

Larson Free Press

Have a great spring break rebels!

Saint Patrick's Day

By: Sanvi Mandvekar

St. Patrick's Day is a US national holiday. It originates from the country of Ireland in 1631. It is observed on March 17 every year. It originally started as a religious holiday, but over time, became a celebration of Irish culture. Did you know that St. Patrick wasn't actually Irish? He was brought to Ireland as a slave but ended up becoming a key part of their history! The entire reason we celebrate this day is to commemorate his life! A beautiful quote is, "May the luck of the Irish enfold you. May the blessings of St. Patrick behold you." On this day everyone sports green and four-leaved clovers. St. Patrick's real name was Maewyn Succat, he changed his name to sound more Irish. It is said wearing green on St. Patrick's Day is very lucky, the same can be said about four-leaf clovers. Wear green and show some Irish spirit!

"What's Larson Free Press' favorite page?" -Shylah Patel

I interviewed everyone in the Larson Free Press crew, 'What is your favorite topic?' I interviewed 19 crew members and the winner had 8 votes... this topic is a topic lots of people loved!

They loved this topic because people found it fun to read about while knowing more about these fun suggestions. Can you guess the page?... If you guessed Books & Movies you are right! People love this page because its full of brand-new books and movies but they are also so interesting and fun to read about!

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Survey for Feedback!

Larson Free Press Survey for March Issue!



Larson Free Press "Lucky Me!"
Phrase Hunt



"Lucky Me" Phrase Hunt!

There are four "Lucky Me!" phrases hidden throughout the issue, in four different articles! If you find all four then answer this survey called "Larson Free Press "Lucky Me!" 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!



Books and Movies



Skyborn By: Jessica Khoury

Book Review By: Jasmine Thomas



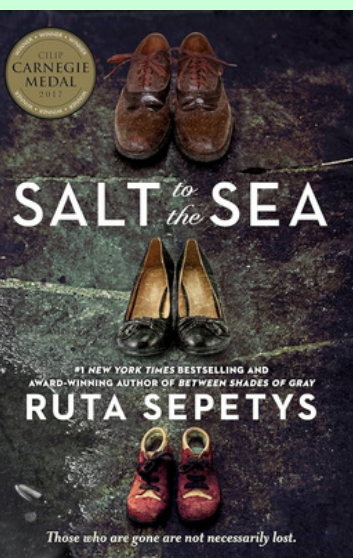
In the Clandoms, everyone is born with wings and sorted depending on what type of wings. And in the skies, huge stone monsters prey on the weak. Thankfully, people in higher clans can be chosen to be Goldwings, defenders of the innocent. Ellie Meadow's only dream since her parents' death was to be a Goldwing, protectors of the Clandoms.

Even though her being in the Sparrow clan (one of the lowest tribes) makes her dream pretty much impossible, she believes that if she's determined enough, she can do it. But during the Race of Ascension (the race to qualify to be considered for a Goldwing), she finds a mysterious boy part of a broken clan. After she meets him, everything takes a turn for the worse. Will Ellie be able to follow her dreams? Or will she learn more than she ever wanted to know?

This book alternates between Ellie and the boy, and as you go deeper into the book, you will find out how everything that they have been taught is a lie. Personally, I rated it a 4/5 because it was a little bit slow at the beginning, but after that, it was great.

Salt to the Sea

Book Review By: Lakshya Matele



This nerve-wracking and heart-wrenching book is a great Historical Fiction book if you like reading in that genre or just want to try this book! This book is centered in the World War 2 time era. This book has four different perspectives, so left start off with our first character who is Florian, he is a Prussian man, about nineteen or twenty years old, he has run away from Germany and has a secret mission, which may put everything and everyone in danger. Our second character is Joana, she escaped from Lithuania, she is a Lithuanian girl, about twenty-one years old and is an experienced nurse. Our third character is Emilia, she is a runaway Polish girl, she is full of sorrow and trauma, which you find about later and is about fifteen years old. Our fourth character is Alfred, he is a German man that believes that Hitler is his hero, he is a sailor, has a love named Hallenore who he writes letters to and is seventeen years old. I personally liked how the author incorporated the different emotions of the characters throughout the book to make us feel how the characters were feeling and I also enjoyed how all the characters meet each other and how their stories link together! My favorite character would be Joana! I would recommend this book to be for 11 or 12+ because it is mature for younger kids. I would rate this book a 3/5 stars because it was a little bit violent and emotional, but it was a great book overall and gave me way more insight about the events in World War 2! If you read this book and liked it then you should read Between Shades of Gray because it is about the story of Joana's cousin. Hope you enjoy this book as much as I did!

Books and Movies



Kung Fu Panda 4

By: Ava Kulkarni

Skadoosh! Do you know what movie this phrase is from? That's right! It's from Kung Fu Panda! Did you know Kung Fu Panda 4 just came out on March 9? This is the epic end to the Kung Fu Panda series. Po is training to become the next spiritual master and has to find a new dragon warrior. As reluctant as he is, he begins his search. "Lucky Me!" But then, he has to face the Chameleon. With the help of an outcast/thief, he makes his way to the Chameleon's lair. Unfortunately, the Chameleon has the power to bring back Po's past foes. If you want to know what happens next make sure you watch the movie!

The Marvels!

Movie Review By: Lakshya Matele



This really exciting and awesome movie was centered around the three exciting characters, Captain Marvel (AKA: Carol Danvers), Ms. Marvel (AKA: Kamala Khan) and Captain Rambeau (AKA: Monica Rambeau) and was the sequel to the movie Captain Marvel! Since it is Women's History Month, this movie is great to watch with a lot of Girl Power! So, it starts off with Captain Marvel noticing that something weird is going on in space and that jump gates (kind of like portals) are coming up everywhere, when she goes to investigate and touches the portal, while Captain Rambeau also touches the portal, while Ms. Marvel's bangle is glowing and they suddenly swap places with each other! Basically, all three of their light-based powers got entangled through quantum entanglement and whenever they use their powers at the same time they switch places because of the jump gates a villain is creating! This movie was astonishing and was way more chill and low violence than some of the recent marvel movies that have come out. One thing was that, there were a few loopholes in the story, which I would have like filled. Some things I really loved was, how they used their powers throughout the movie, how the entangled powers brought more excitement to the story, how there were many hilarious parts and the exciting little cliffhangers they left at the end for the next movie! IMDb gave this a 5.6/10 stars but, I would give this movie a 7.5/10 stars because it was a pretty exciting movie! Hope you enjoy this movie as much as I did!

Sports And Holidays

Daylight Saving Time

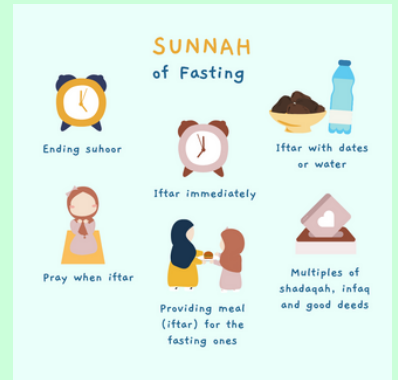
By: Sahasra Bathula

Daylight saving time, is also known as daylight time, or summer time. Daylight saving is when people change their clocks to make better use of the longer daylight available during summer so that darkness falls at a later clock time. Daylight saving happens twice a year. It happens once in the spring and once in the fall. Daylight saving is happening on Sunday, March 10th 2024. We will lose an hour of sleep so that means that we have to move our clocks one hour backwards. On Sunday November 3rd, 2024, the opposite thing will happen. We will gain one hour of sleep so that means that we have to move our clocks one hour forwards.

Ramadan

By: Sahasra Bathula

Ramadan is a holiday celebrated by people who practice Islam. Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar which is also known as the month of fasting. This year Ramadan is from Sunday, March 10th – Tuesday, April 9th. The purpose of Ramadan is create time for spiritual reflection, self-improvement, heightened devotion and worship, and to put more effort into following the teachings of Islam. “Lucky Me!” Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. Muslims are restricted from food and drinks. They are also restricted from listening to loud music, forgiving others, wasting time, smoking, and forceful vomiting from dawn to dusk. During Ramadan, there are two main meals are served, Suhoor and iftar meals. These meals typically contain fresh fruits, vegetables, halal meats, breads, cheeses, and sweets.



Maha Shivaratri

By: Sahasra Bathula

Shivaratri is a holiday typically celebrated by people who practice Hinduism. Shivaratri is the celebrated of Lord Shiva. Shiva is a Hindu God. The significance of Shivaratri is to honor Lord Shiva because he saved the whole world from destruction and it is also the day when Shiva got married to Goddess Parvati. Shivaratri is celebrated from Friday, March 8th, 2024 at 11:27 am till Saturday, March 9th, 2024 at 7:47 am. Hindus typically don't sleep at all during this night. During this time frame, Hindus praise Shiva for his great actions and listen to stories about other great things that Shiva has done for our world.



Holi

By: Sahasra Bathula

Holi is a Hindu festival which is celebrated as the “Festival Of Colors” and the triumph of Good over Evil. The triumph of good over evil celebrates the victory of Vishnu as Narasimha over Hiranyakashipu. Holi also celebrates love, spring, and the eternal and divine love of Radha and Krishna. Radha and Krishna are Hindu gods. This year, Holi is celebrated on Monday, March 25th. During Holi, people, dance through the streets and throw colored powder, dye or water. The vibrant colors celebrate the start of spring. The colorful powder thrown is gulal.

Edited by: Sanvi Mandvekar

Sports And Holidays

Sikh New Year

By: Sahasra Bathula

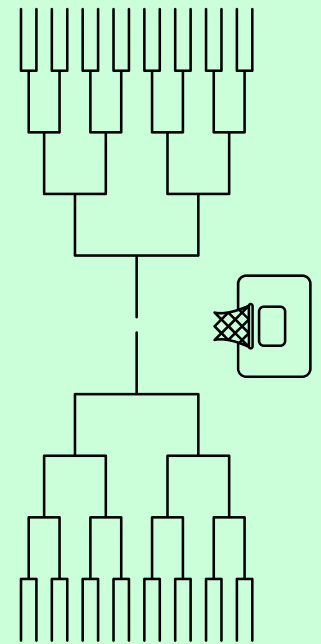
Sikh New Year is also known as Vaisakhi, Baisakhi, or Punjabi New Year. It is a spring festival which happens on the 13th or 14th of April every year. This day is to celebrate the birth of Sikhism in 1699. On this day, Sikhs commemorate their tenth guru, Guru Gobind Singh. This festival is mostly celebrated in the Indian State of Punjab. How this festival is celebrated is that people decorate religious services. Many people enjoy parades through the streets called "Nagar kirtsns." "Nagar" means town and "Kirian" means singing hymns from Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy book. Children and Youth demonstrate their skills in martial arts to the accompaniment of musical bands. This makes the event more colorful. Food is also served for free. This is known as "Langar." Langar serves a powerful way to socialize and connect with others. Yellow and Orange are traditional colors of Sikh New Year.

March Madness

Written By: Bryce Wilson

March Madness is very close to the beginning. But first, you need to know how it works. March Madness is the teams that are the best in NCAA (National Collegiate Athletics Association) Basketball play together to find out who is the best. For you to get an advantage of the tournament you need to play the best. To play the worst-seeded team. For example, in 2023 Kansas got the #1 seed and played Howard. After the game, they beat Howard 90-68.

To get in there are two ways. One, you win your conference tournament. Two, you play very well to get good stats to get picked on Selection Sunday. Selection Sunday is an airing on TV that determines who will go to March Madness. Which is on March 17th at 6 pm on CBS. For example, Michigan State, Purdue, and Wisconsin went in even though they lost the tournament. The game to find out who the college champion is is on April 8th on CBS, TBS, TNT, and truTV. Enjoy March Madness!



Champions League

Written By: Gavin Cipi

Champions league. The beautiful competition to be the champions of the soccer league. 32 clubs fighting it out in the group stage. With some common winners like Real Madrid, Bayern München, Liverpool, ETC. Last year's winner was Manchester City, their first-ever Champions League. This Competition goes back to 1955. With Real Madrid being the first winner. They ended up winning 13 more. Making them the club with the most champion league wins.

If you're not familiar with the Champions League. It's a competition where 32 of the best soccer teams battle it out to win the Champions League. So far we're in the round of 16, but by the time the article is in the post. We will be in the quarter-finals. With Real Madrid, Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain, Arsenal, Barcelona, Bayern München, Atletico Madrid, and Dortmund. With these sorts of teams, we are going to be seeing some good teams go early into the championship. Making this a deadly quarter-final. Let's see how things turn out.



Community News

Factory explosion

By: Aashay Patel

Designed By: Samith Cholaveti

Police and fire fighters are investigating the cause of the explosions at the facility, identified both as Select Distributors and Goo Smoke Shop. The debris included canisters weighing 10 to 15 pounds, which careened from the site with such force that they embedded into buildings and cars. The explosion shot debris 2 miles away and it killed one person (a canister hit him) that was ¼ mile away. He was a 19-year-old just going about his business. The canisters that exploded there were not legal, and they were made of an explosive material called ammonium nitrate. This material was also responsible for the warehouse explosion in Beirut back in 2018. This will forever leave a hole in our community.

Troybery Author Blitz

Written By: Jasmine Thomas

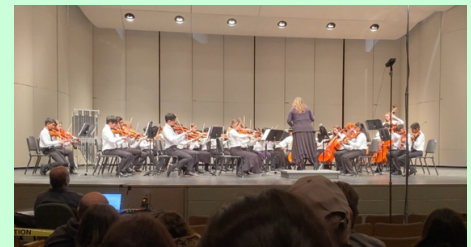
March is Reading Month is here! One thing that has a lot to do with books is the Troyberys! Every year, different books published in the previous year are voted on by the 4 middle schools in Troy. This year, we were lucky enough to have a zoom call with some of the authors of the Troyberys nominees. The authors that were able to join us were Rebecca E. F. Barone, Alexandria Rogers, Ruta Sepetys, Christina Soontornvat (recorded a video), Julie Kagawa, Ally Malinenko, Lisa McMann, Sylvia Liu, and Reem Faruqi. After the authors told us about their book, students were able to ask questions. Some that I heard was, “What was your inspirations for the story/characters?” “How long did it take to write your book?” “Favorite genre/book?” “What is your favorite trait that the main character has?” and more. It was a great experience for those wanting to know more about the authors and their books!



Band and Orchestra Festival

Written by Lydia Orlik and Divya Pujari

The Band Festival took place on March 1st at Dakota High School. We got out of the bus and went in at around 6:30 then we performed on stage at 7:55, playing “Winner’s Circle”, “Autumn Reflections”, and “Overture on a Hymn Tune”. We played in front of three judges and afterwards, we sightread (which means we got a piece we’d never seen before and we had to learn and perform it in 5 minutes) a piece and got good feedback on our performance and our sight-reading tactics. Then after eating several snacks and complaining about the loss of tropical smoothies, we all gathered to the whiteboard to see our score. Full of one’s! We ended up getting 9 A+’s out of 20 A’s and got the best score of the week! This experience was really fun and interesting, we really got to display all of our talents. Congrats to the symphonic band!



Along with the symphonic band, the advanced orchestra went to festival. The festival took place on March 8th at Rochester Stoney Creek High School. Entering the stage around 6:00pm, the orchestra played “Conquistador” by Deborah Baker Monday, “Aspen Glow” by Susan H. Day, and “Land of Dragons” by Chris Thomas. After playing the pieces, the orchestra also was led to a sight-reading room to see how well they could work as a team to prepare a piece in about five minutes. After receiving the feedback on the sight reading, the orchestra waited in the cafeteria for their rating. The orchestra got a first division, which is the highest division that they could get! The whole orchestra was proud of their rating, and it looks like all their hard work paid off. Congratulations to the advanced orchestra!



Community News

Variety Show

By: Lakshya Matele and Sahasra Bathula

“Lights! Camera! Action!” Larson Middle School recently had their annual Variety Show. It was much like a Talent Show with a variety of acts! This is one of the most exciting school events where students perform, or get to watch their peers perform, many different acts and from many different backgrounds!



Mrs. Cain Microgravity Flight

By: Maruska Kadous

People of Larson! This is the moment you all have been waiting for since last year, when Fox News came and introduced the world to our one and only..... Mrs. Cain! And her Microgravity Flight! This flight has been delayed multiple times, so we are proud to announce that in March 2024, they finally made up their minds and let them go! “Lucky Me!” This event is super exciting for the whole school, as Mrs. Cain is one of the four teachers in the whole U.S.A. who got chosen to take part of this experience! And now, let’s hear what Mrs. Cain thought of this experience. When asked what she thought of the flight, Mrs. Cain replied by saying, “It was an absolutely incredible to experience microgravity - it is truly an indescribable feeling. I was honored to represent Larson Middle School and test the experiments that students worked so hard on.”

Science Olympiad Regionals Competition

Written by Lakshya Matele

On March 2nd, the Science Olympiad Oakland County Regional Competition took place at Detroit Country Day School. This was the most nerve-wracking competition in the season so far, for all the students, it was either go big or go home! That was because, everyone knew that only the top five schools in our whole county would move on to the next big competition, which was States. Everyone wanted to be that school, knowing that if they weren’t, this would their last competition of the year!

So, without further ado, here were the results *drumroll please*, Larson got 2nd place overall in our whole county!! This was a spectacular result and proved that we were going to States for sure!! “I’m always just excited for our team to make it to the State competition. This is what we work for all year,” said Mr. Egan, Larson’s Science Olympiad Coach. Larson also won first place medals in the Flight, Optics and Roller Coaster parts! They were also the #1 best team in Troy!! This was really the best competition of the season, so far, for the students in Larson Middle School’s Science Olympiad! “In terms of being number two in the county, that’s amazing. I think I was most excited, Larson has never been number one in Troy, this is our first year that we’ve done it, that we’ve come out on top. We’ve been like number two in Troy but we’ve never been number one so I am really excited about that, it’s amazing,” Mr. Egan said proudly.

Fortunately, Regionals was not the end and States is left to win! States is on May 4th this year, in Western Michigan University and is usually really competitive because the best teams from all around Michigan will come to compete! What place do you predict Larson would get? According to Mr. Egan, “If we keep up our hard work that we would place no lower than seventh, but I feel like we could also clench for fourth, fifth or six depending if our team finds those extra like six or seventh and eighth gears, it’s gonna depend on how hard they’re willing to work, but we’re easily a top 10 team in the state right now. 6th is our highest place ever so I’d like to at least tie that again, if we broke that and we got fifth that would be incredible!” But, to achieve that goal Mr. Egan says, “As a team we got to stay focused. STAY FOCUSED!” So, come back after May 4th to get an update on how amazing Larson Middle School’s Science Olympiad team did in States Competition! Wishing the team good luck for States!!



Pop Culture

Olivia Rodrigo on Tour

By Novak Masic

Olivia Rodrigo is going on tour, its finally happening, Olivia Rodrigo is going on her Gut's tour. The pop music industry is very competitive, so far Taylor Swift has dominated pop music for a while, but there are some contenders that have recently gotten really popular. Olivia Rodrigo is one of these artists, when "Guts" released in September of last year it took off taking the no.1 spot on her song list, over taking her previous album "Sour." When she released the news that she was going on tour, TikTok's started popping out everywhere, with her #gutstour on TikTok has gotten over 500 million views. Her album also has over 100 million listens, on Spotify and other apps. Her tour is going to Phoenix, Dallas, New Orleans, Miami, St. Louis, Chicago, Toronto, Boston, New York and Detroit. You heard that right Olivia Rodrigo is coming to Detroit.

96th Annual Oscar Awards 2024

By Nikhil Rao

Every year, the Oscar's roll around to award the best actors, directors, and movies of the past year. With an absolutely outstanding year for movies, this year's Academy Awards were amazing. Although, one of the best movies of the year, Barbie, got its lead actress Margot Robbie and director Greta Gerwig snubbed from nomination lists. And to rub salt in the wound, Barbie's male counterpart, Ryan Gosling as Ken, was nominated for best supporting actor, in a movie about women and feminism. But America Ferrera brought Barbie to the Oscars when she was nominated for Best Supporting Actress.

Moving on, we saw two movies sweep the nominations and winnings with Oppenheimer and Poor Things. These movies won everything from Cinematography, Supporting Actor, Lead Actor, Directing, Editing, and Original Score (Oppenheimer), to Costume Design, Makeup and Hairstyling, and Lead Actress (Poor Things). Killers of the Flower Moon and The Zone of Interest also made many wins and nominations, as well as a fascinating live performance of the song "Wahzhazhe (A Song for My People)" from Killers of the Flower Moon performed by a Native American singing group.

Another standout moment from this year's Academy Awards was Mstyslav Chernov's (filmmaker of 20 Days in Mariupol) heartbreaking speech about Russia's aggression to Ukraine, the focal point of this film. Chernov said "Probably I will be the first director on this stage to say I wish I'd never made this film, I wish to be able to exchange this to Russia never attacking Ukraine." Another similar moment when Jonathan Glazer addressed the Israel-Palestine conflict in his acceptance speech for Best International Film for The Zone of Interest, "Our film shows where dehumanization leads at its worst. It's shaped all of our past and present," calling for there to be peace for everyone.

Finally, Oppenheimer won again, taking home the Oscar for Best Picture, as expected. This year's Oscars were a treat to watch and held a diverse cast of nominees and winners.

TIPS AND TRICKS

Gardening Tips

By: Sanvi Mandvekar

Spring is right around the corner! It's the perfect time to start your garden! If you don't already garden, this is the perfect place to start. If you already have done some gardening before, this is a great place to learn more tricks! The first thing is to grab a big large pot. Plants love to have a large space to grow freely. The next thing that you need to do is get some soil, mind you, there is a difference between soil and dirt. Soil is very moist and nutrient-rich, whilst dirt is not. After that, you should carefully plant a seed by poking the dirt about 3 inches in and placing the seed inside. Then you should cover it up with soil. "Lucky Me!" Water it slightly every day, just to keep the topmost layer of soil moist. Once the plant starts growing carefully trim it once it is about 2 months old, this will enlarge its leaves and growing capacities. This is how you should start your garden!

Crafts for St. Patrick's day

By: Ada dogramacilar

Are you ready to have fun making very green crafts for one of the most celebrated and mysterious holidays. These are 2 teen crafts to have fun making and even eating. Our first craft is the pot of gold, this craft has a story to also go along with it. "In Irish mythology, each leprechaun has a pot of gold as they are guardians of ancient treasure, and if ever caught by humans, the gold is used as a bribe to get out of difficult situations. In order to reach the end of the rainbow and the pot, humans must catch a leprechaun" after learning the story click on the link on the right to get started with your gold pot —))<https://www.the36thavenue.com/st-patricks-day-pot-of-gold/> . After the pot of gold we need a treat to go along with it. These cupcakes are the best cupcakes you will ever have it also has a pinch of gold taste. Have fun making them —))<https://hungryhappenings.com/leprechaun-cupcakes-st-patricks-day-treats/> . Thank you for making crafts with us and fun learning the history of the gold pot.



Entertainment

Did you know...

By: Lakshya Matele

1. March's first moon is named the "worm moon," as the first worms come out after the ground begins to thaw.
2. March is named after the Roman god of war, Mars.
3. March is the first month of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and the first month of fall in the Southern Hemisphere.
4. March is Women's History Month in the United States.
5. March's birth stones are Aquamarine and Bloodstone which represent courage.
6. March was once considered the first month of the year in 150 B.C.
7. March has two birth flowers, daffodil and jonquils.
8. March 1st was National Pig Day and National Peanut Day!
9. March 3rd was What If Cats and Dogs Had Opposable Thumbs Day!
10. March 9th was Get Over It Day!
11. March 10th was Day of Awesome!
12. March 11th was International Fanny Pack Day!
13. March 13th was National Ear Muff Day and Open an Umbrella Indoors Day!
14. March 16th was National Panda Day and Absolutely Incedible Kid Day!
15. March 18th was Awkward Moments Day!
16. March 19th was Chocolate Caramel Day!
17. March 20th was Snowman Burning Day!
18. March 22nd is As Young As You Feel Day!
19. March 23rd is World Meteorological Day and Near Miss Day!
20. March 26th is Make Up Your Own Holiday Day!
21. March 28th is Somthing on a Stick Day!
22. March 30th is Take a Walk In The Park Day!
23. March 31st is World Backup Day and Crayola Crayon Day!
24. March is the time of the year that animals start waking up from hibernation.
25. The value of the Leprechuan's pot of gold would be about 2 million dollars today!
26. St. Patrick's Day color was originally blue!
27. March is National Frozen Food Month, National Celery Month, National Reading Awareness Month.

Spring Word Search

N	L	M	O	R	D	Y	S	M	B	M	O	O	L	B
N	I	A	R	M	E	L	E	S	E	A	W	O	G	
U	O	Y	E	L	O	S	E	A	S	O	N	M	S	S
L	M	L	I	O	D	N	E	K	L	A	Y	R	P	H
H	C	T	A	H	I	N	G	Q	L	D	B	R	K	U
U	T	P	E	H	O	O	D	I	O	O	I	F	C	L
Y	T	I	S	R	E	T	R	M	D	N	T	R	E	U
V	W	N	A	O	E	P	J	T	G	N	E	D	X	V
E	U	G	R	N	A	D	M	B	R	A	Y	A	T	E
S	L	M	E	U	B	G	R	T	A	S	O	U	P	A
R	E	F	G	L	C	E	B	T	S	I	R	G	A	S
B	A	L	Y	B	A	E	N	O	S	R	E	H	R	T
Y	A	O	I	K	D	O	O	H	R	E	H	O	H	E
U	Y	W	E	M	S	H	O	W	E	R	S	E	D	R
C	H	E	F	A	M	C	L	Y	O	G	D	R	E	S
X	L	R	O	V	Z	R	C	O	J	B	R	I	N	O
F	I	S	E	A	R	A	K	S	L	E	I	O	E	L
B	L	O	S	S	O	M	C	B	J	W	B	M	O	B

#1: Spring

