

RAIDER REVIEW

Newsletter of Lamar Elementary School

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Be Kind.

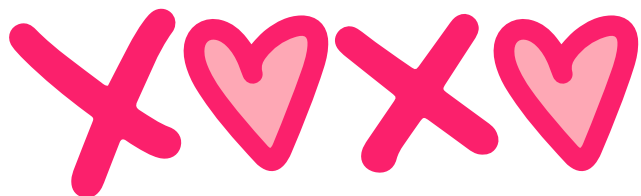
Spread the Love: The Power of Kindness This Valentine's Day

BY: MADISON MARTIN

Kindness is everywhere. It is in your school. It is in your home. If someone is sad or upset just give them a smile or help them up. You never know what is going on with them. If you help someone and are nice, in the future they might help you. Here are four ways to be kind:

- Share your things.
- Play with others.
- Interact and talk with people.
- Smile and laugh with people.

You might spread kindness differently than others, but that is okay. Ava Matthews said, "You can spread kindness by being kind to your brothers and sisters." Kate DeBardeleben said, "I act kind to others by if someone falls I help them up."





History of Valentine's Day

BY: GARRET BOWERS

You may know Valentine's Day as the day of love, but do you know what really happened? According to Alice K. Flanagan many people believe the holiday came from a festival that Romans celebrated more than 2,000 years ago called Lupercus.

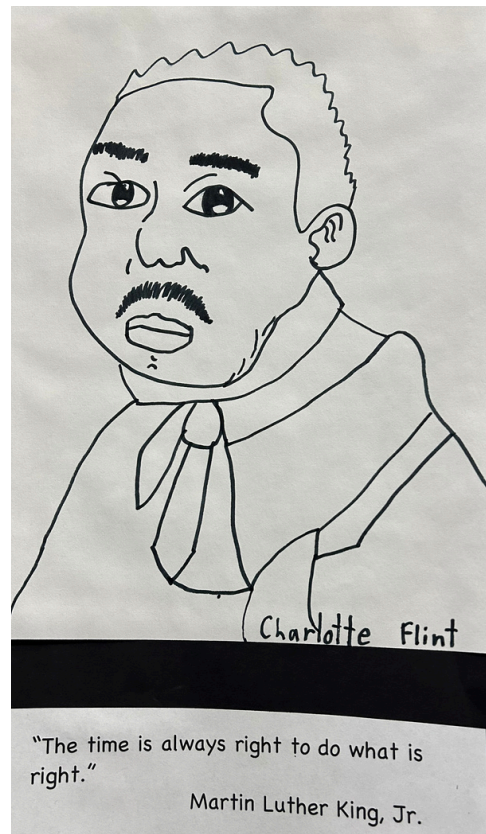
Eventually the holiday was renamed St. Valentine's Day. The name was in honor of a Christian priest named Valentine. Valentine lived in Rome many years ago. There are many stories about this man. In one of the stories Valentine broke the law. The emperor would not let any of his soldiers marry. He believed that single men made better soldiers. Valentine did not agree. Valentine helped young men and women get married. The emperor put Valentine in prison for disobeying the law. On February 14, A.D. 269, he put Valentine to death.

Facts about Martin Luther King, Jr.

BY: ANDY DEBARDELEBEN

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." - Dr. King

According to BBC.com, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a day honoring a legacy of equality, service, and connection. He believed in speaking up about equal rights for Black Americans. This earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birth name was actually Michael King. He went to college to become a preacher. He is most famous for his "I Have a Dream" speech at The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.



Kindergarten Celebrates Milestones with P Day, 100th Day of School, and Kindergarten Devotional

BY: LOGAN BOWERS

The kindergarten kingdom has been busy with fun events! **P Day** took place on Friday, January 21. **P Day** is a day for kindergarten to celebrate the letter “P” while wearing pajamas. The kindergartners walked around the school showing off their pajamas. “P Day” was fun and helped me remember the letter P,” quoted a kindergartener.

The kindergarten devotional took place on January 23, 2025. It was about love, the alphabet, and praising the Lord.

The next day after the devotional was the **100th day of school**. This day was widely celebrated throughout the school, but kindergarten celebrated it the most. The kindergartners were wild with excitement about some of their projects. A few included 100 eyeballs on a T-shirt, a hundred eyeballs on a monster, and a hundred diamonds on a bubblegum machine.



Lamar LEGO League Competes at River City Red & Blue Qualifier

BY: AVA MATTHEWS

The Lamar Lego League is a new club for Lamar School this year. On January 18, the Lego League traveled to Vicksburg, MS, and competed in the River City Red & Blue Qualifier. Our Lamar team came home with the Core Values Award, 3rd place overall, and an invitation to the State Competition in Biloxi!

Team member Owen Vonderheide said, "I learned how to code, and how to build with Legos better." Some of the skills you can build are problem-solving, engineering, and coding. Every year there is a new challenge based on a real-world scientific theme. This year they learned all about the ocean and the sea creatures that live in it. Thank you to the Lamar Lego League Sponsors Renata dos Santos Cataldo, Leigha Tate, Heidi Vonderheide, and Caleb Dulaney for their incredible and hard work in putting this together.



Students pictured (back row, from left): Ricky Espinosa, Jasper Flint, Owen Vonderheide, and Luke Cassell

Students pictured (front row, from left): Barrett Wilder, Caroline Tate, Audrey Vonderheide, and Stone Powell.

Lamar Stars Shine on Stage in *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.*

BY: MAGGIE NEWLIN

These six students did a great job representing our school when they performed in *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.* at the Meridian Little Theater. Their involvement benefits the arts in our community!

Luke Cassell, 5th grade - "I was a townsman and my favorite part was the costumes." The biggest challenge for Luke was having to get up early. By participating in the play, Luke has learned to be very responsible and have faith in his friends. He had a fun time.

Lila Cassell, 1st grade - She was a villager in the play. Her favorite part was getting to make new friends. The hardest thing for Lila was trying to get the dance right. Lila shared, "I thought it was a great experience because it helped me develop my acting skills."

Natalia Baker, 3rd grade - She was in the ensemble. Her favorite part was dancing and being with her friends. "The hardest thing for me was trying to memorize my songs and all of my dances." She loved being in the performance.



Story Continued -

Stella Kate Lacoste, 5th grade – Stella Kate was a Cheshire Cat. Her favorite part was getting to practice with her friends. The biggest challenge for Stella Kate was trying to memorize all of her lines. She had 60 lines! She said, "Participating in the theater has helped me become a better dancer."

Everest Steinbach, 2nd grade – "I was the Two of Clubs playing as a royal card," shared Everest. The hardest part for Everest was the very first practice. He had a very fun time!

Libby Davis, 3rd grade – "I was a flower," said Libby. Her favorite part was getting to perform. The hardest part for Libby was having to do all of her back walkovers. By participating in the play, she said that her acting skills have improved greatly. She had a very fun time.

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A Royal Laugh: 4th Graders Shine in *The Emperor's New Clothes!*

BY: CAROLINE TATE

Last week, the 4th graders took the stage to perform *The Emperor's New Clothes*. It was a special occasion, marking the first performance in the newly renovated cafetorium.

Jasper Flint played the Emperor, while Barrett Wilder took on the role of one of the tricky tailors. Before the show, Barrett admitted, "I'm nervous about the play," but the performance went off without a hitch!

The story teaches an important lesson about greed and honesty. Ella Tate shared that she learned "not to trust everyone," while kindergartener Cooper Lott added, "You shouldn't listen to people who look bad." For Ava Matthews, the funniest moment was when the Emperor walked out in his underwear—a scene that had the audience laughing!



New 4th Graders at Lamar Elementary

BY: CALLIE WATERS

LAMAR ELEMENTARY WELCOMES NEW 4TH GRADE STUDENTS TO THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR.

Remaining new students will be featured in the next issues of Raider Review



"My favorite class is science."

Caroline T.



"I love Spanish."

Valeria Y.



"I like my teachers."

Ella Kate G.



"I love the Lego league"

Stone P.

Lamar Elementary Basketball

BY: KIRK ROGERS



This year, more than 50 students participated in elementary basketball. The two programs are Rowdy Raiders (1st - 4th grades) and the Pine Belt Pee Wee League (5th & 6th grades). Fifth Grader Andy DeBardeleben said he had fun playing basketball in the Pine Belt League . Fourth grader Wesley Eason played in the Rowdy Raiders league and said he also had fun playing.



Meet the New Teachers

BY:KATE DEBARDELEBEN



Mrs. Huntley

Mrs.Huntley is a new second grade teacher at Lamar this year. Before coming to Lamar she taught 5th grade language arts at Northeast Middle School.

Mrs. Huntley has two children who attend Lamar Elementary – Dean in Pre-K and Darcy in 1st grade.

By the end of the year, she wants her students to remember to treat others how they want to be treated. She also wants them to remember to put capital letters at the beginning of their sentence and a period at the end. She also wants the students to improve their writing.



Mrs. Causey

Mrs. Causey is a new art teacher at Lamar this year, and she wants all her students to enjoy art. Mrs. Causey said, "I want everyone to know no matter what you do, I will be proud of you."

She explained that art is supposed to be your outlet and something fun you get to do outside of your classroom.

In her class, if you try, that is all that really matters. Her goal for her students is to create art they are proud of.

Mrs. Causey said, "I want to bring color to the school!"

She also loves supporting her students by going to their sporting events and dance competitions. Before coming to Lamar, Mrs. Causey taught 3rd grade at West Lauderdale. Mrs. Causey said, "My children inspired me to come to Lamar." Her children are Sollis in Pre-K and Liam in 2nd grade. Mrs. Causey loves Lamar!

GRANDPARENTS DAY

BY:ADDIE WALKER

Shouts of happiness fill the hallway as children run into the strong arms of their grandparents. This is Lamar's most happiest day of the year known as Grandparents Day. It celebrates the joy of grandparents coming far and wide to see the family.

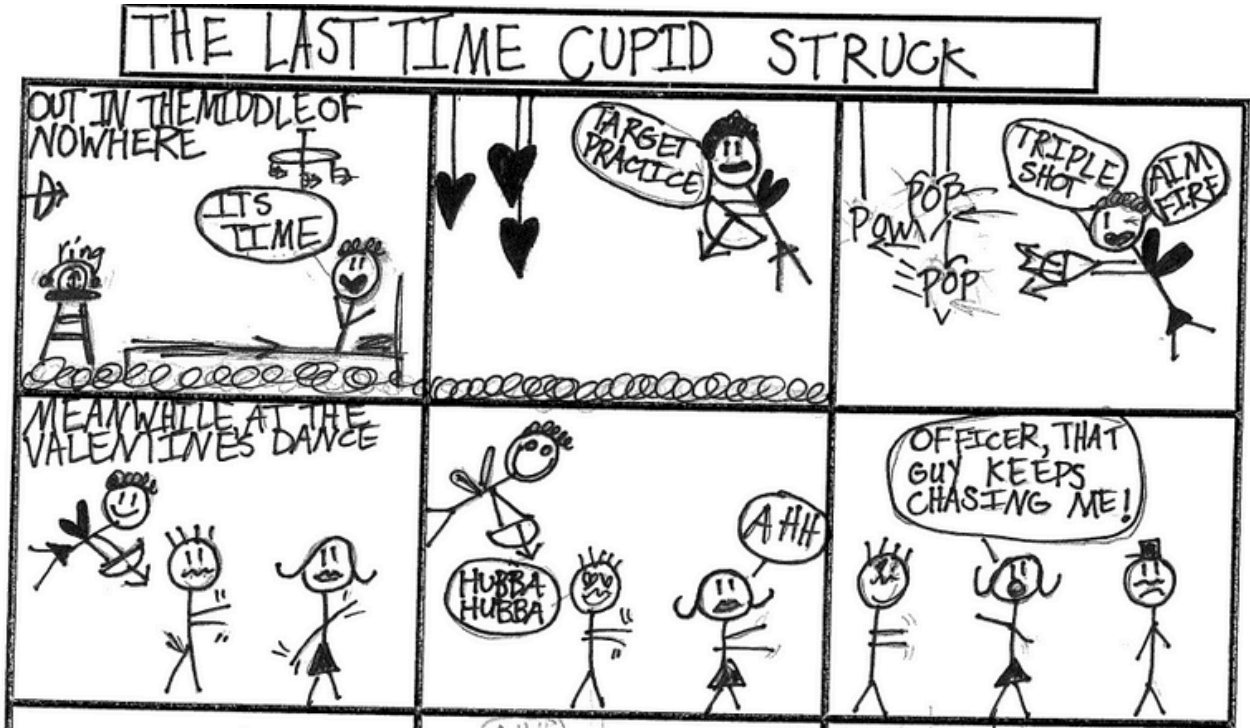
Most grandparents live far away from their grandchildren, but they still manage to come. This is probably because of the amazing bond between generations. Another reason for grandparents to come is that they get to see and take home all of the great gifts that their grandchildren have made. All grades make different presents specifically created for the grandparents. For example, one grade made a QR code that led to a slideshow.

What is also a joy is the grandparents get to see the classroom and learn about the cool clubs, meet the teachers, and receive the handmade gifts made by their grandchildren. Even though grandparents come for all these activities, they come for their grandchild most. If it weren't for them, there would be no special day. They are the most important part of Grandparent's Day and they play their part well.



COMIC

BY: WESLEY EASON



Raider Review Newsletter Staff



FRONT ROW (FROM LEFT) ADDIE WALKER, CAROLINE TATE, MADISON MARTIN, AVA MATTHEWS, KATE DEBARDELEBEN, WESLEY EASON, AND MRS. SYNER

BACK ROW (FROM LEFT) MRS. CASTLE, CALLIE WATERS, GARRET BOWERS, ANDY DEBARDELEBEN, KIRK ROGERS, LOGAN BOWERS, MAGGIE NEWLIN, AND MRS. DEBARDELEBEN

Garret Bowers

Madison Martin

Maggie Newlin

Addie Walker

Ava Matthews

Callie Waters

Andy DeBar

Kate Debardeleben

Wesley Eason

Logan Bowers

Kirk Rogers

Caroline Tate