



# February News 2024



February 2024

Volume: 74

## Brentwood Academy News



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

Individual class parties Wednesday February 14 Valentines day

Presidents Day, Monday, February 19- School Closed

## Blue Bird of Alexandria II

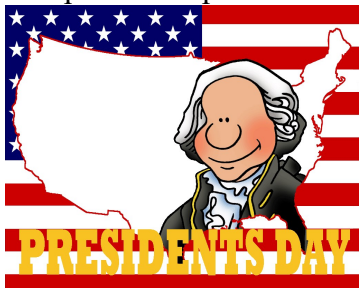
Groundhog Day Friday February 2nd Will he see his shadow, or not?



Individual class parties Wednesday February 14 Valentines day

Presidents Day, Monday, February 19- School Closed

OPEN HOUSE Kindergarten-2nd Grade. Tuesday February 6 3:00pm— 4:00pm



## Blue Bird of Alexandria



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

Individual class parties Wednesday February 14 Valentines day

Presidents Day, Monday, February 19- School Closed

## Blue Bird of Vienna



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

Individual class parties Wednesday February 14 Valentines day

Presidents Day, Monday, February 19- School Closed

## Table Of Contents

### Table of Contents:

Important Dates  
Boy scout Day  
Groundhog Day  
Presidents Day  
Valentine's Day  
Menu

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

The week of the 5th, 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 4**, 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



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

Individual class parties Wednesday February 14 Valentines day

Presidents Day, Monday, February 19- School Closed

## Happy Valentines Day!

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

## Tiny Tots Playroom News



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

Individual class parties Wednesday February 14 Valentines day

Presidents Day, Monday, February 19- School Closed



**February 20, 1792**

## **Postal Service Act regulates United States Post Office Department**

On February 20, 1792, President George Washington signs legislation renewing the United States Post Office as a cabinet department led by the postmaster general, guaranteeing inexpensive delivery of all newspapers, stipulating the right to privacy and granting Congress the ability to expand postal service to new areas of the nation.

William Goddard, a Patriot printer frustrated that the royal postal service was unable to reliably deliver his Pennsylvania Chronicle to its readers or deliver critical news for the paper to Goddard, laid out a plan for the Constitutional Post before the Continental Congress on October 5, 1774. Congress waited to act on the plan until after the Battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. Benjamin Franklin promoted Goddard's plan and served as the first postmaster general under the Continental Congress beginning on July 26, 1775, nearly one year before the Congress declared independence from the British Crown. Franklin's son-in-law, Richard Bache, took over the position on November 7, 1776, when Franklin became an American emissary to France.

Franklin had already made a significant contribution to the postal service in the colonies while serving as the postmaster of Philadelphia from 1737 and as joint postmaster general of the colonies from 1753 to 1774, when he was fired for opening and publishing Massachusetts Royal Governor Thomas Hutchinson's correspondence. While postmaster, Franklin streamlined postal delivery with properly surveyed and marked routes from Maine to Florida (the origins of Route 1), instituted overnight postal travel between the critical cities of New York and Philadelphia and created a standardized rate chart based upon weight and distance.

Samuel Osgood held the postmaster general's position in New York City from 1789, when the U.S. Constitution came into effect, until the government moved to Philadelphia in 1791. Timothy Pickering took over and, about a year later, the Postal Service Act gave his post greater legislative legitimacy and more effective organization. Pickering continued in the position until 1795, when he briefly served as secretary of war, before becoming the third U.S. secretary of state. The postmaster general's position was considered a plum patronage post for political allies of the president until the Postal Service was transformed into a corporation run by a board of governors in 1971.

**February 25, 1862**

## **Legal Tender Act passed to help finance the Civil War**

On February 25, 1862, the U.S. Congress passes the Legal Tender Act, authorizing the use of paper notes to pay the government's bills. This ended the long-standing policy of using only gold or silver in transactions, and it allowed the government to finance the enormously costly Civil War long after its gold and silver reserves were depleted.

Soon after the war began, the federal government began to run low on specie. Several proposals involving the use of bonds were suggested. Finally, Congress began printing money, which the Confederate government had been doing since the beginning of the war. The Legal Tender Act allowed the government to print \$150 million in paper money that was not backed by a similar amount of gold and silver. Many bankers and financial experts predicted doom for the economy, as they believed there would be little confidence in the scheme. There were also misgivings in Congress, as many legislators worried about a complete collapse of the nation's financial infrastructure.

The paper notes, called greenbacks, worked much better than expected. The government was able to pay its bills and, by increasing the money in circulation, the wheels of Northern commerce were greased. The greenbacks were legal tender, which meant that creditors had to accept them at face value. In 1862, Congress also passed an income tax and steep excise taxes, both of which cooled the inflationary pressures created by the greenbacks.

Another legal tender act passed in 1863, and by war's end nearly a half-billion dollars in greenbacks had been issued. The Legal Tender Act laid the foundation for the creation of a permanent currency in the decades after the Civil War.



## 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

2023 Shadow

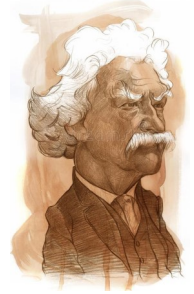


## February 18, 1885

### Mark Twain publishes “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn”

On February 18, 1885, Mark Twain publishes his famous—and famously controversial—novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

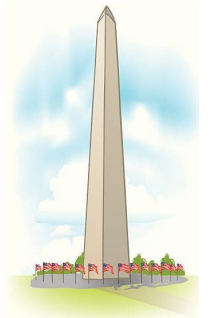
Twain (the pen name of Samuel Clemens) first introduced Huck Finn as the best friend of Tom Sawyer, hero of his tremendously successful novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876). Though Twain saw Huck’s story as a kind of sequel to his earlier book, the new novel was far more serious, focusing on the institution of slavery and other aspects of life in the antebellum South.



At the book’s heart is the journey of Huck and his friend Jim, a runaway enslaved person, down the Mississippi River on a raft. Jim runs away because he is about to be sold and separated from his wife and children, and Huck goes with him to help him get to Ohio and freedom. Huck narrates the story in his distinctive voice, offering colorful descriptions of the people and places they encounter along the way. The most striking part of the book is its satirical look at racism, religion and other social attitudes of the time. While Jim is strong, brave, generous and wise, many of the white characters are portrayed as violent, stupid or simply selfish, and the naive Huck ends up questioning the hypocritical, unjust nature of society in general.

Even in 1885, two decades after the Emancipation Proclamation and the end of the Civil War, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* landed with a splash. A month after its publication, a Concord, Massachusetts, library banned the book, calling its subject matter “tawdry” and its narrative voice “coarse” and “ignorant.” Other libraries followed suit, beginning a controversy that continued long after Twain’s death in 1910. In the 1950s, the book came under fire from African American groups for being racist in its portrayal of Black characters, despite the fact that it was seen by many as a strong criticism of racism and slavery. As recently as 1998, an Arizona parent sued her school district, claiming that making Twain’s novel required high school reading made already existing racial tensions even worse.

Aside from its controversial nature and its continuing popularity with young readers, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has been hailed by many serious literary critics as a masterpiece. No less a judge than Ernest Hemingway famously declared that the book marked the beginning of American literature: “There was nothing before. There has been nothing as good since.”



## February 21, 1885

### Washington Monument dedicated

The Washington Monument, built in honor of America’s revolutionary hero and first president, is dedicated in Washington, D.C.

The 555-foot-high marble obelisk was first proposed in 1783, and Pierre L’Enfant left room for it in his designs for the new U.S. capital. After George Washington’s death in 1799, plans for a memorial for the “father of the country” were discussed, but none were adopted until 1832—the centennial of Washington’s birth. Architect Robert Mills’ hollow Egyptian obelisk design was accepted for the monument, and on July 4, 1848, the cornerstone was laid. Work on the project was interrupted by political quarreling in the 1850s, and construction ceased entirely during the American Civil War. Finally, in 1876, Congress, inspired by the American centennial, passed legislation appropriating \$200,000 for completion of the monument.

In February 1885, the Washington Monument was formally dedicated, and three years later it was opened to the public, who were permitted to climb to the top of the monument by stairs or elevator. The monument was the tallest structure in the world when completed and remains today, by District of Columbia law, the tallest building in the nation’s capital.