



# February News 2025



February 2025

Volume: 74

## Brentwood Academy News



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

Individual class parties  
Friday February 14 Valen-  
tines day

Presidents Day, Monday,  
February 17- School  
Closed

## Blue Bird of Alexandria II

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



Individual class parties  
Friday February 14 Val-  
entines day

Presidents Day, Monday,  
February 17- School  
Closed

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



## Blue Bird of Alexandria



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

Individual class parties  
Friday February 14 Val-  
entines day

Presidents Day, Monday,  
February 17- School  
Closed

## Blue Bird of Vienna



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

Individual class parties Fri-  
day February 14 Valentines  
day

Presidents Day, Monday,  
February 17- 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 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 3**, 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 Sunday  
February 2nd Will he see  
his shadow, or not?

Individual class parties Fri-  
day February 14 Valentines  
day

Presidents Day, Monday,  
February 17- School

## Happy Valentine's Day!

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

## Tiny Tots Playroom News



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

Individual class parties Fri-  
day February 14 Valen-  
tines day

Presidents Day, Monday,  
February 17- School



## February 1 1790, First session of the U.S. Supreme Court

In the Royal Exchange Building on New York City's Broad Street, the Supreme Court of the United States meets for the first time, with Chief Justice John Jay of New York presiding.

The U.S. Supreme Court was established by Article Three of the U.S. Constitution, which took effect in March 1789. The Constitution granted the Supreme Court ultimate jurisdiction over all laws, especially those in which constitutionality was at issue. The court was also designated to rule on cases concerning treaties of the United States, foreign diplomats, admiralty practice, and maritime jurisdiction.

In September 1789, the Judiciary Act was passed, implementing Article Three by providing for six justices who would serve on the court for life. The same day, President George Washington appointed John Jay to preside as chief justice, and John Rutledge of South Carolina, William Cushing of Massachusetts, John Blair of Virginia, Robert Harrison of Maryland, and James Wilson of Pennsylvania to serve as associate justices. Two days later, all six appointments were confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

The Supreme Court later grew into arguably the most powerful judicial body in the world in terms of its central place in the U.S. political order. In times of constitutional crisis, for better or worse, it always played a definitive role in resolving the great issues of the time.

On **February 2, 1887, Groundhog Day**, featuring a rodent meteorologist, is celebrated for the first time at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. According to tradition, if a groundhog comes out of its hole on this day and sees its shadow, it gets scared and runs back into its burrow, predicting six more weeks of winter weather; no shadow means an early spring.

Groundhog Day has its roots in the ancient Christian tradition of Candlemas, when clergy would bless and distribute candles needed for winter. The candles represented how long and cold the winter would be. Germans expanded on this concept by selecting an animal—the hedgehog—as a means of predicting weather. Once they came to America, German settlers in Pennsylvania continued the tradition, although they switched from hedgehogs to groundhogs, which were plentiful in the Keystone State.

Groundhogs, also called woodchucks and whose scientific name is *Marmota monax*, typically weigh 12 to 15 pounds and live six to eight years. They eat vegetables and fruits, whistle when they're frightened or looking for a mate (they're sometimes called whistle pigs) and can climb trees and swim.

They go into hibernation in the late fall; during this time, their body temperatures drop significantly, their heartbeats slow from 80 to five beats per minute and they can lose 30 percent of their body fat. In February, male groundhogs emerge from their burrows to look for a mate (not to predict the weather) before going underground again. They come out of hibernation for good in March.

In 1887, a newspaper editor belonging to a group of groundhog hunters from Punxsutawney called the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club declared that Phil, the Punxsutawney groundhog, was America's only true weather-forecasting groundhog. The line of groundhogs that have since been known as Phil might be America's most famous groundhogs, but other towns across North America now have their own weather-predicting rodents, from Birmingham Bill to Staten Island Chuck to Shubenacadie Sam in Canada.



In 1993, the movie *Groundhog Day* starring Bill Murray popularized the usage of “groundhog day” to mean something that is repeated over and over. Today, tens of thousands of people converge on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney each February 2 to witness Phil's prediction. The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club hosts a three-day celebration featuring entertainment and activities.





## 1983-2024 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

2024 Shadow



**February 4 1789 George Washington**, the commander of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, is unanimously elected the **first president of the United States by all 69 presidential electors** who cast their votes. John Adams of Massachusetts, who received 34 votes, was elected vice president. The electors, who represented 10 of the 11 states that had ratified the U.S. Constitution, were chosen by popular vote, legislative appointment, or a combination of both four weeks before the election.

According to Article Two of the U.S. Constitution, the states appointed a number of presidential electors equal to the “number of Senators and Representatives to which the state may be entitled in Congress.” Each elector voted for two people, at least one of whom did not live in their state. The individual receiving the greatest number of votes was elected president, and the next-in-line, vice president. (In 1804, this practice was changed by the 12th Amendment to the Constitution, which ordered separate ballots for the office of president and vice president.)

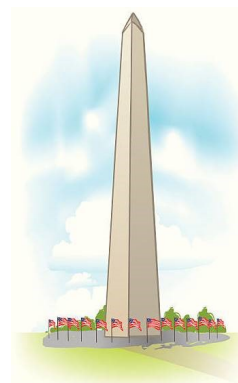
New York—though it was to be the seat of the new United States government—failed to choose its eight presidential electors in time for the vote on February 4, 1789. Two electors each from Virginia and Maryland were delayed by weather and did not vote. In addition, North Carolina and Rhode Island, which would have had seven and three electors respectively, had not ratified the Constitution and so could not vote.

That the remaining 69 unanimously chose Washington to lead the new U.S. government was a surprise to no one. As commander-in-chief during the Revolutionary War, he had led his inexperienced and poorly equipped army of civilian soldiers to victory over one of the world’s great powers. After the British surrender at Yorktown in 1781, Washington rejected with abhorrence a suggestion by one of his officers that he use his preeminence to assume a military dictatorship. He would not subvert the very principles for which so many Americans had fought and died, he replied, and soon after, he surrendered his military commission to the Continental Congress and retired to his Mount Vernon estate in Virginia.

## 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.