

VALENTINE—SOMETHING
INVENTED TO MAKE A
SINGLE PERSON FEEL LIKE
CRAP ON VALENTINE'S DAY
-URBAN DICTIONARY

Happy Valentine's Day

The Chatter

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The History of Valentine's Day

RESEARCHED BY: KRISTIN SALMONS

Every year on February 14, most people around the world celebrate Valentine's Day. This is the day we spend with our loved ones and we give and receive gifts. Valentine's Day was started in honor of Saint Valentine — a priest who lived around 270 AD in Rome. It is not exactly known why the 14th of February is known as Valentine's Day or if the noble Valentine really had any relation to this day.

Regardless, February 14th became a day for all lovers and Valentine became its Patron Saint. It began to be annually observed by young Romans who offered handwritten greetings of



Saint Valentine

affection, known as Valentines, on this day to the women they admired. With the coming of Christianity, the day came to be known as St. Valentine's Day.

There may be doubts re-

garding the actual identity of Valentine, but we know that he really existed because archaeologists have recently unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to a Saint Valentine.

So even though Valentine's day has come and gone, few of us even consider the origins of this traditional, but often commercial, holiday. Hopefully, for you, Valentine's Day was a pleasant holiday in which you felt loved rather than a miserable reminder of your loneliness.

For more information about Valentines Day and stories about how it came to be go online to http://www.theholidayspot.com/valentine/history_of_valentine.htm.

Looking Through Rose-Colored Glasses

FOUND BY: KRISTIN SALMONS

The rose has been the traditional choice of people around the world. The color red is associated with strong emotions and below are listed sentiments expressed by different hues of rose. Think about the color of roses you received for Valentine's Day, was your significant other sending you implied messages that you may have missed?

Lavender -- Enchantment and Uniqueness

Orange -- Fascination

Pink (Dark) -- Thankfulness, Friendship and Admiration

Red -- Love, Respect and Courage

Peach -- Modesty, Gratitude, Admiration and Sympathy

Pink (Pale) -- Grace, Joy and Happiness

Deep Red -- Beauty and Passion

White -- Innocence, Purity, Secrecy, Silence, Reverence, Humility and True Love

Yellow -- Joy, Friendship, Jeal-

ousy, Hope and Freedom

Black -- Farewell

Red/White -- Unity or Engagement

Yellow/Orange -- Passionate Thoughts

Yellow/Red -- Congratulations

Rosebud -- Beauty, Youth and a Heart Innocent of Love

Red Rosebud -- Purity and Loveliness

White Rosebud -- Girlhood

One Dozen Red Roses -- "I Love You"

Single Red Rose in Full Bloom -- "I Love You"

SENIOR Spotlight

BY: AMANDA KREAL

Since 2011 has arrived and Seniors will be graduating soon, this year's newspaper staff has decided to let our seniors have their last time to shine at PHS. About every two weeks, *The Chatter* is going to choose two students out of the graduation class of 2011 to be in the spotlight one last time here at PHS.



Elijah Tanner Scott is the son of Angela Scott and

brother of Lucas, Molly, and Megan. He recently enlisted in the Marines and plans to attend the Marine Corps NROTC program at Embry Riddle.

Eli would like to become an air traffic controller and play futbol (soccer) for the Marines before he turns 30. Some of his favorite activities to do are play futbol, paintball and PT

(physical training). His favorite memory here at PHS was winning Sectionals and beating Lynchburg in soccer this year.

A random fact Eli told us about himself: "I was never a boy scout but I ate a brownie once."

"High school
wasn't meant to
last forever, it's
our last chance for
us to shine."
-High School
Musical: Senior
Year

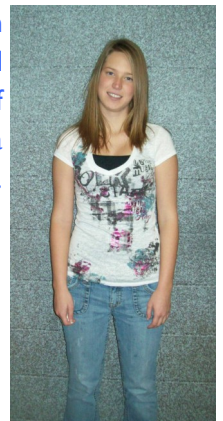
Ashton Nicole Arnold is the daughter of Terry and Jonelle Arnold and the sister of Tyler Arnold. She plans to go to college right after high school although she does not know what she wants to be or what she will major in.

Ashton likes to play

golf, volleyball and softball. Ashton says she would like to go to Hawaii before she turns 30.

Her favorite memory here at PHS was when she walked into Mr. Edingfield's classroom and was made fun of by her very own Senior classmates on February 14, 2011.

A random fact Ashton told us about herself is that she has a "bear" for a dog.



Single For Valentine's Day? No Problem.

BY: HALEY STRATTON & KAILA RUDD

Many people fret over not having someone to call their "Valentine" on February 14th, but there are quite a few reasons why being single on this day may be your best option.

- You don't have to share your chocolate (and you can buy your favorite instead of ending up with the nasty kind nobody likes).

- You'll save yourself from receiving a gift that will either die in a few days or simply make you fat.
- There's no need to "dress to impress" — your sweats can be your best friend for the night.
- There's no possible way to end up being the person who got dumped on Valentine's Day.
- You also don't have to worry about being stood up; Ben &

Jerry are always there right on time.

- The "tell me about your feelings" conversation won't happen.
- You won't end up with the poor schmuck who forgot Valentine's Day all together.
- You won't spend hours over stressing about buying the perfect gift.





Sweetheart Chocolate Cupcakes Courtesy of Hershey

Ingredients:

- 2 cups sugar
- 1-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup HERSHEY'S Cocoa
- 1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1-1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup boiling water
- Vanilla frosting (homemade or ready-to-spread)
- Few drops red food color (optional)
- 1/4 cup chopped maraschino cherries (optional)
- Decorative themed candies, colored sprinkles or sugars (optional)

OPEN HEART CHOCOLATES (directions follow)

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Line about 30 muffin cups (2-1/2 inch in diameter) with paper or foil baking cups.
2. Stir together sugar, flour, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda and salt in large bowl. Add eggs, milk, oil and vanilla; beat on medium speed of mixer 2 minutes. Stir in boiling water (batter will be thin). Fill cups 2/3 full with batter.
3. Bake 22 to 25 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in centers comes out clean. Cool completely in pans on wire rack.
4. Frost with vanilla frosting or tint all or part of frosting with a few drops of red food color to get pink. Stir in chopped maraschino cherries, if desired. (For best results, dry cherries thoroughly on paper towels.) Garnish with decorative candies, sprinkles and OPEN CHOCOLATE HEARTS, if desired. About 30 cupcakes.

OPEN CHOCOLATE HEARTS:

Cover tray or cookie sheet with waxed paper. Place 1 cup HERSHEY'S SPECIAL DARK Chocolate Chips or HERSHEY'S Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips in medium microwave-safe bowl. Microwave at MEDIUM (50%) 1 minute; stir. If necessary, microwave at MEDIUM an additional 15 seconds at a time, stirring after each heating, until chips are melted and smooth when stirred. Spoon melted chocolate into small squeeze bottle, pastry bag or strong resealable plastic food storage bag fitted with writing tip*. Pipe freehand hearts or follow patterns by drawing heart shapes on paper that is slipped under the waxed paper. Refrigerate hearts about 30 minutes or until firm.

* Plastic food storage bags can be used without the writing tip. Simply fill bag and then snip off a very small section of one bag corner.

Baby, You're So Sweet, You Put Hersheys Out of Business

Pick-up lines to use on your Valentine!

BY: KAILA RUDD

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|----------------|
| Are you lost ma'am? Because heaven is a long way from here. | because baby, you're the bomb. | form to you? | "Are you from |
| Do you have a map? I just keep on getting lost in your eyes. | Hello. Cupid called. He says to tell you that he needs my heart back. | Can I flirt with you? | Tennessee? |
| Hello, I'm a thief, and I'm here to steal your heart. | Excuse me, do you have any raisins? How about a date? | Hi, I just wanted to give you the satisfaction of turning me down; go ahead, say no. | Because you're |
| Was that an earthquake? Or did you just rock my world? | Let's make like a fabric softener and Snuggle™. | Do you have a name or can I call you mine? | the only ten I |
| Wouldn't we look cute on a wedding cake together? | Do you like Pokémon? 'Cause I wanna take a peek-at-chyu! | You make my aorta pump vigorously. | see!" |
| You must be from Pearl Harbor, | Does this rag smell like chloro- | | |



Cupid's Favorite Movie List

BY: KAILA RUDD

Want to plan the perfect movie night for Valentine's Day? Cupid's got you covered.

What to watch with your Valentine:

- Love Actually
- Titanic
- 50 First Dates

- The Notebook
- Valentine's Day
- Wedding Crashers
- No Strings Attached
- Bride of Chuckie
- Rosemary's Baby
- The Break-up
- The Stepford Wives

What to watch if you're single:

- Enough
- Steel Magnolias

Movie to avoid at all costs:

- Twilight



Waiting for Superman

BY: MRS. REED

Recently, the documentary *Waiting for Superman*, directed by David Guggenheim, has been in the news. It is a film (and also a book) that attempts to relay the state of crisis of American public schools. The book cover reads: “The fate of our country won’t be decided on a battlefield, it will be determined in a classroom.” This disclaimer is front and center and reminds the reader that the vitality of a nation is largely dependent on the education of its members. The documentary mixes startling education and global statistics with real life case studies of students depending on a lottery system to allow them to attend a “quality” school. These numbers and faces reveal frightening trends that have been prevalent in America over the last several decades – all of which point to frightening national implications for the future. By 2020, the book details, the United States will have 123 million high-skill jobs to fill and fewer than 50 million Americans qualified to fill them. With rapid technology advancement and jobs not yet in existence, the future market is clearly vaster than the bodies that will be qualified to occupy such jobs. The filmmaker does not insist that more money needs to be invested in education however. As proof, the book states that “since 1971, education spending in the United States has more than doubled from \$4,300.00 per student to more than \$9000.00 per student (adjusted for inflation). Yet in that same time period, reading and math scores have remained flat in the United States, even as they have risen in virtually every other developed country” (p. 6).

Overall, the premise of the book is that for too long we have been “waiting for Superman” to fly in and fix education and save our students. This documentary shows the discrepancies in the quality of education across the country and it—in part—blames the teacher unions and lack of accurate administrative evaluation of teachers and their effectiveness. It evidences teachers who have retained their positions simply because of tenure while clearly being quite incompetent as educators. Interestingly, in other professions such as medicine and law, individuals are far more likely to lose a professional license than a teacher is. In Illinois, for instance, 1 in 57 doctors and 1 in 97 attorneys lost a license. In comparison, in the same state, only 1 in every 2,500 has lost his/her credentials. While schools seem to be focusing more and more on standardized testing, it seems that we are focusing less and less on teacher performance. In the meantime, thousands upon thousands of students have dropped out of school, never attended college, or are living without the skills to survive and thrive in 21st century America. For these students Superman definitely did not arrive and their futures are now set on a track that will be difficult to deter.

Though the startling statistics and innocent faces are clearly meant to shock, the film and book cannot simply be cast aside as a tangent of a few filmmakers. Certainly, the evidence shows that many families in America are not provided with a nearby public school that can offer a rigorous curriculum for students. To say education in the United States is fair, adequate, and acceptable is to be both naïve and ignorant. In addition, the documentary also reminds us that simply complaining about a teacher, school, or district will not solve the problems that we are facing as a nation. The book calls for “a little less talk and a lot more action” on the part of parents, teachers, students, and Americans in general. It is not a book meant to simply stir frustration, but rather an outlet for ways to educational improvement. *Waiting for Superman* is a film worthy of a few hours of your time, but hopefully after viewing it, you will not go back to your daily life with no change. After watching the film, a few questions should come to mind:

Is my school preparing me for the future ahead?

Am I satisfied with mediocre classes and rigor or do I seek teachers and classes that will help me with genuine learning?

What can I do to make my school and learning environment better?

Am I one who is waiting for Superman?

Next Issue:

- Blake Justice - 2,000 and Counting
- The Luck of the Irish
- March Madness Preview
- Sports Tournament Updates
- Junior High Feature



“The fate of our country won’t be decided on a battlefield, it will be determined in a classroom.”