



Left of Center

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By: Katie Poirier

Top Ten Worst Valentine's Day Gifts

- 10) Weight Watchers membership
- 9) A coupon book
- 8) Generic candy
- 7) Re-gifting a present from your ex
- 6) The break up text message
- 5) Fake Flowers
- 4) A chia pet
- 3) *Twilight* books
- 2) Naming a star after them
- 1) A Niki Minaj CD

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History of Valentine's Day

By: Guest Writer Nick von Borstel

If someone asked you to describe the famed St. Valentine could you do it? Unlike most holidays, the history of this celebration is quite unknown and reveals a cagey past. Everyone, of course, knows that this special day is named after St. Valentine, but very few actually know anything about the man himself or know about the origin of the celebration. His history is unclear and even his own identity is hidden amongst the shadows of history. Most of what is known about St. Valentine comes from stories with little supporting evidence, but plenty of popularity backing them up. Many exist, but most center on the same plot presenting St. Valentine as a romantic hero.

During the third century in Rome, Emperor Claudius II found that single men made better soldiers than men with wives and families and, thus, decided to outlaw marriage for young men. A priest by the name of Valentine realized the injustice of this law and performed marriages between the young

men and their lovers anyway. Emperor Claudius II found out about Valentine's actions and ordered that he be put to death. During his imprisonment, Valentine supposedly met his jailor's daughter and befriended her. Many stories say that Valentine cured the girl's blindness just before his execution, others tell of him falling in love with her in the days of his confinement, and some say that he did both. None of these, however, saved Valentine from his certain death. Upon seeing that his execution was imminent, the night before his death, Valentine addressed the young girl through a letter. At the end of the letter he signed, "From your Valentine," a term still in use today.

With a romantic story like that, it is no surprise that St. Valentine is the key figure in the upcoming holiday on February 14th. The 14th is obviously a day filled with love and affection. What is it, though, about the 14th of February that screams passion? One theory of the date for this special

day is it is the anniversary of St. Valentine's own death and burial, but some say there is much more to it.

February has had a long history of being the month of love. It is thought by many that the celebration was placed on the 14th to parallel the birds mating season that takes place during middle of February. Still others say that this is not the case. Could it be then that the date is linked to an ancient Roman holiday of fertility and purity called "Lupercalia"?

The holiday is still celebrated in specific countries such as the United States, Britain, and France and in Balzan (Malta) where relics of the saint are claimed to be found. It is also celebrated by traditionalist Catholics who follow the older pre-Second Vatican Council Calendar and by other Christian denominations. No matter which story is true, February 14th has still been well established as a day for love.

Since Roman times, the holiday has evolved im-

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Sports Center

By: Katie Poirier

January 18th: The Huskies traveled to Nixyaawii to play the Golden Eagles. The Lady Huskies won, 52-41, a great victory as they have not beaten Nixyaawii on their home turf in over four years. The boys didn't fare so well and lost by only one point 63-64 after going into overtime!

January 22nd: Our boys played and defeated the Arlington Honkers at home, 60-55.

January 25th: The Huskies faced the Dufur Rangers at Dufur; the girls' game resulted in a depressing loss, 31-47. The boys however easily defeated the Rangers 70-47. The boys suffered a setback with the injury of fellow baller Ben Holliday, who tore his ACL in his right knee. All of us here at Sherman hope that Ben has a speedy and healthy recovery and is back on the courts soon.

January 26th: The Huskies played the Griswold Grizzlies on our home court. Both of our teams made Sherman proud and won against the Grizzlies.

The girls did quite well, with the help of leading scorers Katie Poirier and Audrey Kaseberg, winning 57-31. The boys also earned a "W" the score being 65-57.

January 29th: The Huskies faced the Maupin Redsides again on our home court. Both teams did well and walked away with a "W". The girls did a great job in defeating the Redsides. Shelby Kaseberg had a team high score of 13 points and, along with her teammates; the Lady Huskies had an impressive score of 55-33. The boys also beat the Redsides for the first time this season, with a score of 77-68, but due to an OSAA violation, the boys had to forfeit the game, resulting in a loss.

February 2nd: Our Huskies took on the Dufur Rangers once again, and our boys came out on top, winning with a score of 80-67. The girls, hungry for a win against the Rangers, battled to the very end, but lost with a score of 45-48. Although they lost, the girls set a new record for them-

selves, as many Lady Husky teams in the past have not been able to come so close to a victory against Dufur.

February 4th: The Huskies took the long journey to Sunnyside Christian in Washington, for a non-league game. Both teams were defeated quite easily by the Sunnyside Knights. The Lady Huskies' score was 20-62, and the boys' score was 42-67.

February 8th: Our Huskies took on the Horizon Christian Hawks again at home. The girls did very well, keeping the Hawks scoreless until the end of the second quarter resulting in a win. The score was 50-25. The boys fought their hardest against the Hawks, but lost 49-74.

February 9th: Our teams traveled to Echo to take on the Cougars. The boys did an amazing job and won 74-58. The girls also beat the Cougars, a very important game for the Lady Huskies, as Echo is their nemesis, the score being 40-33.

Roses: Colors & Meanings

By: Audrey Kaseberg

Roses are one of the most fashionable flowers to give on special occasions, especially Valentine's Day. But do people really think about the meaning behind the color before buying them for that someone special? Studies show that the most widespread color of rose given is red because the color red means love and romance. However it also can symbolize anger and aggression.

Here are the meanings associated with the different colors of roses:

***Pink:** Appreciation, thankfulness, grace, admiration, and less devotion than red.

***Yellow:** Happiness, warmth, friendship, and jealousy.

***White:** Innocence, purity, honor, sadness, and marriage.

***Orange:** Desire, passion, and fascination.

***Lavender:** Enchantment, magic, charm, and temptation.

***Peach:** Sincerity.

***Blue:** Unattainable and impossible.

***Black:** Farewell and Goodbye.

Then of course you have the different shades and mixtures of rose colors:

*** Dark/ & Light Pink:** Gratitude/ and Sympathy.

*** Yellow with Red tips:** Friendship and falling in love.

*** Pale Peach:** Modesty.

As you can see the colors do mean different things. So use this information as a guide when picking out a certain color (and meaning) for that someone. Be careful because the color you choose matters.

Husky Happenings By: Audrey Kaseberg

With the ending of First Semester, students can now get back to their regular sleeping schedule and prepare themselves for the final semester of the 2012-2013 school year. Both teachers and students are thrilled that the first round of finals is done and over with, but there is still much going on around school and the community to keep us all busy, such as the annual Sherman Athletic Foundation Crab Feed, Husky Hygiene Hustle and the Big Sky District Basketball Tournament.

The Sherman Athletic Foundation Crab Feed was held on February 2nd, from 3-8 P.M. During those hours people got to enjoy warm bread with homemade butter, beans, and all you can eat cooled shrimp cocktails, crab, and oysters. The foundation pre-sold up to 850-900 tickets and had full crowds the entire day. Of course it was a bit chilly in the back room, but the volunteers kept the heat going and the

food coming. A big "Thank You" goes out to all who contributed to this foundation and all the volunteers who dished the food and helped clean up, see you guys again next year!

The Husky Hygiene Hustle was a great hit! Students from all classes got a chance to compete for class points from January 31st–February 1st. The public also got a chance to participate in the fund raiser at the home basketball game on February 2nd. Unfortunately, the students couldn't rally enough hygiene products to produce much of a quantity, but that was taken care of by the public of who contributed at least 12 full boxes of hygiene products, including: toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, soap, mouthwash and deodorant. Thanks to all the citizens of Sherman County for donating products for this fundraiser, it was greatly appreciated and will be helpful to others.

The BigSky District Basketball Tournament will kick off February 14th, 2013, in Hermiston, OR. The teams competing this year are: Sherman County, Ione, Maupin, Dufur, Echo, Condon, Arlington, and Horizon. There is a lot of heat between teams from last year's districts, and this year's league competitions, so this tournament is something to not miss. Our Lady Huskies go up against the Ione Cardinals at 3:00 PM on Thursday, followed later by the boys against Ione at 7:30 PM. Please come and support both our varsity teams in hope of gaining a win to move on to the next round of districts held Friday, and possibly even gain the chance to compete for the Championships Saturday! Hope to see a big crowd of Sherman fans in Hermiston to support our boys and girls!

Husky Helper By: Hollee Kaseberg

Gary Shelton has been selected for this month's Husky Helper for his hard work and cooperation with students and teachers.

Mr. Shelton helps the students with financial aid, college applications, post-high school planning, scholarships, PSAT/SAT help and making sure that they have the required amount of credits for graduation.

On top of that, he also helps students make adjustments to their class schedule when needed. The end of the first semester meant schedule changes for many students and Mr. Shelton was

always willing to help students get into their desired classes. He says that the most challenging aspect of his job is "meeting the needs of the student, there is only so much we can offer but get many requests. For a small school we offer a tremendous amount of opportunities." He has a great attitude and makes everyone feel happy and comfortable throughout the day. Mrs. Thompson said that Mr. Shelton is "Positive, fantastic, happy, friendly and he is a go-to guy. He always looks at the positive side of things. He has been fabulous to work with."

When asked what he enjoys most about

his job, Mr. Shelton replied, "The quality of our students, they are good people." Thank you Mr. Shelton for all of your help!



mensely. The festival has been known to be celebrated clear back to medieval times and the oldest Valentine can be found in the British Library in London dating clear back to 1415. It did not truly become a popular holiday in Britain until the 17th century and, in the 18th century; it was quite common for lovers to exchange small tokens of affection such as hand-written notes. By the end of the 18th century, due to improvements in technology, the hand-written letters were replaced by printed letters which increased the number of Valentine cards sent along with the help of cheaper postage rates. It was not until

1840 that the increasingly popular cards were mass produced by an American named Esther A. Howland. Today the holiday holds the spot as the second largest card-sending holiday with a billion cards sent each year, behind Christmas with 2.6 billion cards. The holiday is celebrated mainly in the United States, Britain, France, Canada, Mexico, and Australia.

Valentine's Day is definitely one of the most interesting holidays of the year. Its unique past is unmasked by any other holiday. It is the only holiday in which you get pierced by an arrow and feel more love than pain. It

is the second largest card-sending holiday of the year, and no other holiday can be so passionately hated by a person one year and then loved by the same person the next. Maybe its uniqueness is just what makes it so popular in the United States today. Happy Valentine's Day Sherman County!!!

Principal's Corner: Brandon Hammond By: Brandon Hammond

The months of February and March are a beehive of activity at the elementary school. I would like to take this forum to share some of the upcoming highlights and accomplishments of our students.

The fifth and sixth grade boys and girls basketball teams completed their regular season the beginning of February. I would like to thank ALL of the students, parents, supporters and coaches for their extensive time and energy. Learning the game of basketball is only a portion of the benefits that come from participation. The students also learned the value of teamwork, sportsmanship and hard work. Thanks for a job well done!

On February 21st, we will be honoring these students at our annual fifth and sixth grade sports award. This event will be held in conjunction with our Literacy Night at the high school. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. followed by an awards ceremony and library activities. This is a great time to support our students and Literacy night.

As the weather begins to slowly warm and our thoughts turn to spring, we are reminded of the beautiful melody that comes during this time. The melody I am referring to is from our own fifth and sixth grade band. On February 25th, at 7 p.m. Mrs. Consoliver will be treating our community to the Spring Concert. This concert includes students from the fifth through twelfth grades. Please come and support the hard work of our students, it is always well worth your time.

On March 1st, the elementary school will be holding our annual Dr. Seuss "Read Across America Day." "Read Across America" began in 1997 by a small group of NEA members. The idea was to "create a day to celebrate reading." From this small group of individuals stemmed the largest festival of reading in the country. We invite you to visit us at the elementary school and participate in our day of reading activities for all ages. If you are unable to attend, please take the time and read a good book.

Missoula Children's Theater is

coming the week of March 4th. This is always a great venue for all ages. This is an intense week of practice, practice, practice as the students put together a great performance in only a week's time. Rehearsals will be held on Monday, March 4th, performances on Friday and Saturday. This year's play is 'The Secret Garden'.

Finally, OAKS testing will begin at the elementary school in March. Our days have not yet been finalized, but we will be sure to give you plenty of time to prepare. State testing is a great opportunity for our students to showcase what they have learned. This is not a time to stress or worry, rather it is a time to celebrate.

As you can see we have plenty to keep us busy for the next couple of weeks. Thank you for all your support and time that you give our students at Sherman Elementary.



Superintendent's Corner

By: Wes Owens

On a daily basis I marvel at the kind of support our teachers, parents, community and school board members consistently show for all Sherman County students. With all of their support our school district continues to provide outstanding educational opportunities and routinely investigates possibilities for improvements. In this article, I am proud to share three important current topics.

Common Core State Standards

In the Sherman County School District we are fortunate to have dedicated and committed staff members preparing all of our students for life-long success. Across all grade levels and subject areas, they do a fabulous job educating and supporting each and every student. As I routinely visit both schools, I continually see students learning essential and valuable content from dedicated educators.

Over the past few years, there has been a national movement in education to create a set of national standards. These standards are referred to as the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). They were adopted by 45 states, including Oregon, and will be fully implemented in the 2014-15 school year. The CCSS provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn K-12 in math and English Language Arts.

The move to these new standards, now more than ever, requires our teachers to take on some formidable challenges. Our teachers are addressing and greeting these new challenges with optimism. This year we have made it a District goal to integrate these standards into curriculum documents. Educators in the Sherman County School District have recently

been meeting in collaborative groups to focus on new targets and develop curriculum maps that integrate CCSS and chart educational progress for all students district wide K-12. This effort is vital to the future success of our students and will create cutting edge teaching strategies that will be employed in all classrooms. The staff has been working diligently on this effort and I am extremely appreciative of all of their efforts.

These national standards reflect a new level of rigor and expectations for students in the Sherman County School District. Like all other school districts in Oregon and the nation, our teachers recognize the need for students to meet the highest of standards in order to be successful in the 21st century.

We will be transitioning to the CCSS over the next couple years, with students being tested using a more performance based assessment format starting Spring 2015.

Cohort Graduation Rates

The Oregon Department of Education recently released the 2012 Graduation Rates. I am pleased to announce that our District had a 100% four-year cohort completion rate and a 92% graduation rate. This was a top performance in the Mid-Columbia area. These outstanding results are due to many factors in the Sherman County School District, such as a dedicated and caring staff that is always looking for innovative ways to make our students' educational experiences meaningful, exciting, rigorous, and relevant. Equally important is the fact that we have supportive parents/families, a gracious community and strong leadership from our Board of Directors. It is so wonderful to see that everybody associated with the Sherman County School District values

children and education. I want to congratulate our students, teachers, parents, and community for these outstanding results.

Facilities Planning Committee Update

The Facilities Planning Committee, consisting of 12 members, has met twice to discuss and formulate a consolidated plan to present to the School Board on July 8, 2013. The next meeting will be held on February 19, 2013.

We have recently developed a Facilities Planning Committee page on the Sherman County School District Webpage, which you can visit directly at <http://shermancountyschooldistrict.weebly.com/facilities-planning-committee.html>.

Meeting notes, agendas, and information can be found under the information tab. In the coming months, I will continue to keep the community informed on the progress of the consolidated plan development.

As always, I encourage your feedback and participation in the life of the Sherman County School District. I welcome your comments, questions, or concerns. Please give me a call at 541-565-3500 or send me an email at wowens@sherman.k12.or.us.

Sincerely,

Wes Owens

Wes Owens
Superintendent

Students of the Quarter

By: Katherine Shafer

As the quarter came to an end on Thursday February 24th, the staff was left with the hard decision of who would receive the Student of the Quarter award. There were many students that deserved this award, but three students stood out in particular. Ashley Berish and Wyatt Stutzman were chosen as the second quarter Senior High Girl and Senior High Boy, while Joe McAllister was picked to be the Junior High Student.

Ashley Berish, a freshman, was nominated as the Senior High Girl to receive the Student of the Quarter award for second quarter by Miss Ross. Ashley who moved to Sherman at the beginning of the year has already made her mark on the school. She is reportedly a good friend and role model to those around her, as well as an excellent student. Miss Pinkerton, who also has Ashley in her class, added that though Ashley has never attended any Spanish classes for 7th and 8th grade before, she is still one of the top students in Spanish 1 and always goes above and beyond. Good job Ashley!

Wyatt Stutzman, a freshman, has been chosen as this quarters Senior High Boy to receive the Student of the Quarter award. Mr. Collins who nominated Wyatt wrote, "If I could

use one word to describe Wyatt Stutzman it would be "dedication." Wyatt who is involved in sports year round as well as FFA is always hardworking and positive no matter what the situation. He is also humble and often puts others before himself. Ms. Pinkerton also nominated Wyatt, because of his good behavior and incredible work ethic in her class. Good job Wyatt!

Joe McAllister, an eighth grader this year, was chosen to be the Junior High Student for this quarter by Ree Ella von Borstel. Joe is always eager to help without being asked. "He started helping with freight [one] Thursday morning," says Ree Ella," and also took out the compost." Joe always remains in good spirits and helps staff around the school with whatever they need. Thanks Joe for all your hard work!

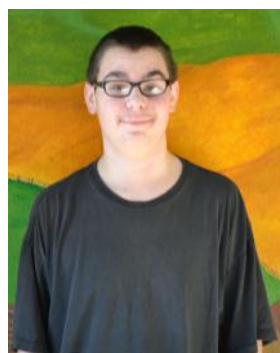
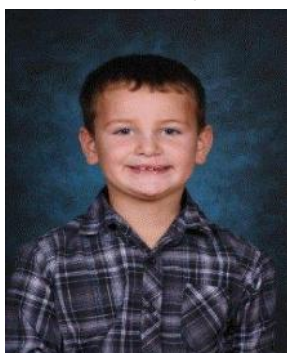
Not only does the Sherman Jr. Sr. High School award deserving students with the Student of the Quarter award, but so does the Sherman Elementary school!

Henry Poirier, who is in Mrs. Sharp's 1st grade class, was presented with the Student of the Quarter award for his amazing leadership skills and diligent work ethic. Mrs. Sharp says Henry is kind, and patient, and always

willing to help his classmates with their own work and messes. Henry always listens to what the teacher is saying and challenges himself in Math and reading. He sounds out unfamiliar words by himself, while other kids ask for help without trying on their own. Even though Henry is only in the 1st Grade he is still already proving what a good leader and role model he is. Good job Henry!

Also chosen for this quarters Student of the Quarter award was Cali Johnson. Cali was nominated by her 3rd grade teacher Mrs. Hansen for her outstanding work and great attitude towards every situation she faces. She always has her work done on time Mrs. Hansen explained while writing why Cali deserved this award, and she always puts an extra effort into everything she does. Cali is a great hard-working student, but she is an even better helper to her friends. Cali is always the first to volunteer her help to others. She is overall an amazing student and great role model! Good job Cali!

Congratulations to all the students that were awarded as the Student of the Quarter this quarter and to those that weren't: keep working hard! We only have 2 more quarters to go!



Dear Ed...

Dear Ed,

Everyone is getting ill, and I'm worried that I might get sick? What should I do so I won't!!!?

Sincerely, Cough-Cough

Dear CoughCough,

Be sure to wash your hands throughout the day! Colds and Flus are going around the school, so take your vitamins, get enough sleep, and even use hand sanitizer sometimes during the day. The better precaution you take the better!

Sincerely, Ed

Dear Ed,

I like this girl, and her birthday is coming up. I want to get her a gift, but I'm afraid my friends will call me stupid and stuff. Should I get her something, or not?

Sincerely, Confused

Dear Confused,

It's perfectly normal to get someone a gift for their special day. I say go for it. The girl will appreciate and that's what really matters, not your friends comments

Sincerely, Ed

Dear Ed,

People keep making fun of my friend, but he doesn't like it when I step in, what should I do?

Sincerely, Mac 'N' Cheese

Dear Mac 'N' Cheese,

Sometimes people don't want others to be bothered by their problems, especially when it comes to friends. If your friend is being bullied in any way you should report it to the school counselor Jan Leonard or any other staff member at the school. Your friend doesn't deserve getting made fun of, but if they aren't willing to accept your help up front, then maybe you should help them secretly. A good friend is willing to help out another friend in need, and the friend in need should be willing to appreciate the help.

Sincerely, Ed

Dear Ed,

Lately I've been having horrible nightmares. They're keeping me up at night and my grades are starting to drop. What do I do?

Sincerely, Frightened

Dear Frightened,

Nightmares can be extremely scary. They wake you up, and the fear is still set in our minds to where its almost impossible to fall back asleep, because we're too scared to. Some things to help you cope with your nightmares are keeping a glass of water next to your bed at night, it'll help calm you down and keep you hydrated. Night lights also help. And it's not childish to sleep with one on. You'd be surprised to know that many students in our school sleep with their lights on, a night light, or even with their T.V. on. Having some light to see when you wake up from a scary dream is reassuring that nothings there. Talk to your parents about your dreams too, just so they're aware of your sleeping habits. A lot of people have nightmares, but remember they're just dreams, they don't last long.

Sincerely, Ed

