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*Expect the Best at CMS!*

## Teachers' Version: How I Met My Spouse

By Jada Muhammad



Many students want to know about the social lives of their teachers and what they do after school. With grading papers, planning lessons, and researching, how do they ever have time for fun? With Valentine's Day coming up, we can get some insight into their social lives by seeing how they met their spouses:

**Mr. Wolf:** "I was in an 'Introduction of Fiction' class in college and a friend of my (future) wife's was in my class. Her friend thought that we would make a good couple, so I gave the friend my number to give to her. Later, when I was in Army training, she sent me

a message, and I responded. From there, we talked and then started dating. Six years after we began dating, we got married!"

**Mrs. Barbarino:** "I worked at Kaufmann's and so did he. He worked in men's formal wear and I worked in men's sport/casual wear. On our breaks we started to talk and finally we went on our first date. From there we continued to date then later got married!"

**Mr. Narin:** "Before I became a teacher, I was a job headhunter. She was hired there after me. One day, I was at the printer printing out a resume and she came and talked to me and asked me out on a date. I said "yes", because I thought that she was cute! From there, our love

blossomed!"

**Mrs. Berg:** "At a party at Penn State on Prospect Street, there was a rumor going around that I was a fortune teller. My future husband asked me if he would ever have daughters. Jokingly, I replied, that since Venus shone so brightly that night, I knew that he would have two daughters. In fact, we now do have two daughters (and a son)!"



## The History of Valentine's Day

By Connor Tatano and Niko Borish



In ancient Roman times, rituals started with an animal being sacrificed during the pagan holiday of Lupercalia. The men would then chase after women with leather strips taken from the animal. Gradually as time progressed, men would start to fall in love and get married, treating woman well. In the Third Century A.D., Emperor Claudius became angry because his tough, bloodthirsty men were becoming soft. He sent them into long battles to prevent them from being held back from their girlfriends and wives. The emperor eventually banned marriage all together. A Christian priest and later saint named Valentine secretly married young couples in the woods, but was caught and jailed on orders from the emperor. The young couples that Saint Valentine had married came to him in prison and presented him with gifts, such as flowers and cards to express their gratitude. It is said that Saint Valentine was executed due to his actions on February 14, in around the year 278 A.D. Allegedly, Valentine fell in love with his jailer's daughter and passed her a note that was signed: "From Your Valentine" on the day that he was executed. This was considered to be the beginning of the tradition of sending Valentine cards. In 496 A.D., Pope Gelasius ended Lupercalia, and declared February 14, to be Saint Valentine's Day, in honor of him. However, Cupid, the Roman pagan god of love, is often depicted today as the Valentine's Day mascot.

## Groundhog Day

By Andrew Mueller



Groundhog Day is celebrated on February 2. The festivities take place in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Punxsutawney is in Jefferson County, and is about two hours from Canonsburg. Each year, men in black suits hold up the famous groundhog up to the sky, where then the groundhog will either "see" his shadow or not. According to lore, if the groundhog does see his shadow, winter will last another six weeks. If he doesn't see his shadow, spring will come six weeks early. This year, Phil didn't see his shadow, so spring will supposedly come early this year. In the 180 years of the tradition, about 79% of the time has been predicted as a long winter, about 14% were predicted an early spring, and 7% weren't recorded.

According to the website [Punxsutawneyspirit.com](http://Punxsutawneyspirit.com), here are a few fun facts:

- In 1928, KDKA Radio transmitted the first live broadcast of Groundhog Day.
- In 1942, during World War II, Phil only saw a partial shadow, and the headline read, "War clouds have blacked out parts of the shadow."
- Phil didn't make an appearance in 1943; the only time he didn't show in the century.
- Phil saw his shadow consecutively from 1951 through 1970; the longest streak in his history.
- 35,000 people showed at Punxsutawney in 1997.
- In 2006, Phil wore a Steelers Terrible Towel while making another prediction for six more weeks of winter. Three years later, Groundhog Day occurred just hours after the Steelers' record sixth Super Bowl win.





## Interview with Mr. Faith

By Jada Muhammad

Mr. Faith is a social studies teacher on the Supernova team, the Dean of Students and was the coach for the 7th grade basketball team. Having that many roles means a lot of responsibility and Mr. Faith balances it well. While reading this interview, you can see Mr. Faith's personality and his achievements.

**1. Q:** Why did you become a dean?

**A:** "To help students to be the best possible version of themselves and help make CMS be a school that students and teacher enjoy coming to every day!"

**2. Q:** How do you balance being a dean, teacher and basketball coach?

**A:** "The balance of my duties is a difficult yet fulfilling task. I try to just complete the task I have in front of me at the time and then move on to the next thing on my plate."

**3. Q:** Where did you go to college and why did you choose to go there?

**A:** "I have two degrees: an undergrad B.A. in Secondary Ed in Social Studies from California University of PA and a M.A. in Informational Technology Educational Specialist from Carlow University. When I went to visit the campus at Cal U, it just seemed like home. I had a good feeling about the atmosphere and felt comfortable there. When I was older and living in the city, I chose Carlow, as it was close to home and I have always enjoyed the urban atmosphere of Oakland. Carlow was also one of only a few universities that offered my degree."

**4. Q:** Did you always want to be a teacher when you were younger?

**A:** "No, when I was younger, I wanted to be a basketball player, a chef, and then a lawyer."

**5. Q:** Since you're a dean, what's your vision for CM?

**A:** "My vision for CMS is the same as in my classroom: to help create a safe nurturing environment that balances well, allows students to grow, and achieve their individual goals."

**6. Q:** What past experience did you have with basketball that made you want to become a coach?

**A:** "Helping little kids in my neighborhood learn and play basketball in my driveway."

**7. Q:** Is it difficult to discipline students because of your numerous roles?

**A:** "Disciplining any student is not a fun part of my day, but my hope is to use those moments as teachable experiences where students will learn and grow from their mistakes."

**8. Q:** What do you like most about CM?

**A:** "I most enjoy the comradery of our school."

**9. Q:** How would you describe your teaching style?

**A:** "I think my style is one that is enthusiastic and passionate about my students and the subject matter."

**10. Q:** How have your previous school teachers impacted the way you teach today?

**A:** "My teachers at West Mifflin showed me how a teacher taking an interest in a student can make a difference in their lives."

### **Favorites:**

**Color:** Light Blue

**Sports Team:** Anything PITT

**Food:** Pizza

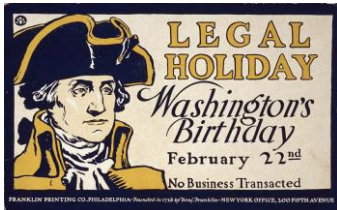
**Musician:** Many but John Legend is one.

**Place:** Turks and Caicos

**Person:** Vaughn Paxton Faith (his son)

## President's Day

By Zackary Huwel



President's Day was originally celebrated as Washington's Birthday when he was born on February 22, 1732. It was changed to President's Day after Abraham Lincoln died on April 15, 1865, as he was born on February 12, 1809. President's Day is a national holiday celebrating our Presidents in spite of their political views. This holiday used to be celebrated on February 22, but on January 1, 1979 the date was changed to the third Monday in February meaning President's Day can fall anywhere from the 15th to the 20th. The last president born in February was Ronald Reagan who served as President from January 20, 1981 to January, 20 1989.

## Winter Activities in the Pittsburgh Area

By Dane Timmins



Despite it being cold and snowy, there are actually many activities to do in and around Pittsburgh this time of year:

### Active

- MassMutual Pittsburgh Ice Rink at PPG Place
- Snowboarding & Skiing at Seven Springs Mountain Resort
- Snow Tubing at Hidden Valley
- Urban Hiking in the South Side, West End, Mount Washington & other communities
- Ice Boating at Moraine State Park

### Scenic

- Orchid and Tropical Bonsai Show at Phipps Conservatory
- Pittsburgh Penguins Games at PPG Paints Arena
- Pittsburgh Penguins Stadium Series at Heinz Field





## Throwback or Comeback?

By Tahjere Alred

We know it's now 2017 and that we are facing a new year with excitingly fresh changes, but, how fresh are they? CMS, we aren't just throwing back on Thursday! In fact, I bet you have partaken in these trends multiple times this week! This is the breakdown of 12 trends that are making a comeback:

1. "Mom Jeans"
2. Chokers
3. Leg Warmers
4. Polaroid Cameras
5. Scrunchies
6. Overalls
7. Tie Dye
8. Star Trek
9. Snapbacks
10. "Box Cuts"
11. Pokemon
12. Joggers

## Disadvantages of Having Straight, Long Hair

By Sadie Marinski



Ten minute showers? Oh no, never! It takes like 30 minutes just to wash your hair. It takes even longer to dry. Here is a little tip: take showers in the morning, so that maybe your hair is actually dry by the time you go to bed. Oh, and blow dryers, yeah...have fun standing there for two hours drying just one side of your head. Curling your hair? Don't even think about it, you'll spend an hour curling your hair just to have pin straight hair in 30 minutes. OH MY GOSH! It's windy outside! I guess I'm legally blind today... Oh great and now my hair decides it needs a little more shine in it, but wait where's it get the extra shine? My lip gloss. Yep, windy days means no lip gloss, well... unless you want hair stuck to your lips for the day. Oh man don't forget about static electricity, I don't even need lip gloss on now, for my hair to be stuck to my face. Great... swimming in gym, time to have my back soaked all day! Yay knotted chlorine smelling hair for the entire day, wonderful, just great! Time to go home from school... \*gets in car\* \*closes door\* "DON'T DRIVE YET MY HAIR IS STUCK IN THE DOOR!!!!" Yep there will come a time that you shut your hair... in the door. Oh, and don't worry about dogs getting hair on your clothes. If you have long hair your, it will be everywhere...on your clothes, in your socks, on the floor, in your food. Yeah, even your food. Number one rule for long hair: always have a hair tie with you; it prevents you from ingesting your hair. Well, at least there are some advantages to long hair... like... um... it keeps your shoulders and neck warm in the winter *and hot in the summer*. You can do a lot of different styles with it *that of course take forever*. Well one advantage is that... yeah I've got nothing. Have fun with your hair fellow long-haired people!

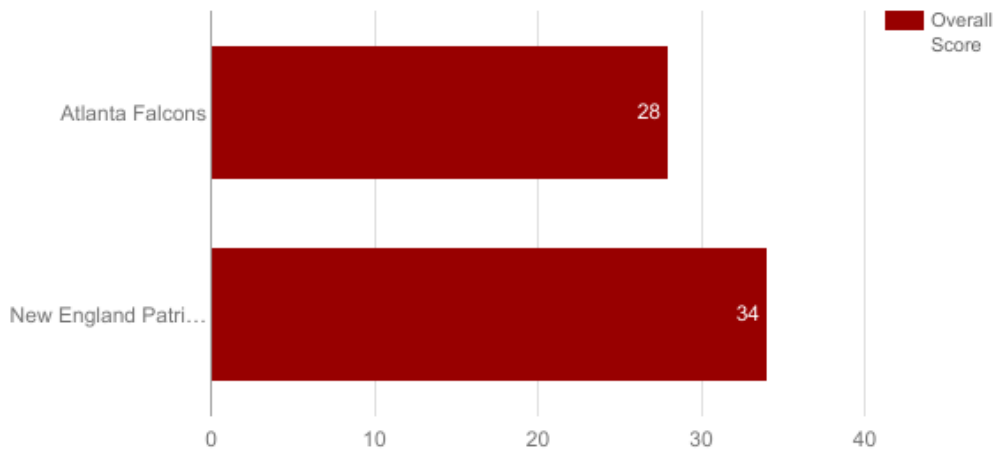
## Super Bowl 51 Short

By Noah Close and Zackary Huwel

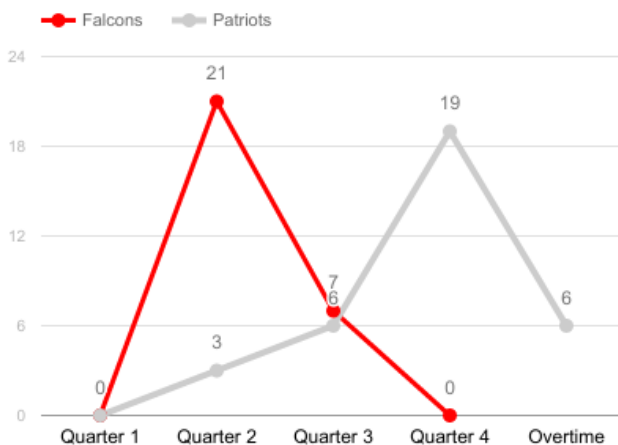
The Atlanta Falcons jumped out to an early lead over the New England Patriots by a score of 21-3 at halftime. Unfortunately for the Falcons, the Patriots and Tom Brady over ran their defense with a 19 fourth-quarter point comeback. This was the first Super Bowl that went into overtime which the Patriots promptly won after winning the coin toss and scoring on their initial drive. Tom Brady won MVP for the fourth time. The Patriots are now 5-4 overall in Super Bowls, while the Falcons drop to 0-2, losing their first Super Bowl to the Denver Broncos in 1999.



Points scored



Points scored





# Valentine's Day Puzzles and Jokes

By Madeline Nicklas

We used some key words related to this issue's articles or Valentine's Day. Try to match them all!

1	A sweet delicious candy is	_____	Chocolate
2	Valentine's Day is in	_____	Punxsutawney
3	Lincoln died in	_____	February
4	The last president born in February	_____	Something that gets your long hair stuck to it on windy days
5	You can Ice Boat at	_____	April
6	President born June 14, 1946	_____	'90s fad currently making a comeback
7	Mom Jeans	_____	a party at Penn State on Prospect St.
8	Lip gloss	_____	Moraine State Park
9	Pennsylvania Groundhog Day town	_____	Ronald Reagan
10	Mrs. Berg meet her spouse at	_____	Donald Trump

Questions:	Answers:
1. What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?	<b>1. I'm stuck on you!</b>
2. What is a ram's favorite song on Valentine's Day?	<b>2. I only have eyes for ewe!</b>
3. Do skunks celebrate Valentine's Day?	<b>3. Yes, they are very sentimental!</b>
4. What did the calculator say to the pencil on Valentine's Day?	<b>4. You can count on me!</b>
5. What do farmers give their wives on Valentine's Day?	<b>5. Hogs and kisses.</b>
6. What do squirrels give for Valentine's Day?	<b>6. Forget-me-nuts.</b>

Valentine's Day Knock-Knock Jokes		
<p>1. <b>Knock Knock</b> Who's there? <b>Olive</b> Olive who? <b>Olive you!</b></p>	<p>2. <b>Knock Knock</b> Who's there? <b>Sherwood</b> Sherwood who? <b>Sherwood like to be your Valentine!</b></p>	<p>3. <b>Knock Knock</b> Who's there? <b>Jimmy</b> Jimmy who? <b>Jimmy a little kiss!</b></p>