

THE BUZZ LETTER

February 2010



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History Matters!



February: Shortest month... with a full calendar!

Talk about a full calendar! Although February has the fewest number of days in a month it sure knows how to pack it in - starting with Groundhog Day and the Super Bowl; then Valentine's Day, Presidents Day, Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday to kick-off the Lenten Season. Did I hear Olympics, anyone?

And as if that's not enough, from February 12th through the 15th volunteers ("citizen scientists") all over the continent take up the Great Backyard Bird Count as part of Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society's efforts to monitor the species. Anyone can take part and submit their checklist to www.birdcount.org.

From birds to valentines, there's something for just about everybody this month. Our valentine message to you...



Laughter is the brush that sweeps away the cobwebs of the heart.

~ Mort Walker

CHALK TALK

Presidents Day: Little-known facts about Washington and Lincoln George Washington

- George Washington was the only president to win a unanimous vote of the Electoral College.
- The nation's capital, along with one state, 31 counties and 17 cities are named in Washington's honor.
- As a farmer, Washington is credited with introducing the mule to America. Life in Virginia during Washington's youth was harsh. His wife, Martha, once wrote that receiving a tea bag was a precious gift.
- He was the only president who did not live in Washington, D. C.
- Washington's second inaugural address is the shortest ever delivered, 135 words.
- According to a survey done by Newsweek a few years ago, 14 percent of pre-schoolers thought George Washington was still the president of the U.S.

Abraham Lincoln

- Abraham Lincoln was 6 feet 4 inches tall, at a time when most men in the United States were about 5 feet 6 inches. His size 14 shoes had to be custom made.
- He is the only U.S. President to hold a patent. He came up with an idea that would help boats float over sandbars when traveling on rivers. He had made two trips to New Orleans on flatboats.
- Lincoln was color blind.
- He liked to tell jokes. After he served in the Black Hawk War, Lincoln said he had seen no "live, fighting Indians" but had "many struggles with mosquitoes." Lincoln had several jobs in New Salem, Illinois. He ran a store, was a surveyor, and was the postmaster. He earned the nickname "Honest Abe".
- *In 1861, after he moved to Washington, Lincoln grew a beard on the suggestion of an 11-year-girl.*

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

KID'S IDEAS ABOUT LOVE

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

Love and Marriage: *If falling in love is anything like learning how to spell, I don't want to do it. It takes too long.* ~Glenn, age 7

Kissing: (on seeing a couple kissing) *He is trying to steal her chewing gum!* ~Roy, age 6

Beauty: *It isn't always how you look. Look at me. I'm handsome like anything, and I haven't got anybody to marry me yet.* ~Brian, age 7

How People In Love Act: *They act mooshy. Like puppy dogs, except puppy dogs don't wag their tails nearly as much.* ~Arnold, age 10

What Mom & Dad Have In Common: *Both don't want no more kids.* ~Lori, age 8

Love is like an avalanche where you have to run for your life.

~ John, Age 9

Strategies For Making People Fall In Love With You: *Shake your hips and hope for the best.* ~Camille, age 9

The Best Age To Get Married: *Twenty three because you know the person forever by then.* ~Cam, age 10

Good Advice About Love: *Be a good kisser. It might make your wife forget that you never take out the trash.* ~Erin, age 8

For more Valentine's Day fun, see the February 2009 BuzzLetter. www.buzzingkidsworld.com



SEASONAL TOPICS

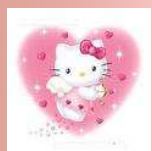
My Teacher Calls Me Sweetie Cakes

My teacher calls me sweetie cakes
My classmates think it's funny
to hear her call me angel face
or pookie bear or honey.

She calls me precious baby doll.
She calls me pumpkin pie
or doodle bug or honey bunch
or darling butterfly.

My class is so embarrassing
I need to find another;
just any class at all
in which the teacher's not my
mother.

~Kenn Nesbitt
www.poetry4kids.com



Valentine's Day by the numbers

Valentine's Day is a popular day to send flowers, but it isn't the most popular. Valentine's Day vies with Easter/Passover for third place while Christmas and Mother's Day take first and second places respectively. If you just count fresh flowers, though, Valentine's Day is first.

According to www.aboutflowers.com of the roses purchased, 64 percent are red, 11 percent pink, 10 percent mixed colors, 5 percent peach/salmon, 4 percent yellow, 3 percent white, and 3 percent other.

According to Hallmark Research, 180 million valentine cards are exchanged annually.

How many cards will you exchange this year?

February Project

Valentine Postcard

Use a doily as a stencil for sponge paints and make a lovely Valentine's Day card.

Supplies needed:

- Heavy white paper or postcard
- Paper doily
- Red or pink paint
- Paintbrush or sponge
- Clear contact paper (optional)

Directions:

1. Place a paper doily on one side of a blank postcard, or on a piece of heavy white paper folded to make a card. You can hold the doily in place with a small amount of tacky adhesive or a paper clip.
2. Paint or sponge over the doily and onto the postcard beneath it.
3. Remove the doily and let the postcard dry.
4. Cover with clear contact paper to give it a finished look.
5. Mail one to yourself and add it to your postcard collection!

OR

1. Use colored paper folded twice.
2. Secure a lacy heart to the front with tacky adhesive.
3. Write a valentine message on the front and inside the folded paper.



Want more to do . . .

See Valentine Kit at bottom right of www.buzzingkidsworld.com on the home page

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**Answer to January Rhyming Riddle:
A kite**

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