

THE SMOKE SIGNAL

February 2025
Newton Local Schools
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GALENTINE'S DAY

By Candace Shellenberger

Are you looking for an excuse to throw a party with your friends? Well, look no further than Galentine's Day. Galentine's Day is a day made to celebrate the friendship between you and your friends. It is mainly celebrated on February 13, however you can celebrate it anytime you want. Galentine's Day gained its popularity from the television show *Parks and Recreation*, when it aired in 2010.

Here are some ways to celebrate.

- Have your friends over for pink themed snacks and watch a movie
- Buy a bunch of chocolate to taste test
- Have a spa day
- Have a game night at someone's house
- Have a tea party
- Go out to a fancy dinner
- Set up a photo booth and have a photo shoot
- Have brunch together

DATE IDEAS

By Meg Yoder

With spring approaching, and summer short after, it gives couples a lot more date options. If you are still struggling to think of some though here is a list of a few I think would be fun!

- Legos + picnic, Legos + movie
- Bike ride + food, movie + food, pottery + food, kayaking + food, bridge/cliff jumping + food
- Swim + slushies, hike/walk + swim, swim + food
- Make a tie knot blanket
- Try to bake cookies, cupcakes, or a cake, berry picking + bake something
- Go to the zoo/aquarium, go mini golfing, go to Kings Island, go to a trampoline park, go fishing, go bowling, visit a botanical garden, go to a concert
- Have a bonfire + s'mores
- Ice cream + bike ride
- Go thrifting + movie, paint + movie, drive-in movie

SPORTS

A COMEBACK WIN!

By Dylan Bauer

The boys varsity basketball team had their first tournament game against Cedarville this past Saturday (02/22), and it was an electric game. The team went into the fourth quarter down by 7 and the gym was full of anticipation. Key defensive stops by the first zone defense that Coach Cantrell has ever used while coaching here, led to convert points and before you knew it, Newton had closed the gap to within one point. Both student sections were on their feet at this point, and with each point scored either side would cheer. In the end we got the lead and held it by making some crucial free throws. The final score was 41 - 37. Great job guys!



ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

Rylee Hess

Basketball is clearly one of Rylee's passions. She has been playing the sport for nine years. Rylee usually plays the wing, and is one of the most skilled players on the court. She is most proud of breaking her personal scoring record three times this season, now with an all time high of 24 points. Way to go Rylee!



Trenton Robinson

As a sophomore on the varsity basketball team, Trent has been able to make some key contributions in games throughout the season. His favorite thing about the sport is being able to shoot three pointers, and he is most proud of the time that he made 6 of them in one game. Keep it up Trent!



Q&A

1. What rule would you change about your sport?

Rylee: You get an automatic Technical if you give attitude to the Ref!

Trent: When a team is in bonus they should get one and one free throw shots.

2. What is your sport's most satisfying sound?

Rylee: When the ball swishes in the net, cleanly!

Trent: The swish of the net

3. What is one item from today that you would bring with you back in time to wow the Founding Fathers and why?

Rylee: I honestly don't know.

Trent: Any gaming console because I think it would be fun to watch them try to play on it.



PALENTINE'S ON A PENNY

By: Felicity Harbour

Do you not have valentine and want to hangout with your friends for Valentine's Day BUT you are a broke highschooler? Let me introduce to you, Palentine's on a Penny! This month my Newswriting pals and I decided to hangout doing and reviewing different things other people might want to do for Palentine's, Galentine's, or Valentine's Day! BUT, the twist is we take those ideas and we compromise for a cheaper alternative.

Want to go to the movies but tickets are kinda expensive? On Tuesdays, the Cinemark discounts their tickets to \$5.25 and you can just sneak in snacks because nobody is paying \$4.50 for M&M's!!

Want to go to an arcade but the closest one is in Fairfield? Go to the Walmart arcade! This was fun, close, and you only need a couple of quarters!

Planning on going to a nice restaurant but you have eaten out enough and you do not have enough money? Make the food at home and eat it! We wanted to go to Hibachi but we decided to buy frozen chicken and rice, dumplings, and ramen noodles from Dollar General to make this happen. It was about 20 dollars to feed all of us and it was tasty just like hibachi!

Want to go to the aquarium or zoo but realize you don't have 30 dollars for a ticket and it's a drive? Wait for it, go to the Petco in Troy and look at the fishies! They have kittens, ferrets, hamsters, snakes, iguanas, lizards, fish, mice, and it's free!



HISTORY OF ST. VALENTINE

By: Vivien Clark

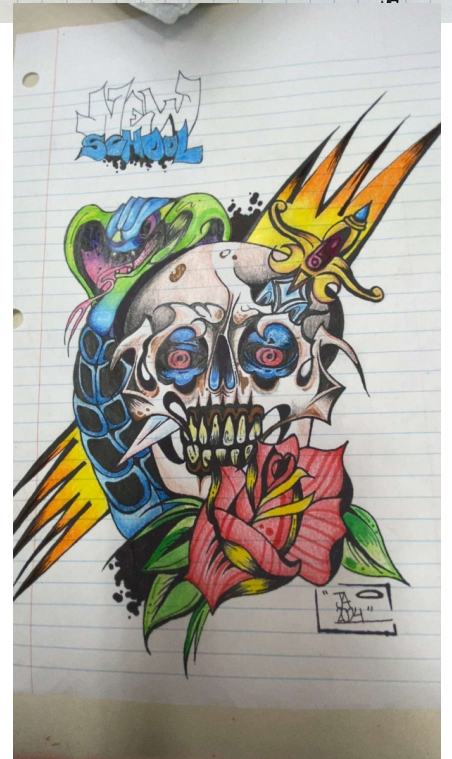
We all know Valentine's Day as a day of love and gifts to people. But what is Valentine's Day and how was it officially started? The origins of the day are different as we know it now. The day is to celebrate two men from the third century. Both men were saints with the name Valentine. Ironically they both performed secret weddings, died on February 14th, and were both beheaded by Emperor Claudius. The day was originally established as Feast day to commemorate the Priest and Bishop that were executed. The Holiday did not become associated with love until the Middle Ages. The American poet Geoffrey Chaucer, while mainly known for writing "The Canterbury Tales" is also widely credited for associating Saint Valentine with love. Chaucer wrote the 699 line poem about how birds choose their mates on February 14th. The poem is called Parliament of Fowls and he wrote "For this was on Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird comes there to choose his mate". After this, Europe began to associate the day with love, but it was not big until Chaucer wrote poems to people he referred to as his Valentine's. Although some believe that Chaucer was not referring to February 14th but actually May 3rd which is also a day where many other Saint Valentine are to be honored and celebrated. So Valentine's day as we know it now because of a poem and a few love letters sent out.

ENTERTAINMENT

ALBUM REVIEW

By Meg Yoder

This month's album is "Uprising" by Bob Marley & The Wailers. This album has ten songs and is 35 minutes long. It was released in 1980 on June 10th. This was the last album Bob Marley released before he died a year later on May 11th, 1981. He was 36 years old. He has released a total of 13 studio albums. "Uprising" features a handful of popular songs like: Pimper's Paradise, Could You Be Loved, and Redemption Song. My personal favorites are: Zion Train, Could You Be Loved, and Redemption Song. Bob Marley was a very talented individual, and it is upsetting that his life and career were cut short.



ARTIST OF THE MONTH

By Liam Woods

Your January Artist of the month is Jaydin Allen!

When did you get into art? around age 11

What is your favorite art medium? ink

What does your art consist of? anything I feel like drawing

What motivates you to make good art? other art I see

Do you plan on pursuing a career in art after graduation? yes, I am going to be a tattoo artist

MOVIE REVIEW



This month we watched *The Wild Robot* which follows the journey of Roz, the robot, Brightbill, an orphaned goose, and Fink, a fox. Roz and Fink work together to prepare Brightbill for his first migration. It is a tale of kindness, humanity, friendship, and coming together for a cause.

“I thought it was very cute and the animation was good but I wouldn’t watch it again” says Liam. Felicity says, “I thought it was cringe but it’s a kids movie so I expected that.” It is a good movie but it does have some emotional scenes, “It was a sad movie but had a happy ending, it was cute” says Candace and Meg says, “I thought it was really cute, I almost cried a couple of times.” Miss Rhea says, “I cried way more than I expected.” Vivien says, “I thought it was a good movie.” There was a good mix between emotional and funny. Dylan says, “The dark humor at the beginning caught me off guard”

Felicity and Vivien rate it a 3.5, Candace, Liam, Meg, and Miss Rhea rate it a 4, and Dylan gives it a 4.5.



CRUMBL TASTE TEST

By: Felicity Harbour

This month we tried the Valentine’s Week flavors at Crumbl. The flavors were Molten Lava, Pink Sugar, M&M, Valentine’s Funfetti, Chocolate Covered Strawberry, and Strawberry Cake. We are ranking them out of 10, 10 being the best and 1 being the worst.

Molten Lava was a chocolate cookie with chocolate in the middle like a lava cake and was very moist. We gave it a 8 out of 10.

Pink Sugar was a sugar cookie with pink icing, the cookie itself was good but the icing had a weird taste and there is better sugar cookies at Walmart. We rated it a 4.

The M&M cookie had so many M&M’s in it that you couldn’t get the cookie taste. We gave it a 4.

Valentine’s Funfetti was just a sugar cookie with sprinkles. It was good but not very sweet. It gets a 5.

Chocolate Covered Strawberry was a chocolate cookie with strawberry flavored icing on it. It was moist and had a good chocolate to strawberry flavor ratio. We gave it a 8.

Strawberry Cake was actually a mini strawberry cake with strawberry icing. It was fluffy and moist. We ranked it a 7.

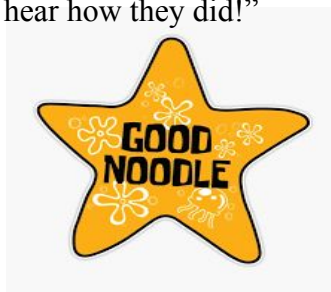


NEWTON LIFE

TEACHER OF THE MONTH

By Candace Shellenberger

This month's teacher of the month is Ms. Butanis, and she is in her second year of teaching. In her free time she enjoys cooking, baking, trying new recipes, and is learning how to crochet. I asked her if she always wanted to be a teacher and this was her response "So for a long time, I always thought I wanted to become a counselor/therapist, but then in my senior year of high school I decided that I wanted to become a music teacher." This year she is looking forward to the choir's trip to Kings Island, since this is the first field trip she has planned. One of her biggest accomplishments is her Senior Vocal Recital in college. She had to prepare and perform 40 minutes of solo vocal music in English, French, Italian, and German. For a long time in high school and college she struggled with stage fright, and performing recitals like that helped her overcome that. She was really proud of herself and the work she put in when it was over. I asked her what her favorite part of teaching was and she said "I think my favorite part of teaching is seeing my students perform and seeing their hard work pay off, at both the elementary and jr. high/high school level. We put so much work in preparing for concerts and it's always a rewarding feeling when they get to present that to the school/community. After the Christmas program, I let the elementary students watch a video of their performance, and they were so excited to see and hear how they did!"



**STUDENT
SPOTLIGHT**

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

By: Felicity Harbour

For this month's Student of the Month I decided to ask Miss Short who she thought fit the title and this is what she had to say. "Aadyn Gearheart joined our school and my chemistry class a week or two into the second quarter. So he missed a fair bit of chemistry that was a crucial background to everything we've learned since. But Aadyn didn't grumble or complain -- he has just tried his best to learn what he missed and also to learn all the new stuff. And he's a great student to count on for answering questions in class. It's not easy to change schools mid-year (or really any time) and especially not easy to come into chemistry missing 1/4 of the content already. But he's making it work and I'm glad he's joined my class and is now one of our Newton students. So this is why I've chosen him for the student of the month." Good job Aadyn!



THINGS WE LOVE

By Meg Yoder

I love when someone sends me a photo and says' "This is us!"

I love when I laugh so hard I can't breathe.

I love socks.

I love when people openly show how much they care.

I love my dented water bottle with stickers that are peeling.

I love last minute hangouts.

I love looking through my camera roll.

I love when I get home after hanging out with friends and thinking about how much I love them.

I love when a little kid comes up to me and wants to show me something.

I love when my mom surprises me with food.

I love when my dad gets excited about something and wants to share it with me.

I love iced matcha lattes.

By Felicity Harbour

I love when certain pens make my handwriting look better than it actually is

I love scents that bring me nostalgia

I love how workers at a restaurant you've gone to your whole life get to see you grow up a little every time you come to eat.

I love the look you and your friend give each other when you're trying not to laugh so you don't get in trouble.

I love licking the spoon after baking

I love sleeping in my own bed after being on vacation

I love taking pictures of the sunset

I love seeing old couples still in love

I love when I run out of breath or my stomach starts hurting from laughing

I love windy spring days

By Liam Woods

I love after school naps

I love late night food runs

I love beating a hard boss in Persona

I love when my dog greets me at the door

I love when it is perfect weather for swimming

I love when I get free food from my McDonalds app

I love Spotify Premium

I love inside jokes that never get old

I love when a new season of a show I love comes out

I love tik tok edits of my favorite characters

By Dylan Bauer

I love listening to music in my car early in the morning before the sun comes up

I love the feeling of new shoes

I love being outside on foggy mornings

I love freshly baked chocolate chip cookies

I love squirrels

I love dances

I love the Disney movies that I grew up with

I love the sound of crickets on a summer night

I love being able to see my breath on cold days

I love the color purple

By Candace Shellenberger

I love when the sunset is extra beautiful.

I love when my mom makes my favorite meal.

I love when my grandma takes me out to lunch.

I love when all my family is home.

I love when all the leaves fall off the trees.

I love going on adventures with my sister.

I love Bible studies with friends.

I love getting to see the kids I babysit grow up.

I love when I get to take a long nap on Sunday afternoons.

I love taking walks outside.

I love seeing the joy in little kids faces.

I love jumping in the pool after a long day of working in the summer.

I love going on drives with my dad.

By: Vivien Clark

I love sleeping in and waking up to the sun peaking through the curtains

I love the morning doves call on a perfect summer day

I love listening to my friends laughs

I love when my friends ask me random questions

I love music

I love going out after a long day of after school events

I love the way people act when they hear good news

I love when you are having such a good time you lose track of time

I love late night drives

I love when my friends are super excited about something

I love how giddy people get when they around someone they like

I love random hangouts and talks with my brother

I love hugs after a long stressful day

I love the look friends share when they see something and know they will be talking about it later

CLUNKER OF THE MONTH



By: Vivien Clark

This month I have decided to switch it up a bit. We shine a lot of light on the old and beat up cars, but what about the nice cars? So this month instead of a clunker I have decided to pick out a car that not only runs nice but also looks nice. This car is a 2010 F-150 and belongs to Brady Wackler. He has been driving it for just about two years. The truck was his dads before his and it has its imperfections but overall he enjoys driving it. He especially likes how versatile it is and how much space it has for storage. Overall it is a very nice reliable truck and Brady is proud to own it.



GROUNDHOG DAY

By: Liam Woods

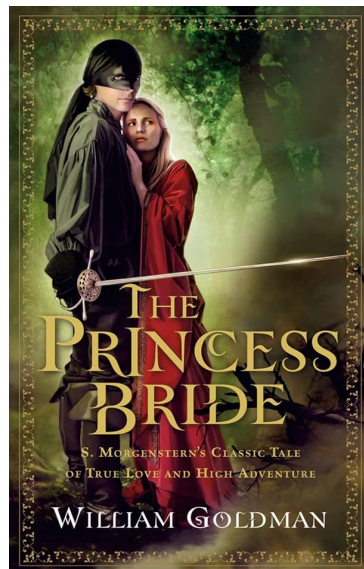
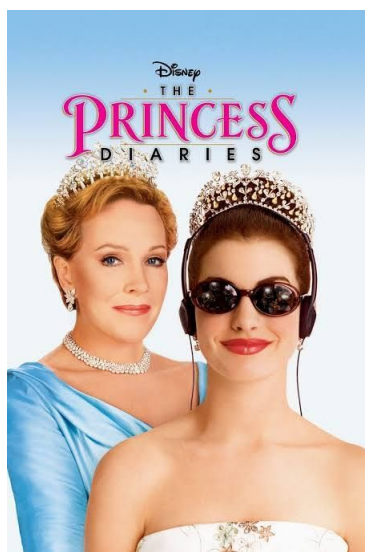
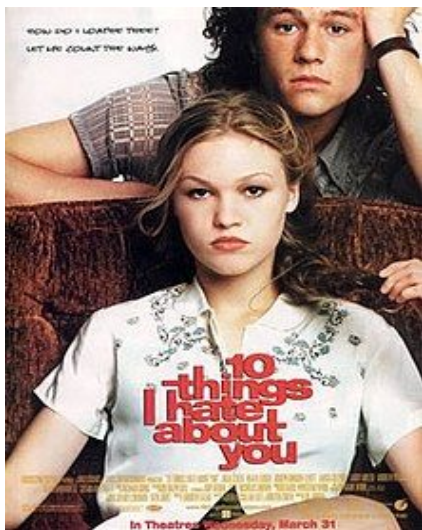
Groundhog Day is the forgotten holiday of February but I think we should give it more love. Groundhog day started on February 2nd 1877 in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, but the tradition of using rodents to predict the weather started by German immigrants earlier. While Groundhog Day does not have any science behind it, it is still a fun tradition to celebrate every year with your family and friends. You may be thinking “Groundhog day is stupid what am I even supposed to do?” Well, first off you have to watch the groundhog predict the weather, but you can even celebrate after that, you could make shadow puppets, make dirt pies like you are a groundhog, and watch the hit movie *Groundhog Day* starring Bill Murray. Unfortunately, this year Phil, the groundhog, predicted 6 more weeks of winter. Which proved to be true because shortly after his prediction we had a week off of school for snow. So when you are all caught up about love and buying gifts for Valentines Day, kick back with Phil and enjoy the best holiday of February, Groundhog Day.



QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

By Liam Woods

February is the month of love, football, and groundhogs, and I loved reading your answers to this month's questions. To start it off I asked how you guys thought Valentine's Day would be. 33% thought it would be great, 45% said it will be just alright, and I'm guessing the other 21% does not have a date or if they do they hate their partner. But even if you had a date or not there were many big plans for Valentine's Day. Including dinner plans, a Disney Cruise that just happened to fall on Valentine's Day, Galentine's Day, and a self love day with food and movies. Valentine's Day was not the only day with big plans. The Super Bowl also happened this month where many people held parties, or just hung out with a couple friends but the biggest plan for the Super Bowl was to watch the Eagle's win, and luckily you guys got your wish. The Super Bowl is only the second biggest thing on the T.V. During February, the biggest thing is Rom Coms. This month the lowest rating movie was *27 Dresses* with only 1 vote, followed by *The Proposal* with only 2 votes, next there was a tie between *Juno* and *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days* both with 9% of votes. Now for the top 3 you have *The Princess Diaries* with 18% of votes, in second was *The Princess Bride* with 24% of votes and the winner and my personal pick was *10 Things I Hate About You* with 30% of the votes. The only thing better than Rom Coms are love songs. Some popular picks were "Love Story" and "Lover" by Taylor Swift, "Youforia" by Mac Miller, "Would You Fall In Love With Me" from Epic the Musical and "Snuff" by Slipknot. To end off February's questions was to ask about little things you love. Some good answers were, when people talk about something they are passionate about, *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, the sound of birds chirping on a spring morning, and the smell of gasoline. That is all for February, see you in March.



HOW TO HANDLE REJECTION

By Meg Yoder

If you are asked out on Valentine's Day, or close to Valentine's Day, by someone you do not see that way, the best thing to do is tell them right away. If it is in front of a bunch of people, and you cannot bring yourself to reject them then, do it later. Send them a polite text or tell them in person, but do it as quickly as you can. Being honest is the best thing to do. You do not want to lead them on because then it is on you. After you have rejected them, do not make fun of them. Do not make up fake things about them because that person does not deserve that. They built the courage up to ask you, that is very hard and nerve racking.

If you are the person asking someone out, be open to rejection. Do your best to not get mad, and do not be embarrassed! Just like I said before, do not say mean things about the person you asked out. It is not fair to them. You are ASKING this person if they would like to go on a date, they are allowed to say no. Good luck!

PHOTO JOURNAL

4 MONTH UPDATE ON PEONY



Dear C, you're eyes are like a ocean, If I dive in I fear I might never come back up for air. I think you are really pretty, I think in 3rd period you are so funny. I want you to know that I like you. Your smile brights up my day. I love getting snaps from you. Respond thoughn the smoke signal

Love

INTERACTIVE



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

Makenzie Voisard
Matthew Waller
Callie Smith
Hudson Shinall
Alec Schaurer
Alexis Gearheart
Sawyer Hainline
Isabella Anderson
Emily Laughman
Cristian Estrada
Addison Lyons
Natalie Davey
Slater Garber
Isabella Wood
Alexis Walters
Stephanie Knepper

Q F Q Z N P C D E Q L W J M I
Y D N A C Q R T W M C O T E P
W P T Z K X A E C N M D V A Q
H G J H T L G P S O L A T E A
X G A K O V S O J I L H D K E
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T H V R G E R A X W N Y N D H
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J U U O H I D W U H E U N R L
N V E X G N H R V A T W C P G
F I A Y L E B A R R F F Q Y M
T P Q X G E G T N K N G C T E
V V C J F S T N S K O Q P G N

february groundhog shadow
chocolate heart roses
valentine candy love presidents

SMOKE SIGNALS FEBRUARY PLAYLIST



“Dandelions” - Ruth B.
“ROS” - Mac Miller
“Can’t Help Falling In Love” - Elvis Presley
“Heartbeat, Heartbreak” Shihoko Hirata
“Close to You” - Gracie Abrams
“Better Together” Luke Combs
“Until I Found You” - Stephan Sanchez

