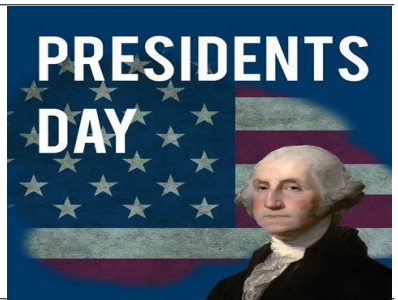




# February News 2023



February 2023

Volume: 74

## Brentwood Academy News



Groundhog Day Thursday February 2nd Will he see his shadow, or not?

Individual class parties Tuesday February 14 Valentines day

Presidents Day, Monday, February 20- School Closed

## Blue Bird of Alexandria II

Groundhog Day Thursday February 2nd Will he see his shadow, or not?



Individual class parties Tuesday February 14 Valentines day

Presidents Day, Monday, February 20- School Closed

OPEN HOUSE Kindergarten-2nd Grade. Tuesday February 7 3:00pm— 4:30pm



## Blue Bird of Alexandria



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## Blue Bird of Vienna



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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**The week of the 9th, registration forms for the fall will be sent out for children ages 2 through 8 at all schools. This is not a form to misplace, discard or disregard. If we do **NOT** receive the form back from you by **March 6**, we will be assuming your child/children will not be attending in the fall, as of September your child/children will no longer be on our roll and **your spot at the school will be filled.****

## Blue Bird Dayschool



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## Tiny Tots Playroom News



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Happy Valentine's Day!



March 27, 1775

## **Thomas Jefferson elected to the Continental Congress**

Future President Thomas Jefferson is elected to the second Continental Congress on March 27, 1775. Jefferson, a Virginia delegate, quickly established himself in the Continental Congress with the publication of his paper titled A Summary View of the Rights of British America. Throughout the next year, Jefferson published several more papers, most notably Drafts and Notes on the Virginia Constitution.

In June 1776, Congress put together a committee to draft the Declaration of Independence. After much discussion, the committee chose Jefferson to compose the document. At just 33 years old, Jefferson finished writing his draft of what is considered the most important document in the history of democracy in just a few days. After a few minor changes, the committee submitted the draft, titled A Declaration by the Representatives in General Congress Assembled, to Congress on June 28, 1776. After some debate, the document was formally adopted by Congress on July 4, 1776, under the new title, The Declaration of Independence.

In the following years, Jefferson drafted other historical documents including, in 1777, a bill establishing religious freedom that was formally enacted by Congress in 1786. He served as Virginia's governor from 1779 to 1781, minister to France from 1784 to 1789 and the first U.S. secretary of state under President George Washington from 1790 to 1793.

Jefferson served as vice president under President John Adams from 1797 to 1801 and afterwards was elected the third president of the United States, a position he held for two terms from 1801 to 1809. After his presidency ended, Jefferson retired from public life to his home, Monticello, in Virginia. Jefferson died on July 4, 1826—50 years to the day after the signing of The Declaration of Independence. He was 83 years old.

## **Happy Valentine's Day!**

March 27, 1905

### **Fingerprint evidence is used to solve a British murder case**

The neighbors of Thomas and Ann Farrow, shopkeepers in South London, discover their badly bludgeoned bodies in their home. Thomas was already dead, but Ann was still breathing. She died four days later without ever having regained consciousness. The brutal crime was solved using the newly developed fingerprinting technique. Only three years earlier, the first English court had admitted fingerprint evidence in a petty theft case. The Farrow case was the first time that the cutting-edge technology was used in a high-profile murder case.

Since the cash box in which the Farrow's stored their cash receipts was empty, it was clear to Scotland Yard investigators that robbery was the motive for the crime. One print on the box did not match the victims or any of the still-tiny file of criminal prints that Scotland Yard possessed. Fortunately, a local milkman reported seeing two young men in the vicinity of the Farrow house on the day of the murders. Soon identified as brothers Alfred and Albert Stratton, the police began interviewing their friends.

Alfred's girlfriend told police that he had given away his coat the day and changed the color of his shoes the day after the murders. A week later, authorities finally caught up with the Stratton brothers and fingerprinted them. Alfred's right thumb was a perfect match for the print on the Farrow's cash box.

The fingerprint evidence became the prosecution's only solid evidence when the milkman was unable to positively identify the Strattons. The defense put up expert Dr. John Garson to attack the reliability of the fingerprint evidence. But the prosecution countered with evidence that Garson had written to both the defense and prosecution on the same day offering his services to both.

The Stratton brothers, obviously not helped by the discrediting of Garson, were convicted and hanged on May 23, 1905. Since then, fingerprint evidence has become commonplace in criminal trials and the lack of it is even used by defense attorneys.



## 1983-2022 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.

1994-Shadow at 7:28 AM

1995-NO Shadow

1996-Shadow at 7:21 AM

1997-NO Shadow;

1998-Shadow at 7:20 AM;

1999-NO Shadow at 7:23 AM;

2000-Shadow at 7:28 AM;

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.

2004 Shadow

2005 Shadow

2006 Shadow at 7:23

2007 No shadow

2008 Shadow

2009 Shadow

2010 Shadow

2011 Shadow

2012 Shadow

2013 No shadow

2014 At 7:25 Shadow

2015 At 7:30 Shadow

2017 Shadow

2018 Shadow

2019 NO shadow

2020 NO shadow

2021 NO shadow

2022 Shadow



February 24, 1836

## Alamo defenders call for help

On February 24, 1836, in San Antonio, Texas, Colonel William Travis issues a call for help on behalf of the Texan troops defending the Alamo, an old Spanish mission and fortress under siege by the Mexican army.



A native of South Carolina, Travis moved to the Mexican state of Texas in 1831. He soon became a leader of the growing movement to overthrow the Mexican government and establish an independent Texan republic. When the Texas revolution began in 1835, Travis became a lieutenant-colonel in the revolutionary army and was given command of troops in the recently captured city of San Antonio de Bexar (now San Antonio). On February 23, 1836, a large Mexican force commanded by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana arrived suddenly in San Antonio. Travis and his troops took shelter in the Alamo, where they were soon joined by a volunteer force led by Colonel James Bowie.

Though Santa Ana's 5,000 troops heavily outnumbered the several hundred Texans, Travis and his men determined not to give up. On February 24, they answered Santa Ana's call for surrender with a bold shot from the Alamo's cannon. Furious, the Mexican general ordered his forces to launch a siege. Travis immediately recognized his disadvantage and sent out several messages via couriers asking for reinforcements. Addressing one of the pleas to "The People of Texas and All Americans in the World," Travis signed off with the now-famous phrase "Victory or Death."

Only 32 men from the nearby town of Gonzales responded to Travis' call for help, and beginning at 5:30 a.m. on March 6, Mexican forces stormed the Alamo through a gap in the fort's outer wall, killing Travis, Bowie, Davy Crockett and 190 of their men. Despite the loss of the fort, the Texan troops managed to inflict huge losses on their enemy, killing at least 600 of Santa Ana's men.

The defense of the Alamo became a powerful symbol for the Texas revolution, helping the rebels turn the tide in their favor. At the crucial Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 910 Texan soldiers commanded by Sam Houston defeated Santa Ana's army of 1,250 men, spurred on by cries of "Remember the Alamo!" The next day, after Texan forces captured Santa Ana himself, the general issued orders for all Mexican troops to pull back behind the Rio Grande River. On May 14, 1836, Texas officially became an independent republic. Texas joined the Union in 1845.

February 27, 1922

## Supreme Court defends women's voting rights

In Washington, D.C., the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, providing for female suffrage, is unanimously declared constitutional by the eight members of the U.S. Supreme Court. The 19th Amendment, which stated that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex," was the product of over seven decades of meetings, petitions, and protests by women suffragists and their supporters.

In 1916, the Democratic and Republican parties endorsed female enfranchisement, and on June 4, 1919, the 19th Amendment was passed by Congress and sent to the states for ratification. On August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment, achieving the required three-fourths majority of state ratification, and on August 26 the 19th Amendment officially took effect.