



# The BuzzLetter

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## Valentines aren't just for lovers

What makes the world go 'round, the birds sing and song writers write? It's love, and it gives life a glow, a touch of enchantment. Without it, life is just days of work, routine, and pondering mundane things like gossip and rumors.

Love pulls at the heart strings. And although it's said diamonds are a girl's best friend, a valentine made of paper will do nicely, thank you, and is often saved in a shoebox or scrapbook.



Friendly cards are in style now. American Greeting says its cards are "bouncy, flirty cards that don't express commitment," but include such verses as "Something interesting is happening between us. I'm not sure where it will go." Although love makes the world go 'round, it seems that a lot of people avoid the "L" word. Mushiness is no longer in style. They also say that teachers get more valentines than anyone else.

A California card store owner says valentines are a sentiment of esteem, not love; e.g., one mother bought sachets and paper hearts for her daughter's basketball team. And many people don't have families, says another card shop owner, but they're sure to get a valentine. And don't be surprised if you get a valentine signed, "Happy Valentine's Day from Fido!"

Department stores say it's a time to celebrate love rather than romance - love for everybody, that is: Family, friends, teachers, co-workers, and children receive gifts such as picture frames and heart-motif PJs. After all, why should lovers have all the fun? As for this editor, "I'll take romance."

## Who sent the first card?

The first Valentine card that was decorated and poetic is attributed to the imprisoned Charles, Duke of Orleans, in 1415. He eased the pain of imprisonment by writing love verses to his wife.

By the 1700s, manufactured cards became the most popular way to declare love. The cards were elaborately hand-painted and decorated with gold leaf, satins, silks, and exotic feathers. **Note:** See our valentine poetry page for making your own cards: [www.buzzingkidsworld.com](http://www.buzzingkidsworld.com). You'll find it in the right menu under Holiday Traditions.

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## Chocolate

Our love for chocolate has ancient roots. Some say Montezuma, ruler of the Aztecs, drank many cups of chocolate every day. (He thought it would give him greater s-e-x appeal.) And Casanova, the great lover, was a firm believer in the aphrodisiac powers of chocolate.

It was Richard Cadbury who introduced the Valentine's Day box in 1886. His chocolate was hidden in a heart-shaped box.

Manufacturers will sell more than 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate this year. The good news: Doctors say the dark chocolate is a heart-healthy food. If your favorite is milk chocolate, it won't help your heart, but it'll titillate the taste buds.

*Forget love . . . I'd rather fall in chocolate.* ~ Author Unknown

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## CHALK TALK

### Presidential trivia for Presidents Day (February 16<sup>th</sup>)



- When George Washington was elected President, there was a king in France, a czarina in Russia, an emperor in China, and a shogun in Japan. Only the office of President remains.
- John Tyler was the father of 15 children, the last of which was born when he was 70 years old.
- Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on the Fourth of July, 1826, exactly 50 years after the Declaration of Independence.
- When he was 18 years old, Andrew Jackson married Eliza McCardle, age 16. She taught him to read and write. After that he was mayor of the town, governor of Tennessee, and President of the United States.
- William Howard Taft was the heaviest president at 335 pounds. James Madison, the lightest at 100 pounds. Abraham Lincoln was the tallest at 6' 4".
- Benjamin Franklin wanted to demonstrate to the public the great benefits of compound interest. In his will, he left 2,000 pounds, half to Boston and half to Philadelphia. The money was to be loaned in amounts of 60 pounds or less to young craftsmen who wished to set themselves up in business.

Two hundred years later Franklin's fund still existed. In Philadelphia it was used for mortgage loans.

In Boston the fund continued to finance education, though apprenticeships gave way to loans to students attending colleges in the Boston area. After 200 years, the Boston fund was worth over two million dollars.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

### Kids ideas about love!

Kids, aged 7 to 10, were asked the question what they thought of love. Here's what they said.

*I think you're supposed to get shot with an arrow or something, but the rest of it isn't supposed to be so painful.*

~ Manuel, age 8

*I'm not rushing into being in love. I'm finding fourth grade hard enough.*

~ Regina, age 10

*My mother says to look for a man who is kind. That's what I'll do. I'll find somebody who's kinda tall and handsome.*

~ Carolyn, age 8

*Love is the most important thing in the world, but baseball is pretty good too.* ~ Greg, age 8

*Love is foolish...but I still might try it sometime.* ~ Floyd, age 9

*It gives me a headache to think about that stuff. I'm just a kid. I don't need that kind of trouble.*

~ Kenny, age 7



*I don't understand why Cupid was chosen to represent Valentine's Day. When I think about romance, the last thing on my mind is a short, chubby toddler coming at me with a weapon.*

~ Source Unknown

## IT'S ALL ABOUT ROMANCE

### Why "X" stands for a kiss

In medieval times few people could write. If they had to sign an important paper, they would make an X, often in some distinctive way. To give the document further credence, they solemnly kissed the X.

Over time, the X came to stand for a kiss. Though people sign with their names today, the X tells the receiver to visualize that kiss, not for the document but for the receiver.



### Long Division

By AmadeusTheKitten

He's teaching her arithmetic,  
He said it was his mission.  
He kissed her once; he kissed her twice  
And said, "Now that's addition."  
And as he added smack by smack  
In silent satisfaction,  
She sweetly gave the kisses back  
And said, "Now that's subtraction."  
Then he kissed her, she kissed him,  
Without an explanation.  
And both together smiled and said,  
"That's multiplication."  
Then Dad appeared upon the scene  
And made a quick decision.  
He kicked that kid three blocks away  
And said, "That's long division!"

*Ah me! Love can not be cured by herbs.* ~Ovid

### Saying I Love You in another language

**Chinese (Cantonese)** *Moi oiy neya*

**Chinese (Mandarin)** *Wo ai ni*

**Danish** *Jeg elsker dig*

**French** *Je t'aime or Je t'adore*

**Gaelic** *Ta gra agam ort*

**German** *Ich liebe Dich*

**Hawaiian** *Aloha Wau Ia 'Oe*

**Italian** *Ti voglio bene*

**Japanese** *Aishiter*

**Norwegian** *Eg elsker deg*

**Polish** *Ja cie Kocham*

**Romanian** *Te iubesc*

**Russian** *Ya vas liubliu*

**Spanish** *Te amo*

**Swedish** *Jag alskar dig*

**Welsh** *'Rwy'n dy garu di.*

### American Sign Language



## February Project

### Origami Heart



#### Supplies needed:

Paper

Deft fingers

Patience

Love of the craft of Origami

**Note:** Light weight colored copy paper was used for this project.

Some people have a natural talent for arts and crafts. Artist Anika of Crafty Art World is just such a lady. She created the origami heart shown above, and the tutorial we might add, with the snap of a finger. You'll find the tutorial for making this heart on her website, [www.craftyartworld.com](http://www.craftyartworld.com), along with many other crafts and tutorials for you and your kids. You'll find them listed in the right menu under Holiday Crafts.

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### On your "don't do" list for Valentine's Day

- ◆ Don't give the same valentine you gave last year.
- ◆ Don't buy a size too big. When in doubt, buy smaller.
- ◆ Don't forget your wallet for that romantic Valentine's dinner.
- ◆ Don't leave your date alone with your parents, siblings, or pet. Too much reality, too soon.
- ◆ Don't give household appliances for Valentine's Day.
- ◆ Don't give your partner a ring that was meant for someone else. At least get the inscription removed.

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### And just for the record . . .

Cupid became associated with love and Valentine's Day because he was the son of Venus, the Roman goddess of love and beauty.