit older.

It's the end of the year.

I'll miss this class.

I'm glad I was here.

This Will Give You Goosebumps by Christian Thornburg and Tarun Param

The Werewolf of Fever Swamp, The Night of the Living Dummy, and Monster Blood. Hmm.. That sounds familiar. Those are just some books of the classic Goosebumps series. It is made up of more than 235 spine-chilling books!!! They are written by author R.L. Stine. R.L. Stine is short for Robert Lawrence Stine. He was born on October 8th, 1943 in Columbus, OH and is now 76 years old. He also writes different series such as Fear Street, Rotten School, Nightmare Room, and the famous Goosebumps series. One of his most recent and familiar book series is Slappyworld. They are mostly suitable for ages 9-12. Two of the scariest and the most enjoyable books of all are Night of the Living Dummy and Monster Blood. Now is that enough to give you GOOSEBUMPS!



Clayton Porter - I get to choose my lunch.

Guest Writer - Melissa Day, Ireland Parent

eLearning: One Mom's Perspective

I knew something strange was going on when my five kids came home from school with bulging backpacks filled with every class's textbook and notebook. I got the automated call from Dr. Tracy Lorey announcing that eLearning was to begin the following week. Wasn't eLearning still a work-in-progress, rumored to be used during future snow days? I really hoped my kids understood the ins-and-outs of their Chromebook. Lucky for me, the teachers had prepared them well; the kids knew exactly what to do.

The teachers send out weekly emails detailing assignments for the week. My favorite emails are the ones that show me which assignments my child has completed for the day, and I appreciate how the teachers have promptly answered questions over phone and email. Between Zoom meetings and newsletter videos featuring teachers and staff, our family continues to feel connected to Ireland Elementary.

Now that we've been doing eLearning for several weeks, it's become our new normal. We are trying to make the best of this situation by staying optimistic and busying ourselves with fun activities. With frequent warm sunny weather, we have been taking walks around our neighborhood and the Parklands. Our two dogs are enjoying the extra attention. Evenings have become more relaxing from not running kids around to various activities. We have also taken a few social distance approved family trips to outdoor places such as Hemlock Cliffs.

I hope that school resumes in the classroom this Fall, as it's been a challenge to keep my house neat, pry kids off their devices, and find alone time. School at home has deepened my appreciation for teachers and school staff. Ireland teachers have a gift of connecting with kids and making learning fun. My kids have been disappointed to miss class parties, school field trips, and have missed seeing their friends in person. On the other hand, they like finishing their school work quicker than they would at school. I hope my kids understand the new math and grammar they learned during eLearning so that they are prepared for next school year. This experience has taught us creative ways to connect with each other and get the job done in a different way.

How Bikes are Made

by Corde Leinenbach

Whenever you think of a bicycle, you probably think of a bike with two wheels, pedals, and handlebars. But have you ever thought about how they're made? The bars are welded together in the shape of a bike with nothing but handlebars. To make the handlebars comfortable, they will probably add some rubber on top. Then you put the wheels with spokes on. The front wheel is pretty easy but for the back wheel, you will have to put on a chain. The chain is connected to the pedals. When you move the pedals, the bike's back wheel will move. For the brakes, bars you can pull in are added. Then the brakes are put onto the bike. There is usually one for both wheels. When you pull the bars, the bike will stop. Or if you have a little bike, the brake is by pedaling backward.

You need a comfy seat to sit on so they will add that and a system to make the seat taller or shorter. Or if your seat is falling apart, you can take it off and put a new one on. There is a gear shift to put on to adjust how fast or slow something is. Gear one will make you go the slowest, but it is easiest to pedal. The highest gear will make you go the fastest, but it is the hardest to pedal. If you do have a gear shift, there will be more gears on your back wheel. The gear that is the smallest, is the highest gear. The gear that is the biggest, is gear one. Making bikes seems very hard, but interesting too!

Tyler Sinnott - Me and my family have more family time now that there are no sports.

Here's the Scoop...



on eLearning

by Haley Hallett, Vickie Gunselman
and Leah Jerger

Do you like staying home from school, and doing eLearning? We have mixed feelings. We interviewed some kids on Google Hangouts (if you want to talk to your friends, you can go to the waffle, and click on Gmail) and they told us how they felt about eLearning. Hailey Gentry told us that she does not like eLearning. It's hard for her. Denver Hallett said that he doesn't like it either, but for him, it's going great. Brock Lampert actually likes it and says it's going good. Vincent Bez likes eLearning and thinks it is easy. Cali Rasche told us the same thing as Vincent. All of the kids have specials, social studies, science, reading, and math. A lot of the kids also have grammar, spelling, and writing too! All of the students like typing better than writing, and Chromebooks better than paper. It takes a long time for some of them, but for others, it takes 1-3 hours. Everybody's sad that they don't get to see their friends for the rest of the year. All the kids get to do a program called zoom so they can see their teachers. Some are sad that this is the only way they can see their teachers. If you would like to tell someone about your day, you can talk about it and tell how your eLearning is going!



Denver Hallett, a second grader in Mrs. Weidenbenner's class, working hard on his eLearning assignments.



Lexi Elkins, 3rd grader, working on an art assignment.

Sad to See You Go!!

We have two teachers and one instructional assistant retiring this year! Mrs. Burke will be leaving us, as well, to go to Jasper Elementary. **We are thankful for their time here at Ireland Elementary and will miss them so much next year!** Here is a little about our retiring teachers!

Mrs. Sermersheim

by Erin Verkamp

Mrs. Sermersheim, one of the first grade teachers, is retiring. Mrs. Sermersheim has taught for 29 years. She taught 25 years as a teacher at Ireland and before she taught at Ireland, she taught 4 years at a preschool. She hasn't taught any other grades besides first grade and preschool. She is going to miss every student, teacher, and every staff member in the school. Mrs. Sermersheim loves teaching all her students. When Mrs. Sermersheim retires she will spend more time with her family, continue working on exhibits/programs at the Dubois County Museum, and maybe get a part time job. She had a career in business before teaching, but being a teacher was the best job she ever had.

Mrs. Weidenbenner

by Mrs. Gossett

Mrs. Wendenbenner started her teaching career as a substitute teacher for 4 years. She started teaching at Jasper Middle School in 1985. She taught there for 22 years. In 2007, she moved from JMS to Fifth Street Elementary and then on to Ireland in 2011. That is 36 years of teaching!! WOW!! In addition to teaching in the classroom she also coached 7th & 8th grade volleyball, basketball, and track & field while at the middle school. Mrs. Weidenbenner says, "I will miss of the socialization with the staff & watching the students succeed in their education even if it takes them more than one try. I loved everyday getting to see all of the students. I am looking forward to sleeping in, going for walks, going to Purdue football & basketball games, scrapbooking, and spending more time with my family, especially my grandsons and my friends that are retired."

Jack Kluemper - I have had more time to interact with my family and dogs.

Ireland Times Staff Presses On

Our Ireland Times staff did a great job when called on to write this last newspaper for the year. All the work was volunteer and done on their own. Those staff members worked together through Google docs and Goggle Hangouts! Some even zoomed with each other to work on their articles. So proud of them!

This year's staff:

3rd grade - Lexi Elkins, Tyler Emerson, Maggie Hanneman, Everett Hess, Elena Kelly, Jack Rumbach, Walker Swan, Oliver Williams, Graham Collins, Evie Gunselman, Corde Leinenbach and Calvin Pfister

4th grade - Camryn Buechlein, Parker Erny, Tarun Parameswaran, Alex Potter, Audrey Schroeder, Erin Verkamp, Lily Wagner, Evie Hewitt, Amelia Zehr, Lila Hawkes, Christian Thronburg and Allie Sermersheim

5th grade - Hunter Fortwendel, Jackson Gudorf, Victoria Gunselman, Halley Hallett, Bella Henke, Reagan Hopf, Leah Jerger, Madison Mauck, Noah Kurzendoefler, Mya Neighbors and Anna Ruhe

How to...

by Lila Hawkes

DIY Bird Feeder

Would you like to learn how to make an easy and fun springtime craft? If so, read this article on how to make a DIY bird feeder. The things you will need are:

1 pine cone
a butter knife
peanut butter
birdseed
pie tin or shallow bowl
string

Directions

First, pour birdseed into your pie tin/bowl and set aside. Next, use your knife to spread the peanut butter on the pine cone. Make sure you get it in all the openings of the pine cone. Make thick layers so the birdseed can stick to the pine cone. Leave a little of the pine cone sticking out the top so you can attach the string to it.

Now, roll the pine cone in the tin/bowl that your birdseed is in. You can press some of the birdseed onto the pine cone using your hands so that it sticks better. Last, tie a string to the top of the pine cone and hang it on a tree branch that is high enough so that other animals cannot reach it. Now, you might have some more birds at your house. Sit back and enjoy the bird watching!



Fun Facts

We usually include staff fun facts in the newspaper. Instead, this 4th quarter edition includes some positive things our 5th graders came up with about having to be home more often.


**STAY
HOME
SAVE
LIVES**


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Ireland Elementary

by Jackson Gudorf

Have you ever wondered how Ireland Elementary School came to be what it is today? Well this article will tell you all about it. At one time in the history of Ireland there were approximately 33 one room school houses. This eventually led to the first frame school built in 1862, but the population just kept growing so that led to a new school needing to be built. This school was two stories tall and in 1896, two more rooms were added. Later, in 1905 they decided to build a high school that remained until 1970. Grade school was still held in Ireland even after the high school closed. In 1989 the high school was torn down. This made way for a new state of the art (K-5) elementary school that opened up in 1990. They used some of the brick from the old high school to build the base of the clock tower and the school keystone is also from the old high school. Ireland is a four star rated school and has even won a blue ribbon award. Ray Mehling was the principal from 1990 when the new school opened until just a year ago, and now the school principal is Mrs. Bauer. There are about 500 - 600 kids enrolled in Ireland Elementary. It is projected to have over 700 in the future. The growth of the school was largely because of how much the town has grown over the years. That is how your school became what it is today. I hope everyone enjoys Ireland Elementary school as much as I have.

Mason Whaley - I am going on 1 and a half mile runs now.

Strange Dog Breeds

by Evie Gunselman and Maggie Hanneman

There are so many strange dogs in the world and we will show you 3 of them.

1 - Panda Dog

Panda dogs are huge fluffy dogs that look like pandas. Panda dogs are not pandas at all. They are Chow Chows, a fluffy dog breed. These unique dogs are just dyed black and white. Panda dogs live in the southwest of China. While panda dogs are getting groomed, dyeing their hair is very harmful to the dogs. See picture of a panda dog at right.

2 - Mop dogs

Mop dogs' coats are used for camouflage. Usually these dogs get very hungry during the day. Mop dogs got their names from mops. They look like a giant mop. These dogs are great for guard dogs. These dogs also cost 400 to 500 dollars.

3 - Tiger Dogs

Tiger dogs live in China. They are usually spray painted. They also act just like tigers. Tiger dogs are about 900 to 2500 dollars. They should not be kept as pets. In fact a majority of states banned these dogs. Fun fact- they need very special care.

These are true facts about strange dogs in the world but these are the ones we shared with you. Have fun learning about strange dogs!



Kail Halterman - I am not as stressed out as I am at school.

Peanut Butter Chocolate Dessert

by Erin Verkamp

Ingredients

20 chocolate cream-filled chocolate sandwich cookies, divided
2 tablespoons butter, softened
1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup peanut butter
1-1/2 cups confectioners' sugar, divided
1 carton (16 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed, divided
15 miniature peanut butter cups, chopped
1 cup cold whole milk
1 package (3.9 ounces) instant chocolate fudge pudding mix

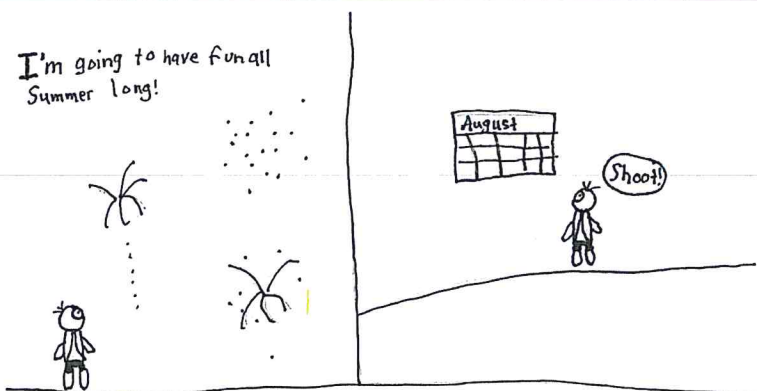
Directions

1. Crush 16 of the cookies; toss with the butter. Press into an ungreased 9-in. square dish and set aside.
2. In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, peanut butter and 1 cup confectioners' sugar until smooth. Fold in half of the whipped topping. Spread over the crust. Sprinkle with peanut butter cups.
3. In another large bowl, beat the milk, pudding mix and remaining confectioners' sugar on low speed for 2 minutes. Let stand for 2 minutes or until soft-set. Fold in remaining whipped topping.
4. Spread over peanut butter cups. Crush remaining cookies; sprinkle over the top. Cover and chill for at least 3 hours.

Over Before You Know It

by Hunter Fortwendel

I'm going to have fun all Summer long!



Reflections by Reagan Hopf and Bella Henke

As you all know, this is the fifth grader's last year at Ireland. We decided to ask some fifth graders about their experience at Ireland and what it taught them. We asked Chase Grigsby, Elijah Smith, and Ava Peterson some questions and they all came up with very good answers!

Everyone has a moment that was very funny to them in some way, so we decided to ask them what their's was. Ava said that in fourth grade, Mya Neighbors hit Anna Ruhe with a kickball and Anna cried "I don't know if I'm laughing or if I'm crying!" That sounds hilarious! Elijah said it was funny in fifth grade when the teachers were playing knockout! We totally agree with him! Chase said that in fifth grade it was funny when his friends and him said something so funny that they couldn't stop laughing!

All of these kids also had a favorite activity. Ava's was when they got Kona Ice at the end of the year and got to talk to their friends while they ate it. Chase's favorite activity was when they played dodgeball in gym class. We like dodgeball, too! Elijah enjoyed throwing his teacher, Mrs. Hoffman, a birthday party at school.

He also said that he is looking forward to meeting new people at the middle school and trying out new sports. Ava is nervous that she will get lost because it's so big and Chase is, too. He's nervous that he will get lost or forget his locker combination.

But they are pretty much as excited as us. Ava looks forward to having circular tables. We are, too. Elijah is excited about the environmental change (the change from Elementary School to middle school) and Chase is excited about having more freedom than we have at Ireland. But they will also miss stuff in Ireland, like their past teachers and friends.

Each fifth grader at Ireland had something that made their last year stand out. Elijah said fifth grade was special to him because he was surrounded by very loyal teachers and friends. Ava said she loved making long lasting memories. Chase loved seeing his friends and preparing to go to JMS.

Ireland isn't just about having fun, it's about learning, too, and these students have learned alot at Ireland through the years. Ireland has taught Chase to be more responsible. Ireland has taught Elijah and Ava how to be kind to one another and work hard when something challenging comes your way.

These students had a splendid time at Ireland and they have some advice for the new coming fifth graders. They want to say that it's not frightening, try your best, and be responsible because there are so many students looking up to you.

These students don't just want to talk to the new coming fifth graders, but they also want to say something to the teachers. They want to thank the teachers for all the hard work that they put into their jobs and helping kids become smart adults. They will really miss all of the different teachers but they are excited to move on with their education.

With all of that advice being said, they have some ideas that they would like to share with you, involving kickball. Some names that they would've liked to use if they got the chance are, the Ballbarians, the FireBallers, and the Dirty Dodgers.

Even though these fifth graders didn't spend their entire fifth grade year at school, they had so much fun and will always remember the memories that they made at Ireland!

Virus Pushes People Outside

by Calvin Pfister

Did you know that COVID-19 has pushed more people outside? You can see people walking up and down the streets. This is a great way to get exercise and move your body. I see more walkers on my streets. Families walk together. Husbands and wives walk and talk. Dogs may get to go for a walk two or three times a day. Dogs are happy because their owners are home more. Dogs also get fresh air and play in backyards with owners.

People ride bikes more than ever, they ride alone or with family. I ride a lot of times with my mom and sister. We see lots of bike riders going on long bike rides. People enjoy the wind touching their face. This is good for you because you are getting exercise. Even though we are socially distancing, we can wave at neighbors while we ride bikes.

People are using their back porch more often now. Jasper also made an event to encourage people to hang out on their back porch and play games with family.

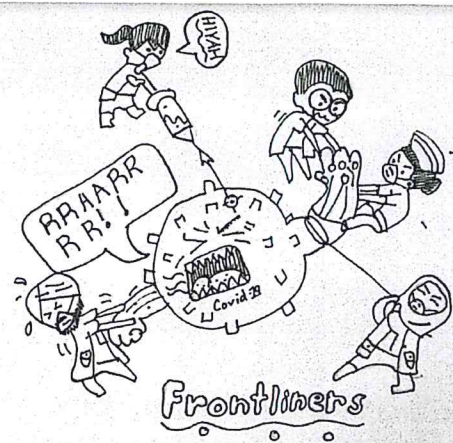
People do a lot of yard work. Yards look well taken care of. People mow often and improve their yard by planting grass. Landscapes look clean because people want to get outside and have more time to pull weeds. In my neighborhood, you always hear a mower.

We all want the virus, COVID-19, to go away, but I hope one thing stays, people keep having fun outside.

Keegan Begle-Truelove - I have gotten better at drawing wolves.

The Fight

by Tarun Parameswaran



3rd grade, Oliver Williams, got all dressed up for Easter, but had no where to go.

The Last Laugh by Tyler Emerson

1. What kind of tree fits in your hand?
2. What did one plate say to the other plate?
3. What do you call a sleeping dinosaur?
4. What did the student eat his homework?
5. What did the traffic light say to the car?
6. What do you call a snowman on a hot day?
7. What do you give a sick lemon?
8. What's the most famous creature in the ocean?

1. a palm tree. 2. dinner is on me. 3. a dino snore
4. his teach told him it was a piece of cake. 5. don't
look, I'm about to change. 6. a puddle
7. lemon aid. 8. the starfish