

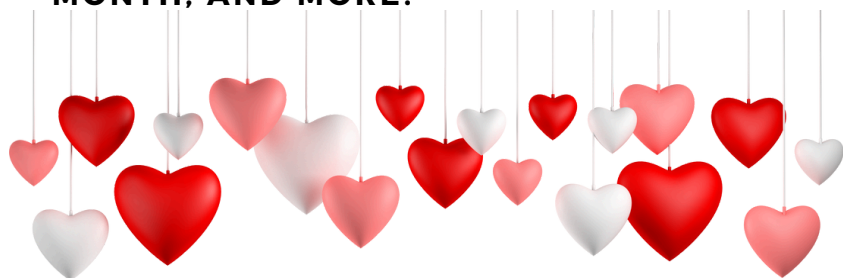
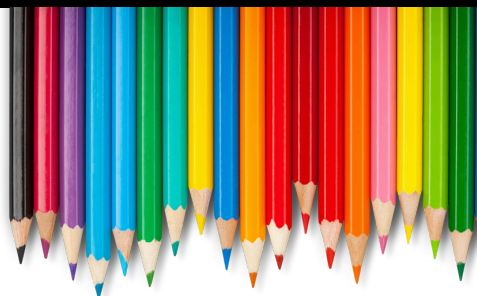
THE FALCON FORUM

Editor: Maddie Pollock



IN THIS MONTHS ISSUE WE HAVE...

- UPLIFTING DEVOTIONAL
- UPCOMING HOLIDAYS
- COMICS
- DID YOU KNOW SECTION
- POETRY, ANIMAL OF THE MONTH, AND MORE!



FEBRUARY NARRATIVE

WRITTEN BY: MADISON CLARK MCLAWHORN
(7TH) & JUDE MCLAWHORN (6TH)

Hello! Welcome to *The Falcon Forum*!!

I hope you have had a great February so far! I know it's taken a while to get locked back into the schedules (especially for me) when there is so much going on.

One of the things I remember about every February is Groundhog Day on the 2nd. I honestly don't get the whole shadow thing and relying on an animal to decide what season it is, but that's just me.

Moving on, what I find very funny is that it's the most likely month to be spelled wrong. I have probably done that ... um, quite a bit.

Getting off that topic I would like to say that February may be the shortest month, but for some reason it seems like it takes forever to get by. So good luck with that!

When getting through tough things like tests and quizzes and homework (and believe me, I know that it gets pretty overwhelming), you should ask God for help. "For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help." This Bible verse about divine intervention tells us that no prayer of help goes unanswered by God. We need only to send up a simple prayer and He will come to our aid (Psalm 72:12). To me this means when you are in pain or are overwhelmed, call out to God and he will help you and answer your prayers. Pray no matter how you feel, happy or sad. Pray to God; thank him, ask him to forgive your sins, and ask him for help.

Staff:

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Arrow Hartman

Aliyah Benton

Anna-Kate Mather

Bennett Brownlee

Brooklyn Craft

Boston Hedgpeth

Caroline Taylor

Elise Satcher

Ella Claire Smigiel

Faith Faris

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Holden Muth

Ian Johnson

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Katie Reid Stratton

Katy Noonan

Maddie Pollock

Madison Clark McLawhorn

Madelyn Baughman

Matt Cole

May Kelley

Weston Phillips

Spencer Barno

Violet Keeter

MARCH CALENDAR

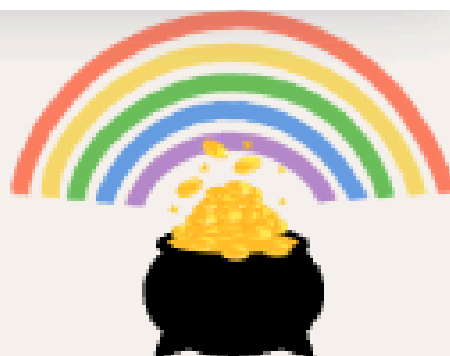
CREATED BY: MADDIE POLLOCK (7TH)






MARCH

YEAR - 2025

BY MADDIE POLLOCK (7TH)



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 1/2 DAY! GRANDPARENTS DAY!	8	9
10 NO SCHOOL!	11	12 	13	14	15	16
----- 8TH GRADE WASHINGTON DC TRIP!!!! -----						
17 ST PATRICKS DAY! 	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26  JR. HONOR SOCIETY INTRODUCTION	27	28	29	30
31						



UPCOMING NATIONAL MARCH HOLIDAYS!

CREATED BY: ABIGAIL TAYLOR (5TH)

✕ National Horse Protection Day - March 1



✕ National Old Stuff Day - March 2

✕ National Anthem Day - March 3



✕ National Grammar Day - March 4

✕ Ash Wednesday - March 5

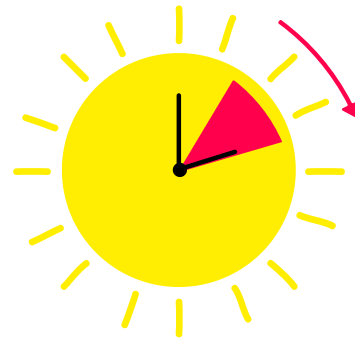


✕ National Oreo Cookie Day - March 6

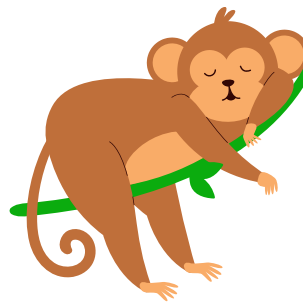


✕ National Dress In Blue Day - March 7

✕ Daylight Savings Day - March 8

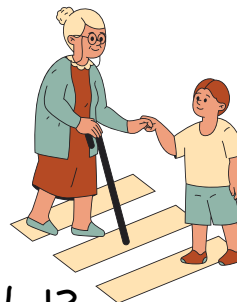


✕ National Barbie Day - March 9



✕ National Napping Day - March 10

✕ National Good Samaritan Day - March 13



✕ National GOOF OFF Day! - March 22

BE KIND
BE BRAVE
BE SILLY
BE HONEST
BE HAPPY
BE YOU

Poetry

**WRITTEN BY:
MADISON CLARK MCLAWHORN (7TH)**

Once I asked myself the question of time.
Is it really worthwhile? Is it really mine?
If this was grand, how did we really get here?
Some say an explosion in the atmosphere.
So life was a mistake? With no meaning all along?
So what's really right, what's really wrong?
If this was a mistake how is morality defined?
What is that feeling in your chest and mind?
If the galaxy was useless, then who am I?
What's the point to live? What's the point to die?
There has to be something vast, something more..
More to earth's design, more to the earth's core.
God must be there for life to make sense.
That He is there, even in the silence.
So if there is A God, which one is alive?
Is He one? Or are there five?
I looked at every book in order and saw something strange.
Why does everything seem to shift and change
I saw the Bible, read it through.
I felt so meaningful, so brand new.
If Jesus died, I felt like it mattered.
My heart is clean, and now not shattered.
I looked at the other religions in shock.
They used Jesus as well, but a different rock.
Then I asked again, why did they use him as a prophet?
It doesn't seem true, doesn't seem to fit
Take me, oh Lord Jesus, into infinity,
Allow me to rest in your holy divinity.



Fine Arts Spotlight

**WRITTEN BY:
ELLA CLAIRE SMIEGEL (5TH)**



I think that the Fine Arts team did a great job on making everything happen for the Mary Poppins musical. It was definitely an amazing experience to go and see! I would rate it a 5/5 stars because of how fun the experience was. I wanted to give a special shout-out to the middle school students who were in this and to say that they did amazing. I hope everyone had a great family and friend fun time!



SPORTS COLUMN

**WRITTEN BY:
ISAAC GAY (6TH)**

With soccer season just starting and basketball well on its way, the Ben Lippen Falcons have a lot of sports going on!

Soccer has started and the sixth grade boys are rejoicing because all of them made the cut. The games are starting soon, so give them congrats! We are looking forward to a great year. Sadly, some of the fifth graders were cut, but I'm sure they will make it next year.

Another sport is wrestling. They have worked hard with training and wrestling matches, so give them some encouragement as their season is coming to an end.

Baseball practices have started, so head to the fields and meet some of the players.

Whether playing sports or sitting at home, we need to glorify the Lord in all we do, and 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 says, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." God has given us all amazing gifts. Don't waste them, use them, and remember ... GO FALCONS!



UNSOLVED MYSTERIES: MARY CELESTE

BY MADISON CLARK MCLAWHORN (7TH)

The Mary Celeste was an amazing ship that was built in Canada but registered in America. This ship was honestly a pretty big mystery. On December 4, 1872, it was found in great condition at sea but under partial sail ... and the lifeboat and crew were missing! It also was filled with stuff and had all the captain's belongings. But none of the crew was ever heard from again. So why would they leave this ship? Well here's the facts.

Route and time stamp.

First let's recount what we know. The ship's lifeboat was gone, but the belongings were untouched. Well, we need to see what boats were passing the same place near the same time, but before that, we need to analyze the route and how much time it would take to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Let's see. The northern route usually took between 15 to 30 days. So it would have to be aborted at the earliest by December 29. Now let's calculate the proximity. The ship was found in the Azores. That means the ship drifted off in a north direction. So what does that mean? Well going north on the drift, it would move less than one mile an hour. With the distance being 1,400 km, it would have taken quite a while to get across. That's the equivalent of 869.9197 miles, approximately 870 miles. That's insane. But that wouldn't make sense would it? They must have taken another route. Or they must have ditched the ship earlier.

Theory #1 - They escaped the ship.

Here is theory one. Let's just say they were floating around and they noticed a passing ship. What if this ship was headed towards them? Well they may have thought it was an enemy ship because during this time, conflict was not uncommon. Now, the crew has to quickly escape without being noticed. Belongings may have slowed them down. They decide to send the lifeboat out to create a diversion. Then they try to swim to land.

Theory #2 - They just decided to leave it behind. (SICKNESS??)

Okay, don't think I'm crazy. But it's possible. They could have decided that they couldn't stand to be on that ship any longer. Maybe the crew was dying or getting sick. Sickness spreads fast. They could have thrown the bodies on the lifeboat and found land. The sickness would have infected all the belongings and even the whole ship, causing them to panic.

Conclusion:

This is a very tricky case to unravel. If you have any theories, feel free to share them with me! I would love to hear them. I hope you enjoyed it!

RECIPES

QUADrUPLE CHOCOLATE SHAKE

CREATED BY BENNETT BROWNLEE (6TH)

Ingredients:

1. 5-6 scoops of chocolate ice-cream
2. 1 inch of white milk
3. A circle of whipped cream and chocolate syrup
4. ½ a packet of swiss-miss powdered hot chocolate
5. 6 hershey's chocolate bar sections broken in half

Serving:

Blend everything until smooth.
Pour into maximum cups.

Optional:

Add whipped cream.
Sprinkle a little bit of the Swiss-Miss powder on the whipped cream.
Put the extra Hershey's chunks on top of the whipped cream facing the middle, and put a cherry in the middle of the chunks then a straw.



CHOCOLATE ECLAIR CAKE

CREATED BY PHOEBE AYLESTOCK (6TH)

- Prep Time: 15 mins
- Cook Time: 0 mins
- Additional Time: 12 hrs
- Total Time: 12 hrs 15 mins

Ingredients:

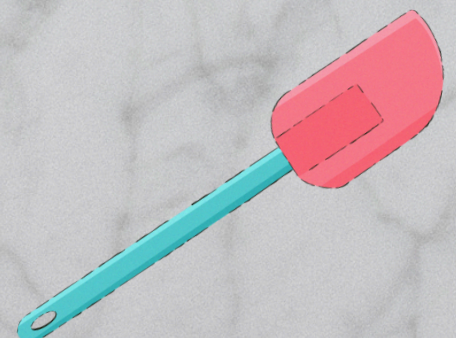
1. Graham crackers
2. 4 c. of milk
3. Two packages of instant vanilla pudding mix
4. A package of thawed frozen whipped topping (such as Cool Whip)
5. Chocolate frosting

Steps:

Line a baking dish with graham crackers.
Whisk the milk and pudding mix together, then fold in the Cool Whip.
Layer the pudding mixture and graham crackers according to the recipe.
Cook the frosting until thinned, then pour it over the cake.
Refrigerate until ready to serve.



Time
TO
BAKE





Animal OF THE Month

CREATED BY ELISE SATCHER (7TH)

Tigers only eat once a week!

On average, two tigers are taken a week by traffickers!

Tigers are endangered!

They use their ears to communicate.

India's population is over half of tigers!



Did You Know... About Weird Candies?

**WRITTEN BY:
JUDE MCLAWHORN (6TH)**

1. Possum Flavored Candy

Believe it or not, this candy actually tastes like possum, even though it may not appear like it would. It looks like a hard candy with pink and white stripes, and the only clue that it is possum-flavored is the tin can it comes in.

2. Pickle Cotton Candy

If you enjoy pickles, you might want to try this candy because it truly tastes just like them. It's made in the US, so go ahead and buy it if you like both cotton candy and pickles.

3. Gumi-Aid

These candies are shaped like bandages and taste like different fruits. If you ever need a bandage and feel hungry, grab one of these fruit-flavored candies.

4. Jalapeno Candy Canes

Have you ever wanted a candy cane with a little heat and spice? Now you can enjoy jalapeño-flavored candy canes! These treats will activate your spice receptors and take your taste experience to another level. If you love spicy candies, be sure to grab one of these!



5. Gummy Fries

These are gummy fries that come with strawberry flavored toppings, which can be used like ketchup. So, next time you want fast food, consider grabbing these from the store.

6. Hot Tamale Licorice Ropes

These are like normal licorice ropes, but instead of the sweet filling, you have a hot flavored cinnamon center.

7. Gummy Pizza Lunchable

Have you ever wanted a candy lunch that resembles our lovable Lunchables? Now you can! Just grab a gummy slice of pizza, add some sweet sauce, and top it off with gummy cheese and pepperoni. You now have your very own gummy lunch.

"WORD OF GOD SPEAK"

WRITTEN BY: MAY KELLEY,
HELEN KIP, &
KATIE REID STRATTON (5TH)



May Kelley and Katie Reid Stratton

Aka

*Margaret and Betsy
Present a devotional!!!*



“For I know the plans I have for you declares the LORD plans to prosper you and not to harm you plans to give you hope and future.” - Jeremiah 29:11 We recommend this verse because it indicates that God knows what our whole life is going to be like. You should know that whatever happens in your life is supposed to happen, and that God has control over everything and loves you VERY much. God knew you before you were born and loved you more than anyone ever, even your mom and dad! God has wonderful plans for each and every person on earth; although sometimes your life may be scary or hard, God will keep you safe from harm and everything he does is for a reason. And no matter what happens, stay strong with the Lord because what happens in life will always get better and whatever state you're in right now, just know that it's meant to happen and you will overcome it! God loves you so much and nothing can stop Him from loving you more and more the closer you get to him; if you ever feel scared or lonely or anything, God understands and you can just pray, and He can make you feel better! God has good plans!

*Have a great day and we hope you enjoyed our
devotion!!!*

DIY BY DOODLE

WRITTEN BY: HARPER ROBINSON (5TH)

Hello again! I'm Harper and this is my newspaper article: DIY by Doodle!

This month is February and I want to show you how to make a Cubby Background.



Supplies needed:

Printer paper
Markers, paint, or colored pencils
Tape
Your creativity!



Steps:

Get paper and markers and write your name in an expressive way.
Next, draw your favorite symbols and shapes in your favorite colors!
The best part! Write an inspiring Bible verse in an expressive way (like your name).
Lastly, tape it to the back of your cubby

Well, that's all! Thank you for reading my article and I will talk to you next month. Bye!



COMICS!

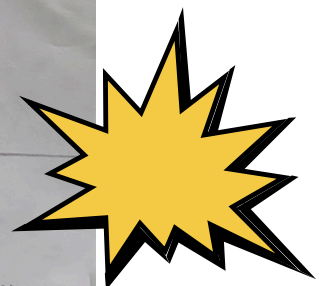
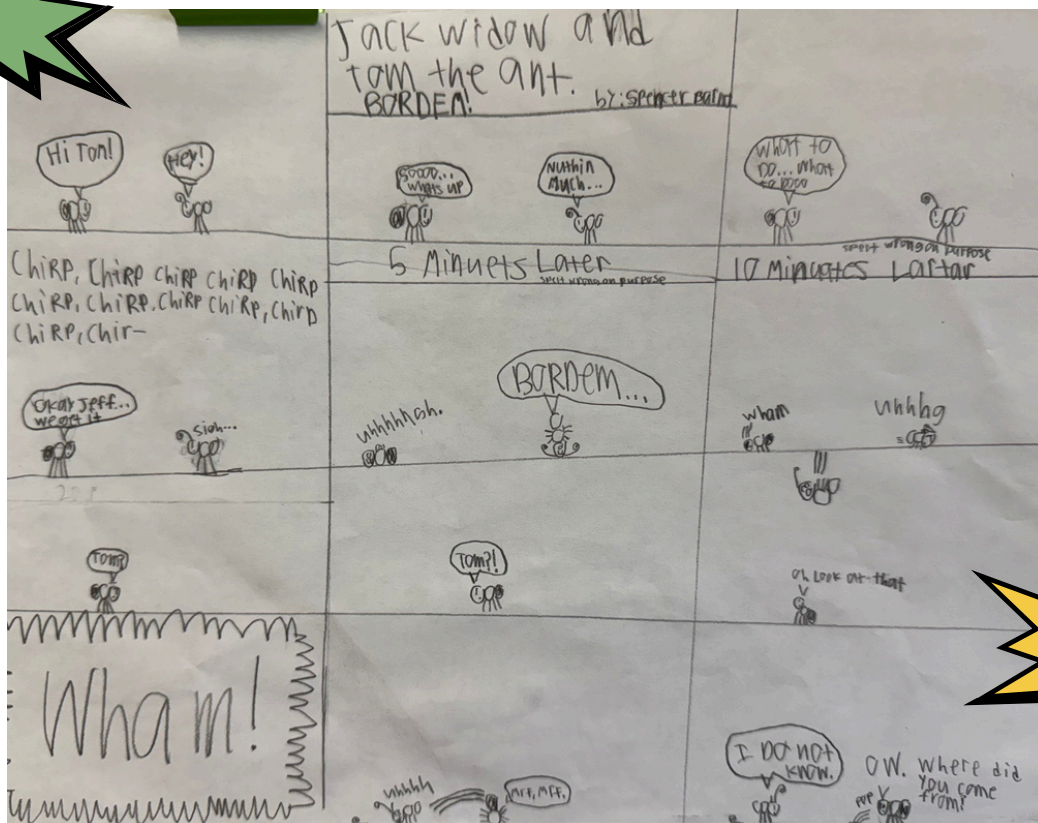
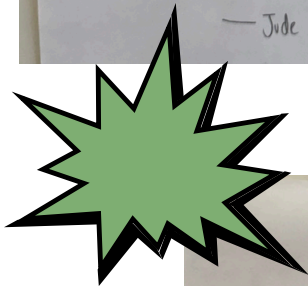


**CREATED BY:
JUDE GRANGER (6TH)**

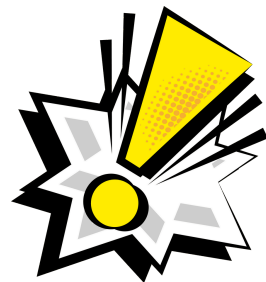
**CREATED BY:
MATT COLE (6TH)**



**CREATED BY:
SPENCER BARNO (6TH)**



COMICS!



**CREATED BY:
ALIYAH BENTON (7TH)**



**CREATED BY:
JULIET SPRING (5TH)**



RANDOM FACTS, for FALCONS!

CREATED BY:
ISAAC GAY (6TH)



**EMPEROR CLAUDIUS II
EXECUTED TWO MEN – BOTH
NAMED VALENTINE – ON FEB.
14 OF DIFFERENT YEARS IN
THE THIRD CENTURY.**



**LEAP DAY BABIES
ARE CALLED
LEAPERS OR
LEAPLINGS.**



**VALENTINE'S DAY
ORIGINATED AS A
CHRISTIAN FEAST DAY
HONORING A MARTYR
NAMED VALENTINE.**



**THE SECOND MONTH OF THE
YEAR IS PROBABLY MOST
NOTABLE FOR BOTH
VALENTINE'S DAY AND
BLACK HISTORY MONTH**



**EVERY YEAR
DIVISIBLE BY
4 IS A LEAP
YEAR. BUT
EVERY YEAR
DIVISIBLE BY
100 IS NOT A
LEAP YEAR.**



**THERE IS A ONE IN
1,461 CHANCE OF
BEING A LEAP DAY
BABY.**



**FEBRUARY IS NAMED
FOR THE LATIN WORD
"FEBRUUM" WHICH
MEANS PURIFICATION.**

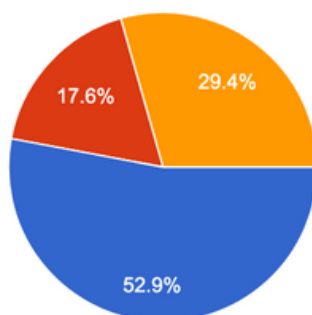
CHECK OUT OUR POLLS!

**CREATED AND DESIGNED BY:
VIOLET KEETER (6TH) AND HOLDEN MUTH (6TH)**

Be sure to click the link for our February Polls in the email! Below are some results from last month's polls.
We hope you enjoy it!

Did you stay up until midnight on New Years?

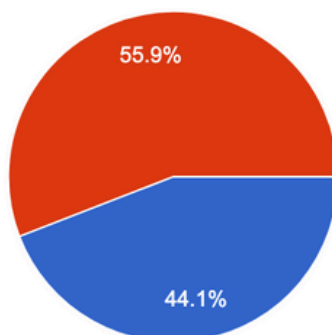
34 responses



● Yes
● No
● I stayed up later

Have you written 2024 on anything yet?

34 responses



● Yes
● Not Yet

Advice Column

**WRITTEN BY: KATY NOONAN (7TH)
AND MADISON CLARK MCLAWHORN (7TH)**



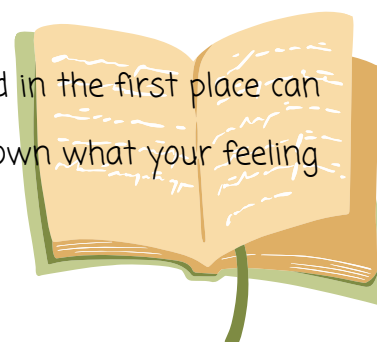
WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU FEEL STRESSED

Since school started back after the winter break, I know it's been very stressful for us, friends!

Drama, grades, and sports. Sometimes it's hard balancing all of this. Here is a few things that help me chill out when I get overwhelmed. I do hope it helps you!

Taking a step back:

Sometimes taking a step back and thinking about why your so stressed in the first place can help when you start to spiral. Keeping a journal can help you to write down what your feeling At the moment.



Make a list of things that make you happy:

I, for one like this especially. Making a list about what makes you happy can help you Recenter your focus.

Find something you can express yourself through:

For me, I like to express myself through music, poetry and writing. These things really help.

Choosing a hobby really is a good thing to try.

Ask for help:

Sometimes it's good to just ask someone close to you for help. If your getting stressed, talking to someone

is one of the best things you can do.

Conclusion:

We hope these things helped you! Feel free to try any of these at home or at school!

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EDITOR: MADDIE POLLOCK AND OUR FALCON FORUM STAFF
FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO THIS PROJECT!**