

Good morning, it's February 14, 2013, and welcome to Panther News. I'm _____, _____th grade.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! Today is a special day. It is for husbands and wives, and for boyfriends and girlfriends.

The day was first associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love was popular. By the 15th century, it had evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering candy, and sending greeting cards ... known as "*valentines*".

Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards.

Good morning, I'm _____,
_____th grade.

According to Bishop Demetri of the Orthodox Research Institute, St. Valentine was a priest near Rome in about the year 270 A.D, a time when the church was enduring great abuse. His ministry was to help the Christians to escape this abuse.

St Valentine was abused as a Christian and interrogated or questioned by Roman Emperor Claudius II in person. Claudius was impressed by Valentine and had a discussion with him, attempting to get him to convert to Roman paganism in order to save his life. Valentine refused and tried to convert Claudius to Christianity instead. Because of this, he was executed.

Good morning, I'm _____,
____th grade.

According to legend, in order to "remind people of God's love and to encourage them to remain faithful Christians," Saint Valentine is said to have cut hearts from parchment or paper, giving them to soldiers and abused Christians, a possible origin of the widespread use of hearts on Saint Valentine's Day.

On the evening before Saint Valentine was to be executed, he would have written the first "valentine" card himself, addressed to the daughter of his jailer, signing as "Your Valentine." This expression "From your Valentine" is still used to this day.

Good morning, I'm _____,
_____th grade.

The first recorded association of Valentine's Day with romantic love is in "*Parlement of Foules*" (1382) by Geoffrey Chaucer.

Chaucer wrote: "For this was on Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate."

This poem was written to honor the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. When they were married eight months later, they were each only 15 years old.

The earliest surviving valentine is a 15th-century sonnet written by Charles, Duke of Orléans to his wife. At the time, the duke was being held in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt, 1415.

Good morning, I'm _____,
_____th grade.

Valentine's Day is mentioned by Ophelia in Shakespeare's
"Hamlet" (1600 – 1601):

*Tomorrow is Saint Valentine's Day,
All in the morning be time,
And I a maid at your window,
To be your Valentine.
Then up he rose, and donned his clothes,
And dugged the chamber door;
Let in the maid, that out a maid
Never departed more.*

Good morning, I'm _____,
_____th grade.

The modern Valentine's Day poem can be found in the collection of English nursery rhymes "Gammer Gurton's Garland" (1784):

The rose is red, the violet is blue,
The honey is sweet, and so are you.
Thou art my love and I am thine;
I drew thee to my Valentine:
The lot was cast and then I drew,
And Fortune said it should be you.

Good morning, I'm _____,
_____th grade.

Since the 19th century, handwritten notes have given way to mass-produced greeting cards. In the second half of the 20th century, the practice of exchanging cards was extended to giving roses and chocolates packed in a red heart-shaped box.

The U.S. Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately 190 million valentines are sent each year in the US. When the valentine-exchange of cards is included in school activities, the figure goes up to 1 billion.

The Internet is creating new traditions. Millions of people use, every year, digital means of creating and sending Valentine's Day greeting messages such as e-cards, love coupons or printable greeting cards.

Some quick announcements:

Ms. Blake wants us to announce that her Art, Design, and Sustainability classes will be having a Valentine's Day Sale during A and B lunch today. Her students will be selling crafts that they have made with recycled materials, as well as re-used, re-purposed, re-claimed, and re-sale items. Prices start at 25 cents. Students, teachers, and staff ... visit the sale in the cafeteria!

Next week, February 18th through 22nd, students will be allowed to wear free dress with the exception of cargo pants or shorts, basketball shorts and pants with tears. Purchase a band from the 3rd floor office.

Student-teacher "Appreciation Day" for grades 6 through 8 will be this coming Monday, February 18th. It will be held in the courtyard during the lunch periods, 11:50am to 1:30pm. Food, music and fun!

Ms. Varghese wants us to mention that the 7th grade students will be going on a field trip next Thursday, February 21 to the Moody Gardens. 7th graders, you must wear your uniform shirt with pants/jeans as well as your ID badge. If you don't have your ID badge, you will not go.

Mr. Chambers wants us to mention that those students who worked with him two weeks ago to request photographs of Earth from the International Space Station can see their images by going to:

tomrchambers.com/ryss_iss2.html

Our Tejano Center for Community Concerns and Raul Yzaguirre School for Success website has a new look with more information. Check it out at tejanocenter.org.

Students, "go live", and read your composition on PANTHER NEWS ... a great experience! Ask your ELA teacher to send us your work, and we'll contact you.

Again, our e-mail address so you can send your comments and submissions to PANTHER NEWS for broadcast consideration:

panthernewsreport@panthernewsreport.com

Please make sure that you are following the uniform code in your student handbook.

Wear your ID badge at all times while on campus.

Respect each other as you pass by in the hallways. Stay to your right, and **NO BULLYING**, please!

If you see trash in the hallways of our buildings and anywhere on our campus, pick it up, and throw it in a garbage can.

Communities in Schools

Today: Reading Tutoring – Vocabulary Review, Homework Completion. College and Workforce Readiness – “Exploring the Medical Field”. Youth Development Enrichment – Soccer Practice, Xbox, Wii, Board Games.

Friday: Career Awareness – “Get the Math – Math in Fashion”, Homework Completion. Physical Activity – Soccer Practice. Fine Arts and Technology – Xbox, Wii.

Lunch Menu

Today: Chicken Fajita Strips with Salsa and Whole Wheat Tortilla or Chopped Beef Sandwich, Charro Beans, Steamed Spinach, Fresh Apple.

Friday: Crispy Chicken or Fish on Bun, Mayo and Ketchup, Salad, Sweet Potato Sticks, Sliced Peaches.

That's all for now. We'll see you next Monday. Have a great day, and study hard! Your future depends on it!