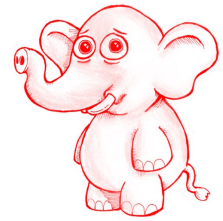


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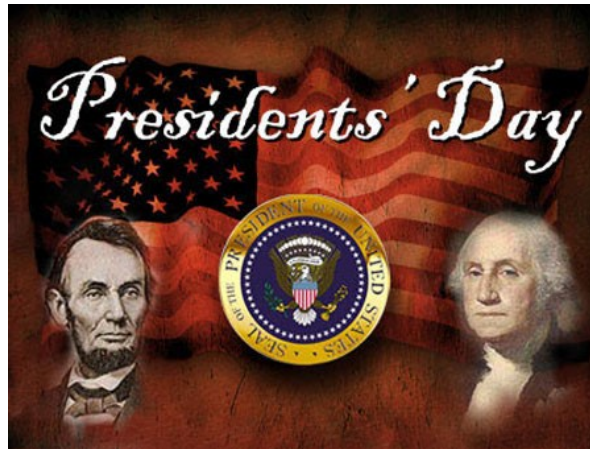
Presidents' Day Misconception



By Robert Gaudio
Tusker Tribune
Staff Writer

Presidents Day is actually supposed to be a celebration of President George Washington's birthday. It began in 1800, the year after President Washington died. "Washington's Birthday" became an official federal holiday in 1879 when President Rutherford B. Hayes signed it into law.

Illinois Senator Robert McClory proposed a Uniform Monday Holiday Act in the late 1960's in an attempt to make more three day



weekends for America's workers. In this legislation, it proclaimed that Washington and Lincoln's Birthday Holidays be combined into "Presidents Day" to celebrate America's past and present presidents. The legislation was passed in 1968, also making Memorial Day, Columbus Day and Veterans Day all on Mondays.

I certainly appreciate these holiday moves. I certainly do love a three day weekend!

What is Love? Baby Don't Hurt Me...



By Robert Gaudio
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Millions of people around the world celebrate Valentine's Day, but don't even know who St. Valentine is.

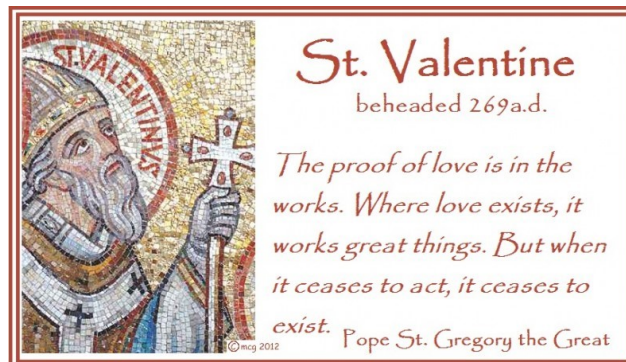
In the 5th Century, Pope Gelasius made February 14th St. Valentine's Day. Who was St. Valentine? There are two major stories surrounding the identity of St. Valentine.

One myth put St. Valentine as a Catholic priest helping Christians escape or flee Rome because Christians were being persecuted. St. Valentine was jailed. In jail he fell in love with a young woman. Some say it was the jailer's daughter. Before he died, he sent her a love letter and signed it "from your Valentine". Therefore, that became the

first Valentines Day card.

Another story sets St. Valentine back in Rome, during Emperor Claudius II's rule. The Emperor had a strict policy that soldiers could not be married because he thought they made better soldiers unmarried. Father Valentine continued to perform marriages in secret because he disagreed with the Emperor. Father Valentine was caught performing marriages and put to death.

In the middle of the 18th century, people sent hand written cards to each other to celebrate Valentines Day. By the early 1900's printed cards were available to buy and send. Today more than one billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year!





Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at DPappas@somersschools.org

Oasis—A Virtual Reality Story



By Brandon Armstrong
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Every morning, I wake up and head straight to the living room so I can finish watching Star Wars. I do not have to get ready for school yet. My name is Bryan and I live in (or at least what used to be) Westerville, Ohio with my aunt.

Oh no, my computer is glitching! I quickly save the movie on my flash drive and swiftly remove it. I check the time and run into my room and straight outside. I live in a trailer in a car junkyard like all the other poor people. I run outside and quietly go into my secret truck in a huge pile of others. This houses my school order OASIS unit. This is my school. I go into my unit and enter a digital dimension called OASIS.

I enter my school on the planet Aphthung. This planet has tons of schools scattered around it, all exactly the same. I go and meet with my



friend Zink in the commons room. After classes, we run outside to the un-used basketball court. We talk about a challenge to find an amazing

treasure. All users are trying to find keys to get to the end challenge. We both decide to look on the planet for a hint. We find nothing.

He has to go so I start searching on my own and find a hill with a cave. The hill was not on the map, so I start enter the cave and as soon as I enter my armor and weapons are switched and all I have is a pistol.

I start searching for stuff and find a few enemies scattered around. Then I

find a shotgun in a room and things get harder. As I keep going through, I find a weird staircase down guarded by tons of enemies. I go back, search more, and find a secret rocket launcher. I run back to stair and blast them all with one blast. I go all the way down and all my stuff is given back with the bronze key on a podium. A weird figure spawns and challenges me to a game of Combat. The prize is the bronze key.

The Soul of Lightning



By Nick Cirillo
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Meowww. Meeooooooow, the cat named Fluffy meowed.

"Aww, he's so cute! We *have* to upload this to YouTube!"

"Maybe, Candice. I don't know if mom would want us to. It's time to go to sleep, anyway, it's 10:30."

"Okay! Good night. *Night mom! Night dad! Night Rob!*" Candice yelled.

"Go away, Candy," Rob yelled from his



room, probably annoyed that she interrupted his music.

Fluffy listened closely for a while, making sure all five family members were asleep, and looked outside. Only a little snow-covered rock man that

the kids made stood outside, lonely. Floofy Fluffy Flufferkins the 1st snuggled up against the yellow Yogibo and fell asleep.

Grrr...



ROOOOOAAAAR! A giant lion of thunder boomed, flying across the barren landscape. He flew around as if floating, summoning huge black clouds of lightning to do his bidding. But soon they fell out of his control, and he zipped and zapped onto a snowy mountain, taking in the new scenery. A big rock golem with a heart of ice seemed to own the territory here. Startled, it threw snowball at the lion. The lion weaved around it, shooting a bolt of lightning back.

Continued on page 5

Frog Dissection Really Opens Things Up!



**By Skylher Reyes and
Allison Zattola**
Tusker Tribune Staff Writers

On January 25th the whole 7th grade dissected frogs. We had the dissection 3rd period so before that we were scared to dissect because we didn't know how it would turn out.

We walked into the science room and we had to go down the table like a buffet. First thing on the table was a plastic folded up apron that each of us had to have. The second thing was the goggles and last thing was that Mrs. Manko came around with 2 bins of different sized gloves. (small and large). Now we were about to dissect

On the counter there was 8 bullfrogs on 1 metal tray with the tools under the frog. Mrs. Manko came around, giving out one tray per partnership. Then she handed us all 3 sheets of paper. One sheet had the order of dissection and what we had to do. The other two sheets had boxes that we would have to put some of the organs after we took them out of the frog.

First we had to observe the skin and the camouflage. Next, we had to see how loose the skin was and take a closer look at the eyes. Then, we had to crack open the mouth. We did that by sticking one thumb in the mouth and the other one holding it. It was a very hard thing to do because after the frog dies, the muscles stiffen up so the mouth is closed and is hard to open.

After you shove your thumb into the frog's mouth you have to crack its jaw open. Also it was optional to take out the tongue which my group did. Next, we had to cut the skin so that when we are taking things out, we can actually see them.

You have to cut up the middle to the mouth and down the middle to the anus. Then, you have to cut across the body and under the armpits as well as the leg pits. After you cut through the skin you have to cut through the muscle under the skin. When you cut up through the muscle, you come to a hard spot to cut. That is the sternum bone that

you have to go through.

After you cut through the sternum, you open the skin so it is out of the way and you can see the whole inside of the frog. The first thing you do inside of the frog is see if it is male or female. Our frog was a female so it had A LOT of eggs as well as oviducts. Remove all the eggs and oviducts from the body. Next you have to cut out the liver. In the liver there are 3 lobes but remember not to cut the lobes apart.



After you take out the liver, you have to take out the gallbladder which is connected to the liver. It will be filled with bile. Next take out the heart which has a Saran wrap-type of cover protecting the heart. Make sure when cutting the heart out not to pop it.

Next take out the fat bodies which are located on both sides of the frog. In humans we have fat all over and in frogs they only have fat in 2 places. They are yellowish and orange finger or spaghetti like things.

After the fat bodies, you take out the stomach, pancreas, the large intestine and the small

intestine which are all attached. The stomach could be filled with anything from the frog's last meal, unlike our frog who had nothing. The small intestine is a long coiled piece of skin ours was 42 cm. The large intestine is filled with feces. Some people found crayfish in the stomach and some claws, too!

After we opened the large intestine, we examined the kidney. Then we took it out. Next we took out the spleen, which filters blood and recycles old red blood cells. Finally we had to take out the blood vessels because everything in the frog is taken out.

All in all, we thought this experiment was going to be horrible. After all, we both pitched in a little and we got it done. In the end it smelled bad and we had blood on our gloves from taking the heart out. It wasn't a bad experience and after all that stress we got through it.



Advisory Targets Importance of Recycling



By Skylher Reyes
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

On Wednesday, February 15 in advisory we talked about recycling. My teacher showed us a presentation about it. You are able to recycle paper, plastic and aluminum. In classrooms, they usually have two recycling bins, one for paper and one for plastic bottles. We have a separate bin for paper because schools use a lot of paper and it is better to recycle it then throw it away. When we throw away paper it wastes it but when we put it in the recycling bin it will get reused



and made into something else.

Also, for plastic bottles if we recycle them it's better for the environment because they will be reused in some way. All in all, in advisory I learned a lot about recycling.

Some ways that kids and teachers in our school can help recycle is by putting more recycling bins in the café. It will help more because it will remind students to recycle. If we do not have more bins students will not know to recycle. Also, if the monitors will remind us to recycle. All in all, recycling can change the world by just throwing an item in the recycling bin not the garbage.

SPORTS UPDATE

Continued from page 2



Next up was the 3 point contest. Last year, Klay Thompson was the winner. This year Eric Gordon from the Rockets played Kyrie Irving from the Cleveland Cavaliers. In the championship round Gordon and Irving both tied with 20 points. Then in the bonus round, Kyrie Irving finished with 18 points and Eric Gordon finished with 21 points to win it.

The last one was the dunk contest. This year the four contestants were Aaron Gordon, last year's runner up, Deandre Jordan, Glen



Robinson III, and Derrick Jones Jr. Last year's winner was Zach Levine. In the finals, the final score for Glen Robinson III from the Indiana Pacers was 94 while Derrick Jones Jr. of Phoenix Suns scored 87.

Then on Sunday was the all-star game. Last year, the West won and Russell Westbrook was MVP. This year the West won again, 192-182 but Anthony Davis won MVP with 52 points which is an all-star game



Soul of Lightning

Continued from page 3

They fought, hurling snow and lightning above the empty mountain plateau, only stopping occasionally to regain strength. The golem seemed to hunch up, drawing in energy, and burst a seismic wave of ice cold frost. The lion brought a dark cloud in front of himself to keep the ice from freezing him, and dashed forward in a zigzagging, vibrating phase of electricity. The golem brought up a sheet of ice from the ground, which shattered like glass and sliced through the lion's fur.

ROOOOAAAR!!! The lion summoned a huge orb of pure power from the sky, and launched it at the golem, who in turn blasted a continuous beam of ice shards and freezing sleet. They converged, and each seemed to have the edge for a moment until the other overtook it. The two energy concentrations exploded in a burst of fire, and the golem created a storm of snow that obscured any visibility. The lion flew away, and just as he did, he saw a fiery demon appear. It stared at him with eyes of fire and disappeared in flame.

The Convergence of Elements. It has come.