

Happy Valentines Day Rebels!

Valentines Day

By: Sahasra Bathula

Every year on February 14th, many people around the world celebrate a very special holiday called Valentines Day. Valentines Day is also called Saint Valentines Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine. The significance of Valentines Day is to honor on or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and, through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and live in any regions of the world. Many people believe that we celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14th because it is the anniversary of Valentines death/burial. The most popular gifts given on Valentine's Day are flowers (red roses in particular), Jewelry, chocolates, and greeting cards. "Be mine!" A lot of people are familiar with Cupid. Cupid is the Greek God of Love. There are many different Valentines Day traditions around the world. In Bulgaria, people drink a lot of wine. In Chile, people decorate shops, malls, and streets with balloons and flowers. In China, people exchange gifts, go on dates, and women practice weaving. These traditions are based on an ancient Chinese Story about a forbidden love affair. In Colombia and Guatemala, people wear really bright colors. In the Czech Republic, couples kiss under cherry trees for good luck. In Norway and Denmark, people give each other white flowers. In England, people bake a lot of sweet treats. Have a great Valentine's Day everyone! :)

"Be mine!" Phrase Hunt

There are three "Be mine!" phrases hidden

throughout the issue, in four different articles!

If you find all four then answer this survey

called "Larson Free Press "Be mine!" Phrase

Hunt" survey with the photo of article you found the phrase in!

The first two students from each grade to find all four phrases will win a prize!

Good luck!



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Survey!



Designed- Swarnima Jha

Community News

Larson's Science Olympiad Great Lakes Invitational

By: Lakshya Matele

Larson has been growing throughout the season of Science Olympiad, and these two invitationals were great for growing and stepping up their team just before regionals!

Let's start off with the Great Lakes Invitational! On February 10th, it was Larson's third competition in the season, and everyone was nervous because the stakes were high! The results in the Great Lakes Invitational were that Larson got 6th overall, and we got 3rd overall in our county and we also got first place medals in Dynamic Planet and Road Scholar! So, Larson has gone to many invitationals and won many medals and a trophy, but the competition on March 2nd matters more than any, because this is the regional competition. Why is this so important? This is important because only the top five teams in the regional competition get to advance to the big competition, which is the state competition! So, come back after the regional competition to get an update on how they did in the regional competition and to check if Larson's Science Olympiad team made it to the States!

Good luck to the team for regionals, and I hope Larson's Science Olympiad team makes it to the States!



Wellness Week at Larson!

By: Lakshya Matele

The week of January 30th was Wellness Week at Larson! Through multiple activities each day, the students learned how to take care of each element of their well-being throughout the entire week. Since there was no school Monday, we're going to start from Tuesday.

On Tuesday, the students created positive posters and did coloring pages before school, and they had a calm room at lunch to encourage mental health. They also had their second strong lesson of the year on Tuesday, where the sixth graders learned about study habits with their WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) leaders to learn about mental health, while the seventh graders explored emotions to learn about mental health, and the eighth graders created wellness posters about various aspects of wellness like how to manage stress or anxiety, how to stay active, different eating habits, sleep patterns, etc.

On Wednesday, the gym was open before school for physical health purposes, and students committed to never smoking or vaping when they signed an anti-smoke and vaping pledge poster at lunch.

On Thursday, there were therapy dogs at lunch, yoga in the gym, and a mental health Kahoot to learn about mental health before school.

On Friday, there were heart-related events, including a Red-Out spirit day, dodgeball, basketball, lightning, and pull-up competitions held in the gym before school started, and a hands-only CPR skill practice during lunch. Students were instructed on how to perform CPR and then invited to practice on the mannequins that the PE department obtained by applying for a grant through the American Heart Association (AHA). It was amazing that about half of our students took part in this life-saving exercise! The entire CPR skill practice event was covered by Fox 2 News after the American Heart Association got in touch with the TSD communications department to secure local media coverage!

This is all about this amazing week at Larson Middle School, where the students learned about many different aspects of their well-being through several fun activities, this was a good health-wellness education week for all the students!



Community News

Spelling Bee 2024

By: Lydia Orlik

The Spelling Bee was on the 7th of February, during second hour and moving into the beginning of 4th hour! All grades met in the library in front of Mrs. Ulewics on her computer and Mrs. Christiansen with her clipboard taking track of words. We all sat in seats facing the front and spelled out words starting from the sixth-grade words all the way to the national list. Our winner for this year is SANVI MANDVEKAR! (Who is in 7th grade, and you can see designing most of the pages in this issue). According to her for the future competition coming up, "I am really excited to represent Larson and I am also really, really scared because this is the regional spelling bee and after is the state bee in DC. I am working really hard though." To her the experience was, "really fun and really interesting because no matter how much you cared or worked, it really depends on KNOWING the words." And her method for success was, "looking at the words as meanings or in sentences to remember better, because knowing the words really stuck, and I looked more at 'odd' words."

Larson Science Olympiad U of M tournament

By: Aashay Patel

On February 17 of this month, the Larson Science Olympiad team went out to the 3rd annual U of M tournament. This tournament will be one of the hardest tournaments to compete in, since lots of the teams that come there are well-prepared. Larson got 5th place overall and second place in the whole county. Larson also got first place in the code busters and towers events. Out of 30 teams, that's not an easy feat! Wish them luck for the regionals tournament on March 2nd!



One year after MSU shooting

By: Sahasra Bathula

It has been one year since the tragic shooting at Michigan State University that happened on February 13th 2023. Many students are still traumatized by this shooting even when it's been a year. In this shooting, three people sadly lost their lives and five people were wounded. The victims were Brian Fraser, Alexandria Verner, and Arielle Anderson. Finally, one year after this shooting was something that most Michiganders wanted to happen, a change in Michigan's firearm safety. We shall remember the lives lost and the negative impact that this shooting has had on our community.





WORLD NEWS



Space War 2

By: Novak

The second space race has begun! Around 70 years ago during the early era of the Cold War, 2 superpowers participated in a race to send a rocket to space. America vs. Russia, they kept trying to make rockets one after the other. Technically the Russians won the space race by sending a dog called "Laika," into space aboard the Sputnik 2. "Be Mine!" But America a few years after Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon. Back to present day, Japan and China have started a second space race to create advanced satellites and send more spacecraft into space. The China Academy of Space Technology or CAST has started working on new and advanced satellites to send into space. China has also announced that they have started work on a reusable heavy-lift rocket. Japan is also busy sending rockets into space. For example, the Japanese 'Moon Sniper' landed on the moon in early February. Who will win the second space race, who will land the next rover, we'll see in time.



Japan moon rover!

By: Aashay

In an unfortunate turn of events, an ambitious lunar exploration mission led by the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) faced a setback as the country's moon rover, intended for groundbreaking research, has landed upside down on the moon's surface. The incident has presented an unexpected challenge for scientists working on the promising mission.

Named "Tsuki-no-Hikari" or "Moonlight" in Japanese, the rover, weighing approximately 60 kilograms, was tasked with exploring the uncharted regions of the moon, studying the topography, collecting data on moonquakes, and conducting geological surveys. The mission aimed to contribute to humanity's understanding of the moon's origin and its potential for future exploration.

The unfortunate incident occurred during the landing sequence around midnight on [date], when Tsuki-no-Hikari's altitude detection system, designed to orientate the rover correctly, malfunctioned. This malfunction led to an incorrect calculation, causing the rover to touch down upside down, leaving it vulnerable and immobilized. Despite the setback, initial reports from JAXA state that communication with the rover has been established and many of its scientific instruments are still operational.



♡ Larson Lights ♡



Mrs. Dziwonowski

“What I like most about being a theater teacher is seeing the kids in a completely different light than my 8th grade science classroom. I’m able to see kids just be a little bit more free, they can be themselves more, then can be creative, and I get to see a side of them that I probably would normally see teaching a core class.”



Mrs. Clifford

“My favorite part of being part of the Larson community is first thing in the morning, when everybody comes in and there’s a lot of excitement, there’s a lot of energy, and you just now it’s going to be a great day, and I love it”



Mia yaldo

“I would say that Mia shows the 4 R’s because she would bring all of her things to class. She is very responsible. She submits her assignments on time and she goes out of her way to check on others and says “hi” to them, and everyday she has a smile on her face.”



Amelia Galdes

“Amelia Galdes is just an incredible student. She is always working hard, she is always brings her materials to class, she is always focused and ready to go, and she participates in every class discussion.”



BOOKS AND MOVIES



Percy Jackson TV Series

TV-Series Review By: Lakshya Matele

Get ready Percy Jackson fans because this is the amazing TV-series that came out about the first book of Percy Jackson called "The Lightning Thief." This series is eight episodes long, each awesome episode is about 30-40 minutes long and each episode is named after a chapter in the first book like episode one is "I Accidentally Vaporize My Pre-Algebra Teacher" and episode two is "I Become Supreme Lord of the Bathroom." So, if you haven't read the books or watched the movies then the basic run down is that this series is based on Greek mythology about a 12 year old boy named Percy Jackson, one day he goes to the museum on a school field trip and his math teacher turns into a monster and tries to kill him and he accidentally vaporizes her. This is the point when things get different, Percy finds out that he is a demigod or half-blooded or basically that his dad is a Greek god (I won't tell you which god) and all things aren't what they seemed. The great thing is that, this series was way more like the first book than the movie was! In my opinion the characters weren't how I envisioned them in the book but, they were still really good. I felt like if someone who hasn't read the books or doesn't have any idea about Greek mythology, would not understand this series as good as someone who has read the books or has some idea of Greek mythology, because they did leave a few gaps in the series. Some things I loved was the graphics, their own take to some of the story and that they kept the big plot twist at the end pretty much same as the book. I would rate this series a 8.5/10 stars! If you haven't read the books and watched or want to watch this, then definitely read the books too! If you have already read the books, then definitely watch this! Can't wait for the next season to come out about the second book! Hope you enjoy this series as much as I did!



Orion and the Dark

By: Bhavit Potu

Orion and the Dark are out now in Netflix! The movie is based on the book Orion and the Dark by Emma Yarlett. The movie is about a man named Orion who's telling his story to his daughter Hypatia to overcome her fears of the dark. The story was about Orion when he was a kid and was afraid of everything like monsters, haircuts, dogs, a school bully named Richie Panici, etc. But of all the things he's most afraid of, he's most afraid of the dark. One dark night, a night entity named Dark pays a visit to Orion. Dark takes Orion to an adventure like a roller coaster for 24 hours into showing Orion that he has nothing fear about the dark even if it was going to kill dark. This movie has a 6.4/10 in IMDb, 90% in rotten tomatoes, and a 72% in Metacritic.

And if you like adventure movies or Dreamworks pictures this movie is for you.

SPORTS & HOLIDAYS

Super Bowl

By: Bryce Wilson and Gavin Cipi

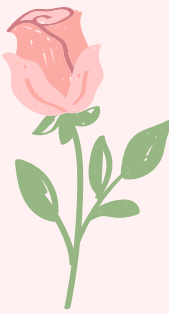
The Super Bowl LVIII was a very good and entertaining game for most people. Although some people weren't a big fan of the game because some people thought it was boring. But 120 Million people still were watching from all around the world to see the battle between The Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers. The first quarter was the 10th scoreless quarter in Super Bowl history. The 2nd Quarter Jake Moody the Michigan alumni, scored 4 of the points, ending in a 10-3 first half. In the 3rd quarter Patrick Mahomes passed a 16 yard pass to Marquez Valdes-Scantling to make it 16-13. In the 4th quarter the chiefs made 2 more field goals getting them into overtime. The final play of the game was at their 3 yard line. Which led the team to there 2nd Super Bowl win in 2 years



Super Bowl Half Time Show

By: Haris Grebovic

As we all know Super Bowl 58 just happened in Las Vegas and it was an insane night for football fans. Super Bowl 58 was also the most watched Super Bowl. But the half time show this year was by Usher and it was pretty cool. In the half time show there were different parts for a different song. The best one in my opinion has to be the roll skating one. Ushers half time show was something way different than all the others but it was very cool and definitely a huge success.



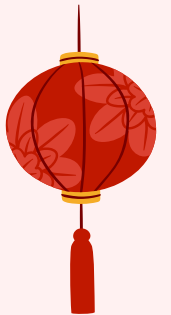
Lunar New Year

By: Nikhil Rao

Lunar New Year is a yearly event marking the beginning of the new year according to the lunar calendar. It's celebrated by many different cultures around the world, but some of the biggest festivities can be found in Asia and specifically East Asia. This year Lunar New Year happened on Saturday, February 10th, and it happens to be the Year of the Dragon.

Lunar New Year festivities and traditions can vary from culture to culture and family to family, but most include eating feasts of traditional food, sweet mooncakes for dessert, fireworks, parades with the year's animal displayed proudly front and center, and the giving of red envelopes full of money to bring friends and family good luck and fortune in the new year.

Lunar New Year is a time to celebrate new beginnings with family and friends, so happy new year to those who celebrate!



Ash Wednesday

By: Bliss Prakash Anand

Ash Wednesday is a Catholic tradition of putting the ashes of palm leaves on one's forehead, marking the first day of Lent, which is a period of fasting and prayer to strengthen one's relationship with God. This year, 2024, Ash Wednesday took place on the same day as Valentines's Day. This tradition is a reminder to all Catholics that they are mortal and that they will eventually die one day. All in all, Ash Wednesday is a beautiful tradition, and I hope you enjoyed learning about it!



Black History Month

Written By: Jasmine Thomas

Happy Black History Month! February is dedicated to both the past and the present of African Americans in the United States. But it wasn't always a month. In September 1915, Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) which was dedicated to the achievements of African Americans. "Be mine!" They sponsored a national history week in 1926 and this spread like wildfire across schools, workplaces, and communities nationwide. It was officially recognized as Black History Month by President Gerald Ford in 1976. Since then, it has been a month to celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of African Americans.



TIPS AND TRICKS

designed by : Sloka

Valentine Day crafts

By: Ada Dogramacilar

Valentine's Day is the most celebrated holidays in the US. On Valentine's Day \$29.5 billion is spent world wide. Craft are so fun to do on holidays and mostly when you can give your crafts you made to other people. We are going to have two crafts one is made with paper, the other one is made with food. First one is a butterfly heart canvas. It is so fun to do but a little messy. These are the steps and the materials you will need.

Materials are a big square canvas, paint, paint brush and water. Watch the video on the right to get started on your craft

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=3ocic16PMfA>

Next craft is very fun and tasty. It is a dessert recipe, it is a cupid's cloud dessert. It is the best ice cream you will ever have it is soo yummy, click the link on the right to get started –

<https://completerecipes.com/cupids-cloud-a-valentines-day-dessert.html> Have fun baking and crafting



Pop Culture

The 2024 Grammy's

By: Nikhil Rao

Beloved comedian Trevor Noah recently hosted the 2024 66th annual Grammy Awards ceremony on February 4th. The Grammy Awards are accolades used to celebrate the best music of the past year. It features categories across all genres of music, including pop, country, rock, R&B, rap, and much more.

Many wins this year were much expected and gladly enjoyed, like SZA's Grammy for Best R&B Song, "Snooze", following her live performance of her smash hit "Kill Bill" and the premiering of her latest single "Saturn". The band Boy Genius, a recently popularized rock/pop trio, won their first Grammys for Best Rock Performance and Best Rock Song for their song "Not Strong Enough", as well as the Best Alternative Music Album for their first studio album, "The Record". And of course, Billie Eilish and FINNEAS's well deserved win for Best Song with a single off the Barbie Movie Soundtrack, "What Was I Made For?"

"Be Mine!" Another very expected win was Taylor Swift taking home the Grammy for Best Album with her 10th album "Midnights", along with a multitude of others. Swift used one of her Grammys acceptance speeches to announce her 11th studio album, "The Tortured Poets Department". Many disagree with Swift's announcement at the awards, some rightfully comparing it to "proposing at someone else's wedding". Nonetheless, Swifties are glad to be back theorizing about the new album.

This year's Grammy's were a treat to watch and boasted a diverse cast of winners and nominees. We saw reoccurring celebrities returning to take home the cake as well as some newer, lesser known artists break into the scene with their first wins.



XOXO



Designed By: - Novak Masic

Entertainment

Designed By: Shylah Patel

Did you know...

By: Lakshya Matele

1. The month February comes from the word “februum,” which means purification.
2. The zodiac signs of February are Pisces and Aquarius.
3. Pisces- people with this zodiac are known to go with the flow and are fantastical, creativity and intuitive.
4. Aquarius- people with this zodiac are known to march to the beat of their own drum and are enthusiastic, independent and adventurous.
5. Amethyst is the birthstone for February, it is thought to have numerous medicinal powers and was once considered a symbol of royalty.
6. The flower of February are violets and primroses.
7. February is National Black History Month!
8. February is the hottest month of the year in the Southern Hemisphere.
9. February is a significant month for U.S statehood because several states were admitted during to the United States during Febuary like Massachusetts, Manine, Oregon, Arizona and Oklahoma.
10. “February” is one of the most misspelled words in the English language.
11. February 11th is International Girls and Women in Science Day.
12. Over time, the length of February kept changing, one time it was little as 23 days.
13. February is the only month where it’s possible to go the entire time without having a full moon.
14. Unless it’s a leap year, February, March, and November start on the same day of the week as each other.
15. Nearly 250 million roses are grown in preparation for Valentine’s Day each year.
16. According to Hallmark, Americans send 145 million Valentine’s Day cards each year.
17. American households spend and estimated \$751.3 million on gifs for their pets on Valentine’s Day!
18. More than 8 billion conversation hearts are manufactured each year and these candy have a shelf life of five years!
19. Valentine’s Day horror movies are a thing, people prefer to get their heart rates up by watching a horror valentine movie.
20. Galentine’s day is a global holiday on February 13th that celebrates women’s friendship.
21. Just like Galentine’s, Malentine’s day is a global holiday on February 12th that celebrates men’s friendship.