

# TIGER TRACKS



February 2017

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## Groundhog Day by Mohammad Siam

On February 2nd, every year, we have National Groundhog Day. Groundhog Day is a popular tradition in the United States since it is the day that the groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, comes out of his hole after a long winter sleep to look for his shadow. If he sees it, he regards it as an omen of six more weeks of bad weather and returns to its hole. If the day is cloudy and, therefore, shadow-less, he takes it as a sign of spring and stays above the ground.

The first Groundhog Day, February 2, 1887, featuring a rodent meteorologist, was celebrated at Gobbler's Knob, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. To many people, it is a very important day because apparently, it tells us if spring is on its way.



## Ice Cream for Breakfast Day by Melissa Montijo

Ice cream for breakfast? Isn't that any kid's dream? Well their dream is about to come true! On the first Saturday of this month, February 4th, everyone gets to eat ice cream for breakfast. With the cold and snowy weather outside, we need a reminder of the warm sun of summer vacation.

The idea started in Rochester, New York in the 1960s. When a mother of two children realized that all that her children had to look forward to was just playing out in the snow all the time, she decided to change things up a bit. As a result, she created a day that, every year on February 4th, children could eat ice cream for breakfast. This definitely kept kids happy and excited during the winter. So, go buy a gallon of ice cream, whether it's vanilla or chocolate chip cookie dough, grab a spoon and dig in.



## A Trip to The Movies by Stephanie Quinones

On the eleventh of January, all the eighth graders attended a preview of the movie, "Hidden Figures" with Mrs. Stitz, Mr. Eagleson, and Mrs. DeVivo as chaperones. The cost of the ticket for the movie was exactly \$9.50 at the Edgewater Multiplex.

The movie, itself, is about three black women, Katherine G. Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, who helped with the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit. They worked at NASA at a time when the country was dealing with racial unrest and inequality and segregation. It was okay to work there, but they could not even use the bathrooms! It was enough that they were women trying to do jobs that men mostly did, but they were black women, so that made everything that much harder to achieve. However, they were math experts and knew all the formulas that NASA would need to send John Glenn into orbit, so they were given the jobs. The movie showed us things about NASA that we didn't know before, which is why it got the title "Hidden Figures".



## President's Day by Brianna Lopez and Winnie Zhao

This year's President's Day is on February 20, 2017. President's Day is to celebrate George Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays. As well as other presidents. President's Day is a federal holiday, a public holiday established by the federal government of the United States.

In 1885, Washington's Birthday was first celebrated and Lincoln's Birthday was recognized after that. Each president had his own holiday. Later, in the 1950's, NATO, National Association of Travel Organizations, decided to combine Washington's and Lincoln's Birthdays into one single President's Day. On February 11, 1971, President Nixon issued an executive order to shift this holiday to the third Monday February. It is still a day where we honor the founders of our country.



## February Celebrations by Aliya Laliwala

February is the shortest month of the year, but it sure has a lot of important celebrations. February 1st is National Freedom Day which celebrates freedom from slavery and recognizes America as a symbol of freedom. President Lincoln signed the Amendment outlawing slavery on February 1, 1865. It was approved by the states on December 18, 1865. Many towns and cities hold celebrations on this day. You can celebrate this day by reflecting on the freedoms that we have and the freedom the United States helps other countries achieve.

February 3rd is National Wear Red Day, which is celebrated on the first Friday of February. Heart disease and stroke kill one in three women. These diseases are 80 percent preventable according to goredforwomen.org. So, on February 3rd, wear red to show your support of saving women's lives and donate to help raise funds for awareness and research. The National Junior Honor Society is selling wristbands for \$4 to support the American Heart Association. You can buy them from Mrs. Muhanna in Room 205 and NJHS members, including myself. So, please donate and celebrate this cause. It would greatly benefit women.

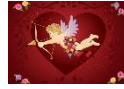


## Leap Year by Timmy Zhang

Leap Year occurs every 4 years. On a leap year, there is an extra day in February, February 29th. This happens because a whole orbit around Earth takes 365.2422 days. The calendar we use, the Gregorian Calendar, only has 365 days. So, the .2422 is the extra day we have every four years. If we don't have a Leap Year or a Leap Day, after 100 years, we will lose 24 whole days.

Leap Year started out in the first century, from Julius Caesar and Sosigenes. The Roman Empire had 255 days on its calendar until Julius Caesar became emperor and ordered his astronomer to plan something better. This led to his astronomer, Sosigenes, to change it to a 365-day year with an extra day to incorporate the extra hours.

Something special about Leap Year is that women propose to men. A theory is that in the fifth century an Irish nun called St. Bridget confronted St. Patrick that women wait too long for their suitors to propose. As a result of this, St. Patrick gave the women the chance to propose to the men only on a Leap Year.



## The History of Valentine's Day by Ashley Aroni

Everyone knows Valentine's Day is a day of hearts, kisses, and love but this holiday's history and tradition goes back until the third century.

In the fifth century, Pope Gelasius declared February 14th as St. Valentine's Day to Christianize the ancient Roman festival, Lupercalia.

Legend has it that St. Valentine, a defiant Roman priest, lived during the third century A.D under Emperor Claudius II. Claudius was an ambitious ruler and his battles required armies of men who had to abandon their families for long periods of time which resulted in a military half-hearted and homesick. Claudius was determined to stop love from sapping the will of his armies he banned marriages altogether. St. Valentine fought the unjust and defied the emperor continuing to marry young lovers in secret. The Emperor eventually found the priest's actions, arrested him and sentenced him to death.

It is believed that young couples he had secretly wed would visit his cell passing him flowers and notes through the bars as symbols of their gratitude. The story continues that condemned Valentine fell in love with his jailer's daughter. On February 14, the day he was executed, it is said he passed the young girl a note. It was signed "from your Valentine"

So, a tradition was born. From the notes and flowers that were given to St. Valentine and his note to his love, the tradition of Valentine's Day began.



## Black History Month by Jawad Jamil

February is Black History Month. This month is dedicated to African-American citizens and is an annual celebration of achievements by them. It is also a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in the U.S. history. Black History Month is also when we all can come together as a society and are willing to embrace the past. This month is a true month where sharing and caring is the main theme for everyone and hopefully the rest of the world will follow.



## Analytical Aquarius and Prudent Pisces

by Pelin Cokuslu and Ata Erdal



Have you ever wondered what astrological sign you are? Or, do you even know what an “astrological sign” is? An astrological sign, often called a zodiac sign, means the sign one is, per their star sign, which refers to the position of the sun upon the time of one’s birth. With the star sign, you will know what zodiac sign you are.

There are two signs for each month, and February’s are Aquarius and Pisces. If your birthday is between January 20th and February 18th, you are an Aquarius, according to most websites! You are also an air sign. Aquarius people’s key strengths are that they are great thinkers: they are analytical, caring, and are usually motivated, according to thezodiaccity.com. Also, their interactive characteristics are that they are laid-back, meaning relaxed and easygoing, with a side of annoying and quick, sarcastic remarks, or “roasts”. Finally, most people admire Aquarians because they have the best conversations. They can often talk about all kinds of topics, from listening to their friend about a new dress they bought to deeply analyzing the unconscious.

The next sign is Pisces, a water sign. Pisces’ birthdays are between February 19th and March 20th. . Pisces’ key strengths include having a great use of words, being creative, empathetic, and wise, according to thezodiaccity.com. The interactive characteristics of Pisces are that they are witty with a side of observation, meaning that they are very attentive in most things. Pisces people are sarcastic, too. Lastly, Pisceans are able to figure out a lot about people they meet in just a few minutes of meeting them. Overall, Aquarians and Pisceans are witty people that are sentimental/empathetic and who are fun to be around. They care about others and are kind-hearted, even though they might not know it or always show it.



## La Casa de Mis Suenos

by Tiger Track Team

Mrs. Brito’s 5th and 6th grade classes have their projects displayed on the first and second floors of Lincoln School. The topic is “La Casa de Mis Suenos”, or “The House of My Dreams. Students “built” their dream homes from cardboard, poster paper and whatever else they needed, and labeled each room in Spanish. Students had fun designing their “cocina” (kitchen) or “dormitories” (bedrooms), while remembering Spanish words they learned in class. “Thumbs up” to all who participated. Que bueno!



## Valentine's Day Cookie Recipes

by Zena Hassan

Valentine’s Day is coming! We have to get cooking! These cookies are going to be so DELICIOUS!

What you will need:

- ½ pound butter, softened
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 2 ½ cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 cup sifted confectioners’ sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Now the directions:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (170 degrees C).
2. Mix butter in a mixer until light, add remaining ingredients.
3. Knead until velvety. Roll one-half of dough at a time to about ¼ thickness using the smallest amount of flour possible.
4. Cut out and back on a lightly greased pan for 12 minutes. Cookies will be almost white when cooked.
5. Make sure you decorate your cookies with lovely heart colors! (be creative)
6. Eat your YUMMY cookie. Make sure you share it with a friend or a family member. Enjoy!

Hope you enjoyed this quick way to enjoy your Valentine’s Day!



## Not Too Late!

by Tiger Track Team

So, the first half of your school year didn’t go quite as planned and your grades aren’t what they should be. Well, there is a simple solution. We are halfway through the year, so make the second half better than the first by deciding to put your “nose to the grindstone” and start working. Don’t wait until last minute to do an assignment or project. You can’t do your best if you are rushing. The same goes for tests. If you know you are having a test in advance, study a little each night. Be sure to complete all work on time, too! That’s very important. Don’t be ashamed to ask for extra help in your problem subject. That can make a big difference. You can turn things around, but the time is NOW! You can do it!



**\*Enjoy the winter break!**

## Sports



### **End of the Season by Afrodite Hryssomallidis**

On February 13, the Lincoln School girls home team will be having their last game. We will be playing against Dwight Englewood. Girls will be playing at 4:00 and boys at 5:00.

Obviously, you can infer that it is an away game and it comes with many disadvantages for us. For one, while we are in the bus they have the privilege to practice more and get warmed up, while we have two or three minutes to get prepared. They also have more experience in playing on their court and knowing their capabilities in their range of shooting, etc. It is also a sweet pain kind of feeling when you get on that court. You're happy that you're playing, but then afterwards you realize it's the end of basketball season. The finale of the Lincoln School basketball team will be memorable for all of us, but especially for those of us heading to high school next year.