



# February News 2011



February 2011

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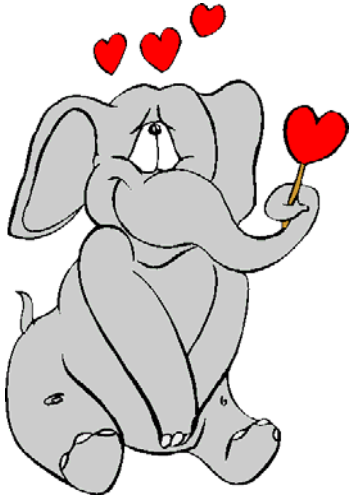
## Brentwood Academy News



Groundhog Day  
Wednesday February 2nd  
Will we see him, or will we not?

Individual class parties  
Monday, February 14  
Valentines day

Presidents Day, Monday, February 21-  
School Closed



*Valentine's Day Is a wonderful way To make "I love you" Easy to say.*

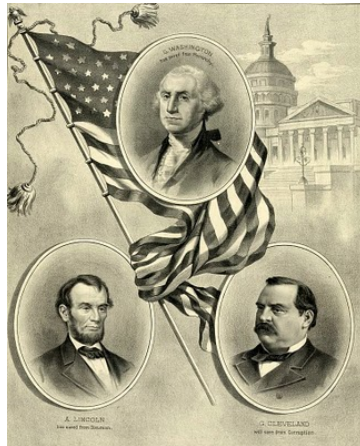
## Blue Bird of Alexandria



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### February fun facts

January and February were the last two months to be added to the Roman calendar, since the Romans originally considered winter a monthless period.

February was probably named for the Roman god Februus, the god of purification, or for the Roman god Juno Februata, the goddess of passion.

February was nominally the last month of the Roman calendar as the year originally began in March. At certain intervals Roman priests inserted an intercalary month, Mercedonius, after February to realign the year with the seasons.

On a few occasions in history, February has had 30 days.

## Blue Bird Dayschool



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## Tiny Tots Playroom News



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## 1983-2009 Official Groundhog Record

**1984-Shadow** at 7:04 AM

**1985-Shadow** at 7:28 AM

**1986-NO** Shadow; visited

President Reagan at the White House in March.

**1987-Shadow** at 7:29 AM

**1988-NO** Shadow

**1989-Shadow**

**1990-NO** Shadow

**1991-Shadow**

**1992-Shadow**

**1993-Shadow**; the movie *Groundhog Day* with Bill Murray is released.

**1994-Shadow** at 7:28 AM

**1995-NO** Shadow; afternoon guest on the "Oprah Winfrey" TV Show.

**1996-Shadow** at 7:21 AM

**1997-NO** Shadow; 35,000

watched at Gobbler's Knob

**1998-Shadow** at 7:20 AM;

predicting six more weeks of a mild El Nino Winter!

**1999-NO** Shadow at 7:23

AM; 37° rain

**2000-Shadow** at 7:28 AM;

12° overcast skies with flurries

**2001-Shadow** at 7:27 AM;

28° cloudy skies with light snow

**2002-Shadow** at 7:25 AM;

19° mist with a record

38,000 driven to Gobbler's

Knob by bus for security reasons.

**2003-Shadow** at 7:27 AM;

30° overcast skies with PA Governor Ed Rendell attending the ceremony.

**2004** Shadow

**2005** Shadow

**2006** Shadow at 7:23

**2007** No shadow

**2008** Shadow

**2009** Shadow

**2010** Shadow



The third Monday in February is designated in the United States as Washington's Birthday, more commonly known as Presidents Day. This list looks at facts and traditions surrounding the celebration of this holiday.

### 1. Not Officially Presidents Day

As stated in the introduction, the federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February is not officially called Presidents Day. Instead, it is Washington's Birthday. There was an attempt in 1968 to officially name it Presidents Day. However, this suggestion died in committee. Many states, however, choose to call their own celebration on this day "Presidents Day."

### 2. Washington's Birthday Celebrated During Washington's Lifetime

Many across the newly formed United States celebrated Washington's Birthday in the 17th century while George Washington was still alive. However, it wasn't until 1885 that Chester Arthur signed the bill that made it a federal holiday.

### 3. Abraham Lincoln's Birthday is Not a Federal Holiday

Even though many states celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday concurrently with Washington's birthday, it is not a federally designated holiday.

### 4. Cherries, Cherries, and More Cherries

Traditionally, many celebrated and continue to celebrate Washington's Birthday with desserts made with cherries. Cherry pie, cherry cake, bread made with cherries, or just a huge bowl of cherries are often enjoyed on this day. Of course, this relates to the apocryphal story that Washington would not tell a lie when asked if he cut down a cherry tree.

### 5. Shopping and Sales

One thing that many people connect with Presidents Day is retail sales. In the 1980s, retailers began to use this holiday as a time to clear out their old stock in preparation for spring and summer. One wonders what George Washington would have thought about this celebration of his birthday.

### 6. Reading of Washington's Farewell Address

On February 22nd of almost every year since 1888, Washington's Farewell Address has been read in the US Senate. While this does not happen on Presidents Day, it is an annual celebration of Washington's Birthday that stems from 1862 when the Address was read as a way to boost morale during the Civil War. This address was and is so important because it warns of political factionalism, geographical sectionalism, and interference by foreign powers in the nation's affairs. Washington stressed the importance of national unity over sectional differences.

Fast facts for George Washington.

### Number of Terms Elected:

2 Terms

**First Lady:** Martha Dandridge Custis

**Nickname:** "Father of Our Country"

### George Washington Quote:

"I walk on untrodden ground. There is scarcely any part of my conduct which may not hereafter be drawn into precedent."

### Major Events While in Office:

Elected to first term with a unanimous electoral vote (1789)

First United States census (1790)

District of Columbia established (1791)

Bill of Rights ratified (1791)

Proclamation of Neutrality (1793)

Whiskey Rebellion (1794)

Jay's Treaty (1795)

Pinckney's Treaty (1796)

Farewell Address (1796)

### States Entering Union

#### While in Office:

Vermont (1791)

Kentucky (1792)





# Did You Know?



## When did it all start?

There are various theories on the origin of Valentine's Day, but the most popular dates back to the time of the Roman Empire during the reign of Claudius II, 270 AD. Claudius didn't want men to marry during wartime because he believed single men made better soldiers. Bishop Valentine went against his wishes and performed secret wedding ceremonies. For this, Valentine was jailed and then executed by order of the Emperor on February 14. While in jail, he wrote a love note to the jailor's daughter signing it, "From your Valentine." 'Sound familiar?

## More Valentine's Day-related History

- The ancient Romans celebrated the Feast of Lupercalia on February 14th in honor of Juno, the queen of the Roman gods and goddesses. Juno was also the goddess of women and marriage.
- Many believe the 'X' symbol became synonymous with the kiss in medieval times. People who couldn't write their names signed in front of a witness with an 'X.' The 'X' was then kissed to show their sincerity.
- Girls of medieval times ate bizarre foods on St. Valentine's Day to make them dream of their future spouse.
- In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who would be their Valentine. They would wear this name pinned onto their sleeves for one week for everyone to see. This was the origin of the expression "to wear your heart on your sleeve."
- In 1537, England's King Henry VII officially declared February 14th the holiday of St. Valentine's Day.

## Chocolate

- Physicians of the 1800's commonly advised their patients to eat chocolate to calm their pining for lost love.
- Richard Cadbury produced the first box of chocolates for Valentine's Day in the late 1800's.
- More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day.
- Over \$1 billion worth of chocolate is purchased for Valentine's Day in the U.S.

## Flowers

- 73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27 percent are women.
- 15% of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.

## Roses

- The red rose was the favorite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love.
- Red roses are considered the flower of love because the color red stands for strong romantic feelings.
- 189 million stems of roses are sold in the U.S. on Valentine's Day.
- California produces 60 percent of American roses, but the greater number sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported, mostly from South America.
- Approximately 110 million roses, mostly red, will be sold and delivered within the three-day Valentine's Day time period.

## Greeting Cards

- Approximately one billion Valentines are sent out worldwide each year according to estimates by the U.S. Greeting Card Association. That's second only to Christmas.
- Women purchase approximately 85 percent of all Valentines.
- Teachers will receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, sweethearts and pets.

## And... More fun facts about Valentine's Day

- In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom, France, Australia, Denmark, and Italy.
- The most fantastic gift of love is the Taj Mahal in India. It was built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan as a memorial to his wife.
- Every Valentine's Day, the Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet.
- About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.
- In the US, 64 percent of men do not make plans in advance for a romantic Valentine's Day with their sweethearts.

**Happy Valentine's Day!**