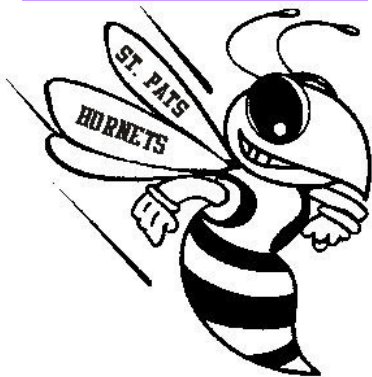


Feb. 2012



**Teacher of the Month**

**By: Kate O.**

Most of you know Mrs. Clark as the intermediate Religion teacher and homeroom teacher of the 4th grade, but how much do you really know about her? Read ahead to find out things you might not have know about Mrs. Clark. Mrs. Clark grew up knowing that she wanted to be a teacher. She studied at University of Dallas, she has a Minor in theology and a Bachelors in Elementary education. She started at St. Patrick's in the 1990's substitute teaching and as a teacher aid. In 1996 she started her official teaching job here. She finds teaching religion important because she Love's the Lord and she finds it so wonderful to be able to teach children about the loving works of God. In her free time she enjoys reading historical fiction and mystery books, genealogy, making cards, Notre Dame football and spending time with family. Her favorite colors are green, red, and gold, and her favorite food is dark chocolate. I hope you enjoyed learning more about the great Mrs. Clark!!!

**How did Valentine's Day come to be?**

**By:Lexie A.**

As you all know Valentine's Day is celebrated each February 14th. Believe it or not but Valentine's day was not always called Valentine's day, more than two thousand years ago in Rome the people called it "Feasts of Luperus" the Romans believed that their god, Luperus, protected them from wolves and looked after their crops and their animals. So they dedicated this day to him. Back then they didn't celebrate February 14th by giving each other Valentine's Day cards, but they did celebrate it by singing, dancing, and having big feasts in their homes. It also celebrated the coming of spring. Their "Valentine" was that all the boys would put a girl's name on a piece of paper and place it in a jar the next day all the boys would take turns pulling names from the jar and the person they picked would be their partner for all the games and dances, often times they would be engaged as well. Later Christian religion came to Rome so they no longer believed in the god "Luperus" they believed in God so they rename the holiday "St. Valentines Day" but still celebrated it on February 14th. But some customs remain the same: we still have the common heart shape, giving cards on Valentine's Day, one way or another, to one another, and we spend the day with our loved ones.

ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL: HOME OF THE HORNETS

# What's the Buzz?



**Valentine Cards**

**By: Victoria C.**

It's an annual tradition all around the world and at St. Pats that kids bring in valentines to give to other kids. These valentines usually say something like Be Mine or Happy Valentines Day or something cute like I love you. Kids that attend St. Pats that are in grades K-5 bring in valentines or candy and pass them to each other and put them in bags for the kids to bring home. People can usually buy these cards at a local drug store or at a groceries store like Target. These cards have a lot of meaning because you can give them to someone to let them know you care about that person and or love them. Valentines Cards are for people all ages even married couples because they can give them to one another too. Cards like the ones little kids buy have a super hero on them like Spider Man or The Hulk. And for girls there might be Barbie or Hello Kitty on them. To let someone know who the card is from it always says to and from so you can write who it is from and who you are giving to. On Valentines Cards they contain the colors pink, red, or white since those are the colors that symbolize Valentines Day. Valentine cards today normally cost about 25 cents each so if you bout a pack that contains 30 it would be \$7.50. Way back when valentines card were invented they didn't cost any money because people would make them there selves. But if someone did buy them they would only be about \$3. I hope you enjoyed listening all about valentine cards

## Recipe

By: Allison M.

Looking for a great and tasty Valentine recipe to give to someone you love? If so, here is the perfect recipe, red velvet cupcakes with cream cheese frosting!

Recipe:

Ingredients:

2 ½ cups flour 2 cups sugar  
½ cup cocoa powder 4 eggs  
1 tsp. baking soda 1 cup sour cream  
½ tsp. salt ½ cup milk  
1 cup butter, softened 1 bottle (1 oz.) red food color  
2 tsp. pure vanilla extract

**Mix:**

Flour, cocoa powder, baking soda and salt; set aside.

**Beat:**

Butter and sugar with electric mixer on medium speed for 5 minutes or until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Mix in sour cream, milk, food color and vanilla. Gradually beat in flour mixture at low speed. Spoon into paper-lined muffin cups, filling each cup 2/3 full.

**Bake:**

In preheated 350 degrees oven 20 to 25 minutes. Cool in pans 5 minutes. Remove from pans; cool completely. Spread with Vanilla Cream Cheese Frosting. Makes 30 cupcakes.

**Vanilla Cream Cheese Frosting:**

Beat 1 pkg. (8 oz.) softened cream cheese, 4 tbsp. softened butter, 2 tbsp. sour cream and 2 tsp. pure vanilla extract until light and fluffy, Gradually beat in 1 box (16oz.) confectioners' sugar until smooth.

Pole taken by Mrs. Green on the cupcakes:

Cream cheese frosting:

1 2 3 4 5

Comments: add a little more frosting on top (was a little thin)

Red Velvet cupcake itself:

1 2 3 4 5

Comments: very tasty and moist

Overall cupcake

1 2 3 4 5

Comments: An excellent treat (good for Valentine's Day!)

These cupcakes are a sweet treat for any Valentine!

\*This recipe was from McCormick®



## February

By: Megan G.

February. It's the second month of the year and has 28 or 29 days, but what does February mean?

The word "February" comes from the roman god Februus or the festival Febura. The month was originally used for purification festivals. Febura was one of the many festivals held in February. In the festival of Febura, citizens purified themselves and their city. Another festival from ancient romans is Feralia. During Feralia the romans would picnic at the tombs of deceased family members and leave gifts of beverages for them. The romans originally had February at the end of their year but due to the reforms under the Julian calendar it was moved to be the second month.

February is not only the shortest month of the year, but it may be the one with the most interesting facts. For example in common years (years that aren't leap years), February starts on the same day as March and November. During leap years it starts on the same day as August. In common years, February also end on the same day of the week of January. In leap year, it is the only month that ends on the same week day it begins. In every year, February ends on the same day as October. February is the only month that can pass without a full moon.

February has many symbols to represent it. Some of its symbols are the violet, the amethyst, and the zodiac signs Aquarius and Pisces. The violet is February's birth flower and the amethyst is its birth stone.

All in all, February is an interesting month. From being the only month with less than thirty days and having a rich history, February is an outstanding month.



### **Academic Fair**

**By: Nora M.**

The St. Patrick's Academic Fair was held on February 15 in the Boehmn Center. The Academic Fair is a project that 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English students participate in. Each student must chose a topic and complete a research paper, speech and display. Ms. Smith has been in charge of this event for the past 8 years. I asked Ms. Smith what some of her favorite topics have been over the years and she said, "I have liked so many topics over the years. Some of the most memorable were "Phobias", "Rollercoaster's" and "Harry Potter." If you had a chance to view the displays, you saw many interesting topics such as Origami, How Music affects the Human Body, Coca Cola and even Arthur.

I decided to ask two 8<sup>th</sup> graders about their projects and see why they chose their topics and what they enjoyed most about the project. Julia D. (pictured above) chose the topic "How Music Affects the Human Body". She chose this subject because she loves music and thought it was interesting. Her favorite part of the project was doing the display board. The subject of "Origami" was chosen by Ryan T. because it is something that challenges him and he has always loved to fold paper. He agreed that doing the display board was the favorite part of the project. They also shared some advice for future 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Make sure you relax, use your time wisely, don't rush your speech and most importantly, take pride in your project. Ms. Smith also suggested to pick a topic that you really like because you will be doing a lot of research and practice your speech several times.

Congratulations to all the 8<sup>th</sup> Graders on a job well done! For all future 8<sup>th</sup> Graders, start thinking of an interesting topic.

### **The Language of Flowers**

**By: Catherine P.**

A bouquet of flowers on Valentine's Day is one of the most common ways to tell your loved ones that you care. But did you know that each type of flower has a different meaning? The language of flowers also known as floriography, was a common way in the Victorian Age of sending coded messages.

During the Victorian Era, women could not share their feelings of love and passion without being seen as scandalous and out of line. So, floriography was most commonly used by women during this time period to express their feelings silently without most of society knowing. But, some flowers have less kinder meanings behind them. A stripped carnation means refusal and a York and Lancaster Rose declares war. Thistles mean defiance and Narcissus' mean egotism.



Queen Victoria believed in the power in the language of flowers. She filled her bridal bouquet with myrtles to symbolize constant affection and devotion. She later planted the plant so, to this day, every royal wedding in England has a piece of her myrtle tucked in the bride's bouquet or in the floral arrangements at the the wedding breakfast.


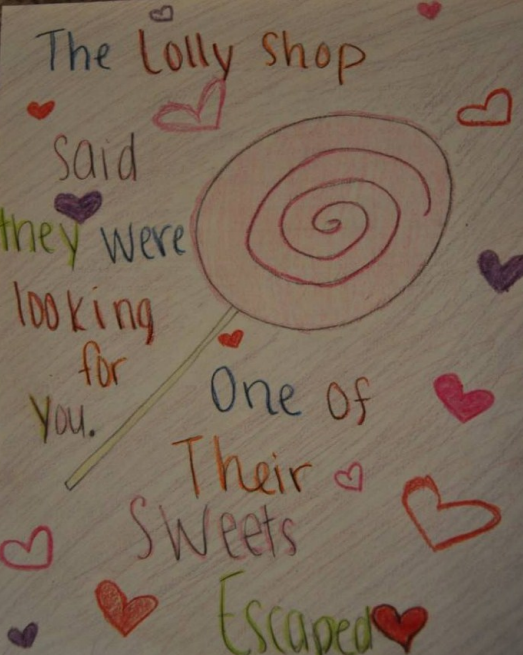
Another custom that applies to the meanings of flowers is the finding of the first bloom of spring. If you find the first bloom on a Monday, it means you will have good fortune for the season. If you find it on a Tuesday, your hardest challenges will be conquered. If on Wednesday, it means true love is close. Thursday, means money will come your way. Friday means you will gain new friends. Saturday, brings misfortune but Sunday means you will have good luck the rest of the season.

So this Valentine's Day, don't be afraid to show your loved ones you care with bouquet of flowers with their own secret meanings. A simple gift of roses can be used to represent your undying love and passion while a Morning Glory can be used to express a minor crush. With thousands of flowers to chose from, you'll be sure to find one that fits your own mood and feelings to a Tee.




# Love Quotes: By: Izzy C.

I'm a basketball  
Player!  
 Can I get  
your Name  
and number, so  
I can put it on  
my jersey?  



The Lolly shop  
said  
they were  
looking  
for  
you.  
One of  
Their  
Sweets  
Escaped  
  


It's CRAZY Right?  
TO LOVE Someone who  
HURTS you. IT'S EVEN  
CRAZIER to think  
they love you back.

Do you Have a  
Band-AID?  
  
Because  
I scraped my knee  
Falling 4 you!

LOVE is Giving  
Someone  
a chance  
2 DESTROY U  
But  
Trusting  
Them  
NOT  
TO!

"I always knew I would  
look back on my tears  
and laugh, but I NEVER  
thought I'd look back  
at my laughter and  
cry!"

"I'm going to smile to make you think I'm happy,  
I'm going to laugh so you don't see me cry,  
and I'm going to pretend I never loved you,  
so you don't know it's killing me inside."  
- Izzy C.  


## Catholic Schools week

By: Kate O.

This years fabulous Catholic School's week included many fun and very memorable activities including a Pep-Rally, Sprit Day, and The Most Did Graduate came and spoke to us about his wonderful experiences at St. Patrick's School. There was also a delicious Pancake Breakfast and a book fair in which families were allowed to purchase books and other items. Read ahead to find out more about Catholic School's week 2012.

We were honored to have Jim Hayner who graduated from St. Pat's years ago and who is the Distinguished Graduate of 2012 come speak to us during an all school Mass. He had 3 principal's of advice he learned from St. Pat's which were: 1. Be Honest 2. Work hard and 3. Treat others the way you want to be treated. We very much enjoyed his generosity and time given into St. Pat's.

We also had a Pep-Rally that occurred on Spirit day (Sprit day students were allowed to wear a green or white top to honor SPS) that was a lot of fun! Student Council members did a great job organizing it! The cheerleaders also performed and did a great job! The advanced band played some tunes that really pumped up the school, and of course our wonderful mascot hornet rocked it out with the cheerleaders!

Those were just some of the wonderful Catholic School's Week 2012 activities. I hope you all enjoyed it this year, and look forward to it next year. Catholic School's Week 2012 was a big success!!

## Riddles

By, Jenna W.

Rearrange the letters of the word "NEW DOOR" to make it one word.

It is greater than God and more evil than the devil. The poor have it, the rich need it and if you eat it you'll die. What is it?

I am the beginning of the end, and the end of time and space. I am essential to creation, and I surround every place. What am I?

What always runs but never walks, often murmurs, never talks, has a bed but never sleeps, has a mouth but never eats?

What gets wet when it dries?

The person who makes it, sells it. The person who buys it never uses it and the person who uses it doesn't know they are. What is it?

The more you take, the more you leave behind. What is it?



FROM: SPS NEWSPAPER  
STAFF