



February National Calendar

1-5, U.S. Nationals Snow Sculpting, Lake Geneva, WI.

2, **Groundhog Day.** If the sun shines and the groundhog sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter.

11, **Chinese New Year Parade,** San Francisco, CA. Year of the Dragon.

14, **Valentine's Day.** sweethearts exchange gifts.

20, **Presidents' Day.** Observes birthdays of George Washington (22nd), Abraham Lincoln (12th), and all former U.S. presidents.

21, **Mardi Gras.** Last feast before Lent Events; also held during the two weeks before "Fat Tuesday."

29, **Leap Year Day.**

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What's New with BKW... (www.buzzingkidsworld.com/)

In preparation for the Winter YOG we have And in the meantime, check out:

- **New Year Shuistrolgy for Teens...**

You know you're in love when you don't want to fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams.

~Dr. Seuss

Caution: Cupid is on the loose with his love potion!

Each year on February 14, millions of cards decorated with lace, hearts, cupids, and flowers are exchanged. They are coveted by lovers and friends, husbands and wives, students and teachers, children and parents. Though it enjoys enormous popularity, the origin of Valentine's Day became clouded by mists of time and the mixing of history and legend.

The earliest historical connection of romance and February comes from the pre-Christian holiday of Lupercalia. Some centuries later, Februata Juno became the festival of choice, at least in Rome. As part of this celebration, young women wrote love notes and put them in a large urn. Young men of Rome would draw the notes and then court the women whose messages they received.

The Christian church wanted to replace pagan holidays with new religious celebrations. With the martyrdom of St. Valentine on February 14, St. Francis de Sales recognized a timely opportunity. He replaced the young women's love notes with the names of saints. People of all ages could play. They were supposed to follow the example of the virtues of the saint whose name they drew.

But romance wouldn't die, and it was furthered by the belief that birds chose their mates on February 14. And legends of St. Valentine and his influence on lovers grew with each century.

In the middle ages, when few people could read or write, friends said or sang their valentines to each other. The day became especially popular in England and France. As people from those countries came to the New World, the custom came with them.



Cupid, of course, was a Roman contribution. In Roman mythology, Cupid is the son of Venus, goddess of love and beauty. He is still represented on valentines as a cherub armed with arrows.

Sooo... watch out for Cupid. Some say he is still out there, especially on Valentine's Day. And his arrow is dipped in love potion!

CHALK TALK

The "Love Hormone" and monkey business

Ever heard of oxytocin? The name of this hormone may not sound warm and fuzzy, but it can have some sweet effects according to research done by scientists at Duke University. In a recent study, macaques were exposed to oxytocin using a child-sized nebulizer and then given a choice that involved a serving of fruit juice. By pointing at symbols, a monkey could tell researchers to give the juice to itself, to give the juice to a macaque seated next to it, or to give out no juice at all.



Monkeys who had inhaled the oxytocin were more likely to give the juice to their neighbors than monkeys who had not been exposed to the hormone. Michael Platt, who headed the study, speculated that one of the effects of the drug is the increased ability to pay attention to other individuals. "If that's true," he said, "it's really cool because it suggests that oxytocin breaks down normal social barriers."

Scientists are looking into whether the hormone might help people with autism and other disorders that can interfere with the ability to feel and express empathy.

For all the latest science news, check out the National Geographic's twice-weekly news rundown, [EarthCurrent](http://EarthCurrent.com).

LEAP DAY

Wednesday
Feb. 29, 2012

Once every 4 years*

*At least it is nearly once every four years. The time between some Leap Years is longer. In 1896 and 1904 the time between Leap Years was eight years. The next time a eight-year span marks a leap year will be 2096 and 2104. All of this is because the earth revolves around the sun every 365.2422 days. If you use a calendar with 365 days, you would lose about six hours per year. After 100 years the hours start to add up. The calendar would be ahead of the season by 24 days. So, the Leap Day, keeps us, more or less, in tune with the movement of the earth around the sun

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LOVE

Some more kids' ideas of LOVE

Kids, aged 5 to 10, were asked about what they thought of love and marriage...

Love and Marriage:

I'm in favor of love as long as it doesn't happen when Dinosaurs is on television. ~Jill, 6

Kissing:

You learn [how to kiss] right on the spot when the gooshy feelings get the best of you. ~ Doug, 7

Deciding Who To Marry:

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. ~ Allan, 10

How People In Love Act:

It's love if they order one of those desserts that are on fire. They like to order those because it's just like how their hearts are -- on fire. ~ Christine, 9

Strategies For Making People Fall In Love With You:

Tell them that you own a whole bunch of candy stores. ~ Del, 6

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Week: Feb. 13-19 Random acts of kindness

This celebration is held to increase awareness of kindness and its benefits to both the giver and receiver.

Anonymous acts make the giver feel good, maybe for the rest of the day or evening. You don't plan to do any particular type of kindness, all you can do is recognize an opportunity to kindly help someone.

From February 13 to 19, you have an entire week to become something of a hero. A person overloaded with packages will be surprised and pleased when you offer to carry one. The co-worker who drops papers on the floor will admire your kindness when you help



Some fun websites for valentine activities!

- Valentine Trivia Quiz or Smoochies X & Hugs O Game (50 smoochies and hugs possible) <http://www.brownielocks.com/valtrivia.html>

February Project



Bake up some love

... with the kids this Valentine's Day. It's the perfect bonding opportunity. According to a Wilton Enterprises survey:

- 80% of moms say time with the kids is the main motivation for baking together
- 75% of moms are interested in hosting a party that includes a baking and decorating activity for kids
- 68% of moms welcome baking as a creative opportunity for youngsters, and 60% as a teaching moment
- 89% of moms prefer kid-sized cupcakes as treats

Tips:

- Spread love this Valentine's Day by having kids send a heart-to-heart cookie to someone special, like grandma or grandpa.
- Package homemade treats made at a party and send them home for family members. It's a delicious way to say "I love you."
- Build a baking & decorating tool caddy to encourage continued creativity & learning.

Wilton Kids Bakeware can be found on www.amazon.com in their Kitchen and Housewares category. Look for:

- Valentine's 6 Piece Mini Cutter Set
- Wilton Kids Incredible Icing Squeezie
- Wilton Kids Mega Sprinkles Tote
- Wilton Kids Cupcake Mini Cake Pan
- Wilton Valentine Shaped Party Bags
- Made with Love Sandwich Bags
- Heart and Love Mini Cupcake Wrappers

~ Source:

Share the Love



This site is just too cute not to share the fun and helpfulness you'll find in it. Getting kids to brush for two minutes is like "pulling teeth"! Not anymore with the Twooth Timer... "The kids love the timer and it has become a game for them to brush for the duration." ~ <http://twoothtimer.com/>

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POETRY & PUZZLE CORNER

Silly Valentine

It's Valentine's day,
And it's really quite silly;
My feelings are switching
around Willy-nilly.

I'm happy, SO happy!
Then I'm feeling SO sad;
I'm gloomy, I'm joyful
Oh man, this is bad!

My body is clammy,
Then I'm in a deep sweat;
Sometimes I'm giddy,
Sometimes I fret.

I'm looking for comfort food
Deep in the frig;
Often I think
I could jump off a bridge.

What is the reason
For all the above?
It's Valentine's Day,
And I'm SO in love!

~ Joanna Fuchs
<http://www.poemsource.com/funny-valentine-poems.html>



Valentine's Day Word Search

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E S M           W B F
T R A E H       C A R D N
O R O S E S     V I V M N F
O F L O W E R S G E C A N D Y X
H A N D H O L D I N G L L O R T S
H U G S T C D P D K F B E M I N E
Q S R O T I U S U N E C N A M O R
D I P U C H O C O L A T E V Z
S G N I L E E F C G I F T
F R P V N D I A M O N D Z
Y E W Y R A U R B E F
V V P Q R T I Y T
O U R Z E
L O V
W
    
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Arrow	Date	Hand holding	Roses
Be Mine	Diamond	Heart	Stroll
Candy	February	Hugs	Suitors
Carl	Feelings	Kisses	Valentine
Chocolate	Flowers	Love	
Cuples	Friendship	Lovers	
Cupid	Gift	Romance	