

# St. Patrick's Day

Departamento de Inglés

*March 17<sup>th</sup> is Saint Patrick's Day. He is the patron saint of Ireland. But did you know that more people celebrate his feast day in other countries than in Ireland?*

If you are in Dublin, Ireland, on March 17<sup>th</sup>, you'll see everybody dressed in green and wearing shamrocks. If you are in Chicago, USA, you'll find that the river is colored green and you'll see people eating green hot dogs.

## **Celebrations everywhere**

In Sydney, Australia, you'll see children drinking green milkshakes and having potato throwing competitions. In Ireland, USA, Australia and also Japan, Singapore, Korea and many other countries, people dress up and have parades in the streets. All this to celebrate the festivity day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

## **Who is Saint Patrick?**

It's surprising, but Ireland's patron saint was not Irish. Saint Patrick was born in Wales in 389, but when he was a boy he was captured by pirates and taken to Ireland.. He escaped to Gaul (France), where he entered a Christian monastery. He had a vision telling him to return to Ireland as a missionary. He did and converted the Irish Christianity.

## **The Irish round the world**

Why do so many countries celebrate St. Patrick's Day? Because in the past, Ireland, was a very poor country and there was a lot of famine. Many Irish people were obliged to emigrate. They went all over the world, but the majority of them went to the USA.

Today about 70 million people of Irish descent live outside Ireland and the population of Ireland itself is only around 5 million. And that is why, wherever you are on 17<sup>th</sup> March, you will see people celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

## **Saint Patrick's Day in Fray Luis High School**

Last 17<sup>th</sup> of March, our high school was covered with shamrocks and many students and teachers were dressed in green in order to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. In English classes, we sang typical Irish songs and we learnt about how Irish people celebrate this day around the world.

