

THE VOICE OF PINE HILL MIDDLE'S STUDENTS

FEBRUARY ISSUE 2020

## Flying Babies and Valentines Cards: The History of the Love Holiday in a Nutshell

By Jasmine Joubert

Valentine's Day would not be complete without Cupid, the most recognized symbol of love. Nope, we are not talking about Santa's reindeer Cupid, rather we are speaking of Cupid, the God of Love. It is said that if Cupid shoots his arrow of love and it hits you, that you will fall helplessly and madly in love with the next person you meet.



Many of you might be wondering where exactly did the idea for Cupid begin. In Roman mythology, Cupid is the son of Venus, the god of love and is not depicted as a baby. He is a handsome young man.

In Greek mythology, he was known as Eros and was the son of Aphrodite another name for the goddess of love. While Cupid is well known for starting many a love story, most people don't know that he had a love story of his own.



According to Roman mythology, Cupid fell madly in love with Psyche despite his mother's jealousy and hatred over Psyche's beauty. Venus

wanted Psyche gone and sent Cupid to get rid of her. Instead, at the sight of her he fell in love and could not bring himself to do her harm.

While he married her, he also told her never to look at him. He visited her only at night. Her sisters convinced her to look at Cupid despite his warning.

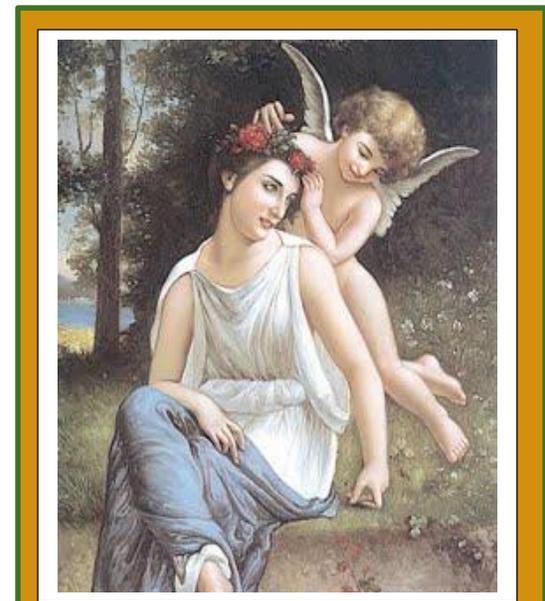
So she lit a lamp one night so she could see him. Cupid then left her. We here at the Panther's Eye are guessing this freed him up to spread more love chaos and become the Valentines legend he is today.

Valentine's Day, also known as St. Valentine's Day, is recognized in most Christian lead countries around the world. There are many different legends and versions of the origin of Valentine's Day. They all revolve around a saintly priest by the name of Valentine.

Although there were several Chris



an saints named Valentine, the day may have taken its name from a priest who was martyred (killed for his faith in Christ) in about 270 CE by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus.



Aphrodite and a young Eros/Cupid are shown here is this beautiful work of art

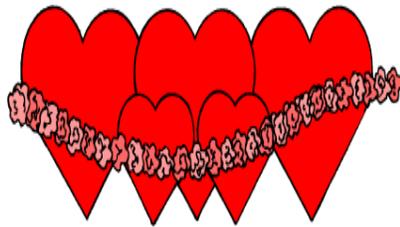


According to legend, the priest signed a letter “from your Valentine” to his jailer’s daughter, whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, healed from blindness.



This is where the start of the Valentine card is believed to have begun.

When people found out about the letter filled with so much love and devotion they wanted to follow the saintly priests example and give out letters of love as well and this is what began the practice of celebrating love and making that celebration into a holiday.



This Valentine season, make sure you let all your loved ones know just how much you care! Get yourself some cards and spread the love that started spreading so long ago!



## Pine Hill Middle Spelling Champ David Morris Shares the Secret to his Sweet Success!

By Khloe Doyle



Pine Hill Middle has a brand new Spelling Bee champ, David Morris! David was the spelling bee representative for the eighth grade hall along with Xasavion Stevens.

Each grade had a spelling bee representative on their hallway and he defeated both the sixth grade representatives (Destiny Barger and Kayley Benson) and the seventh grade representatives (Jeremiah Smith, Rashaun Bowdry, and Cheyenne McGahee) making him the overall winner for our school.

As our school winner, he went on to compete in the district bee which took place at A.R. Johnson and finished in seventh place, which is mighty impressive considering all the students who participated. Go David!

This was the first time David has gone to the district spelling bee. Although he did win a spelling bee during elementary school.

Although, David makes it look easy, it takes a lot of work to prepare for a spelling bee if you plan to win.

He shared with the Panthers Eye, “I read a lot of books and also I look through the dictionary to get familiar with as many words as possible.”

When asked if he got nervous, David said “I was extremely nervous! There was not much to do about it but just be brave and do my best. If I knew the word I did and if I didnt then I tried to work through it.”



Way to go David! Even if something seems challenging or frightening we must all take a leap of faith to reach our dreams. If people never tried because it was scary or hard than the world would become stagnant.

When David is not winning spelling bees he can be seen on the track field or in the newsroom writing for the Panther’s Eye. He also enjoys playing video games like Call of Duty or Bioshock.

David, you’re an exceptional student in and out of the classroom. You make us here at Pine Hill Middle proud. The Panther’s Eye is extremely proud of you and wish you much success in whatever else is next on your list!



David Morris 2019-2020 PHMS Spelling Bee Champ along with second place winner Rashaun Bowery and Third Place Winner



# Pine Hill Gets a First Ever Parade!

By Christian Ramsey



Oh happy day! Pine Hill Middle got its first parade on Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>. The parade was actually Mr. Robinson's idea. Our principal thought it would be a good idea to celebrate our academic and sports teams that have brought pride to Pine Hill.

Instead of full on pep rally he thought he would try something different to keep things interesting.

In addition to participating in the parade, our academic and sports champions also received an ice cream social complete with cake, ice cream, and toppings! A sweet surprise for a sweet success!

After the social the actual parade took place. The boys' and girls' basketball teams, baseball team, cheerleaders, dance team, math team, and Helen Ruffin reading team went through the cheering halls displaying trophies, medals, and spirit items.

It was sight to see! The sixth and the seventh grade halls were packed with spirited children who waited eagerly to cheer loudly for their fellow classmates.

The eighth grade watched a sort of semi pep rally in where the parade actually went into the gym as our eighth graders were

in connections. The cheerleaders gave a special performance after the parade and got everyone in the spirit of pride.

**"it was really awesome for the school to celebrate our hard working students because they deserve to feel pride about all the effort they put into their sport or academic interest."**

The Eye asked some students how they felt about the parade. One student said "The parade was really nice and I am glad they did it. My favorite part was the dance team performance in paw central afterwards."

Another student shared, "I think I like the pep rally better because it is longer."

With students liking both pep rallies and parades, we hope the principal will continue to do both so our students can show their school spirit and pride for the school.

We here at the Panther's Eye feel it was really awesome for the school to celebrate our hard working students because they deserve to feel pride about all the effort they put into their sport or academic interest. Congratulations to all our school teams! Keep making our school proud!



## Pine Hill Parade



Pictured here are the girls' basketball and softball teams making their way down the 7<sup>th</sup> grade hall during the parade with their championship win trophies in hand while the 7<sup>th</sup> grade cheers them on

Since the 8<sup>th</sup> grade had connections during the Parade they were treated to a mini pep rally. The math club, Helen Ruffin Team, and some of the Softball team are pictured enjoying the show



Cheerleaders perform at 8<sup>th</sup> grade pep rally after parade





## Pine Hill Middle's Helen Ruffin Reading Team Competes in Reading Bowl

By David Morris

Have you been to library and wondered what the buzzers on the table were for? Those buzzers are for the Helen Ruffin team to practice for the reading bowl.

The Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl is a reading competition involving reading many books and answering questions about each individual book. Students are randomly put into groups, each group has 2 books assigned to them, which the students will become familiar with in order to answer questions about it.

This year's Helen Ruffin team had their mettle tested at the bowl along with their comprehension skills. The first round of the Bowl takes place at Cross Creek each year. If you make it past the first round of the bowl, you move on to a hosting school to compete in the second round.

Two of the biggest competitors for Pine Hill are Davidson and A.R. Johnson magnet schools, and we can boast with pride that our team tied with one of the magnet schools.

Even though they didn't make it to the second round they still tried their best and that is good enough! Let's not forget that they have gotten plenty of trophies and awards from past reading bowls. If you don't believe The Eye go to the library and check them out for yourself!

Several trophies are displayed with pride by their coach and our librarian Ms. Nimmons, who by the way is the best Helen Ruffin coach in all of Richmond County! Go, Ms. Nimmons!



Whether or not our Helen Ruffin team made it to second round of competition or not we're still all very proud of our amazing reading team! We know that we don't do what we do for rewards but instead for the reason that we love doing them because that is what it is all really about.

Helen Ruffin team member Jasmine Joubert shared with the Panther's Eye, "I love being part of Helen Ruffin team because It's fun, I love to read, and most of all the comradery."

Your so right Jasmine! That is what is most Important because the teamwork makes you feel like your connected and part of something important and meaningful. If you feel like you want to belong to a group, then consider joining one of Pine Hill's many academic or sports teams. Our school is lucky to have so many extracurricular activities to include our awesome reading team.



2019-2020 PHMS Helen Ruffin Reading Team

The Reading Bowl team mentioned that our principal, Mr. Robinson showed up and supported the team during the bowl. This was special to them because although other principals have come to see them during bowl competitions Mr. Robinson was different in that he came to cheer them on and interacted with them. His appearance and support motivated the team to try harder than they already were and made them feel important.

The team also felt appreciated because Mr. Robinson included them in the celebration for the sports and academic teams, and they were even treated to pizza and ice-cream by Mr. Robinson!

To our Helen Ruffin team, the Panther's Eye says keep up the good work and we're proud of you and everything you do. Reading is important to learning and developing comprehension skills, which are crucial skills in lifelong success. We encourage your worthwhile effort!



Ice Cream Treats the Reading Got During the Academic the Celebration



## Loving Cultural Heritage in the Love Month Means Celebrating Black History!

By Alyssa Dukes

February is the time of month to acknowledge the achievements by African Americans and recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. History.

The story of Black History month began in 1915 a century after the Thirteenth Amendment that abolished slavery in the United States was passed.

Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the association for the study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), which is an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by black Americans and other peoples of African descent.

The ASNLH chose the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

People across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing Negro History Week and by the late 1960's, in part of the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of black identity, the Negro History Week had evolved into Black History month across the world.

It is important that we take time out of this month to recognize the African Americans that not only fought for us but accomplished many tasks to change the way things are today.

We should not just take time to show our appreciation in February, but we should take time every day to do so. Without them we would not be able to do half of the things we can do today. Black history is a part of American history and should be honored as such.

**"We should not just take time to show our appreciation for Black history in February, but we should take time every day to do so"**



**Carter G. Woodson (Left) and Jesse E. Moorland Were Responsible for Creating Black History Month**

### Dear Abby Advice Column

#### The Problem:

Dear Abby, I saw my dad do something that was not right. Not against me but having to do with someone else. I know that if my mom found out she would be really hurt and sad. I want to tell her but at the same time I don't because I know it will bring a lot of problems maybe even divorce. What should I do?

#### Abby's Advice:

The best policy is always the truth. Even when it hurts, it always ends up setting you free. I advise you to tell mom even it causes her pain. She needs the opportunity to make the decisions she needs to make based on the truth. In the end, all that is in the dark shall come to the light so not telling will only delay the inevitable. The sooner the truth comes out, the sooner everyone can deal with the problem and work towards a solution. You will be glad you told. The weight will be lifted and the solution can begin to unfold in everyone's lives.



## Math Challenge

0		
	9	15

Instructions: Find the value of the of each icon in the multiplication table above

Be the first to figure this Math Challenge out and you will be crowned the new Math Whiz and be featured in the next Panther's Eye!

### Reigning PHMS Math Whiz



Do you have what it takes to dethrone me and Olivia?

8<sup>th</sup> Graders Autumn and Olivia worked together to figure out the challenge together!

## Valentines Facts: So What's the Deal with the Flying Baby During Valentines?!

### Cupid and Valentine's Day

Cupid — the winged baby that carries a golden bow and arrows — is one of the most famous symbols of Valentine's Day. His image, or sometimes one of a heart pierced by one of his arrows, is used to symbolize love. So how did a baby become such a big part of February 14th?

### A Roman god

In Roman mythology, Cupid is the son of Venus, the goddess of love and beauty. And he is known as the god of affection. Legend has it that Cupid shoots magical gold-tipped arrows at gods and humans alike. By piercing their heart with an arrow, he causes individuals to fall deeply in love.

### Two arrows for two feelings

Some legends also say that Cupid is known to change his mind a lot. Not only does he carry golden arrows to make someone fall in love, but he also carries another kind of arrow. This other arrow has a blunt lead tip that makes people fall out of love.

### Modern-day Cupid

During the 14th to 17th centuries, painters created many works of art that showed Cupid as a baby angel. This same version began to appear on Valentine's Day cards during the late 1800s. Ever since, the image of Cupid as a flying infant who inspires love has stuck in people's minds. And it's the version of Cupid that we are most familiar with to this day.



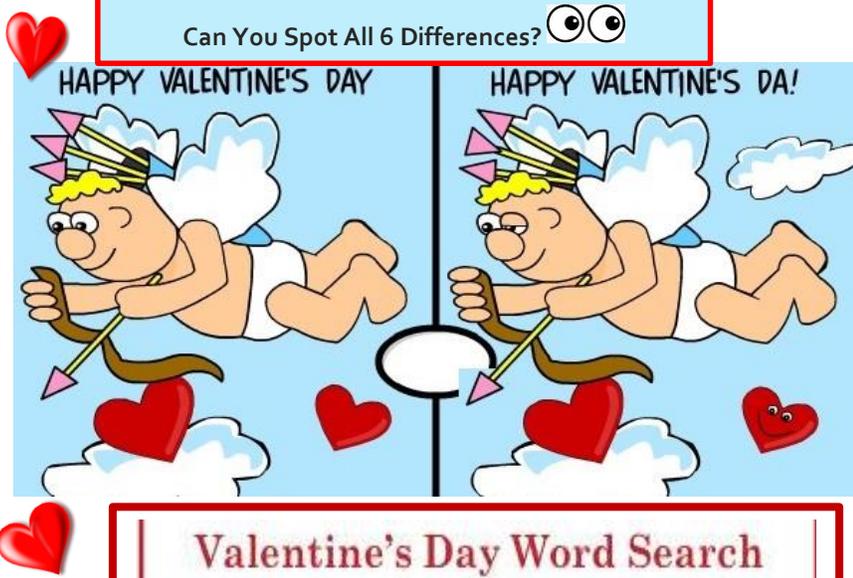
Venus



### DON'T BE A SQUARE!

Take turns drawing one line connecting two dots. NO DIAGONALS! When you complete a square write your initials inside. The player with the LEAST amount WINS!

Can You Spot All 6 Differences?



### Fun with Valentines Coloring

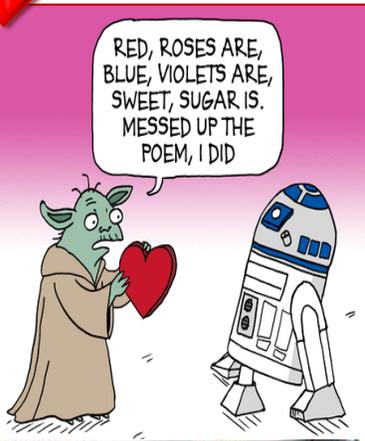
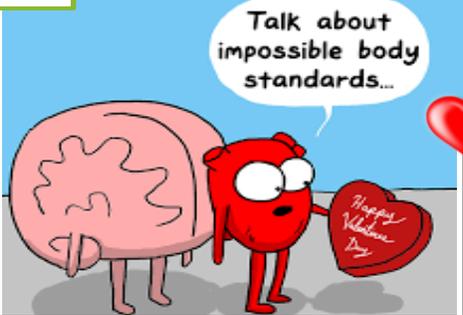
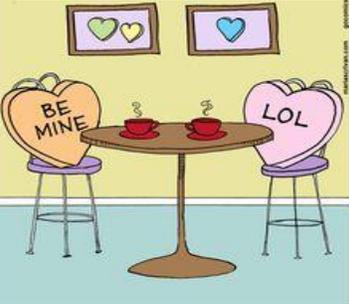


### Valentine's Day Word Search

Circle each word from the list in the puzzle. The words can go in any direction.

Cupid	Flowers	Friend	Pink
Heart	Valentines	Red	Secret
Candy	Love	Card	Chocolate

### Valentine's Funnies



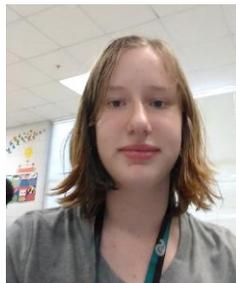
# Meet The Panther's Eye News Staff



Senior Editor  
Mrs. Majors



Assistant Editor  
Ms. Lee



Senior Writer/Reporter  
Jasmine Joubert



Writer/Reporter  
David Morris



Writer  
Christian Ramsay



Writer/Tech Support  
Andrew Seago



Writer/Reporter  
Alyssa Dukes



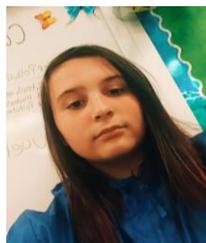
Writer/Reporter  
Khloe Doyle



Writer  
Kaylana Krauss



Photographer  
Marchell Woods



Photographer  
Laura Oats



Technical Support  
Takai Gainer



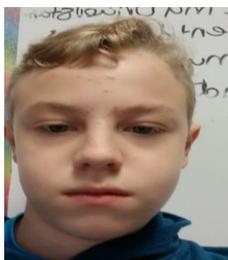
Photography/ Art Design  
Anqi Burke



Writer/Tech Support  
Jasmine Godbee



Tech Support  
Noah Stutzman



Tech Support  
Kyle Myer



Photographer/Tech Support  
Kayley Benson



Writer  
Makayla Hicks