

THE FORESTRY TECHNICAL COLLEGE PIATRA-NEAMT
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P T A P

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THE FORESTRY TECHNICAL COLLEGE PIATRA-NEAMT School magazine



*Have fun learning a foreign
language!*

Read us!

Spring is here after a long and snowy winter. It brought us not only sunshine but new hopes and new prospects, as well.

In this issue of our school magazine we invite you to read about various celebrations associated with the months of February and March but also about the people who were born in these months.

We invite you to meet some of your colleagues from the 10th grade. They wrote articles about how they spend their free time, about going shopping or to the cinema, about the benefits and the negative aspects of using the Internet. They wrote in English to improve their language skills and to demonstrate that a foreign language can be used effectively, not only by doing a multitude of grammar exercises but also by being able to communicate on familiar topics.

Star's Editorial Team

February Facts

The name of February comes from the ancient Roman purification festival of Februarius which took place on February 15.

The Anglo-Saxons called it "solmonath" (the month of mud or wet sand).

The 2nd month of the year brings us George Washington's Birthday, Valentine's Day, and the shortest month of the year.

In the Gregorian calendar, the calendar that most of the world uses, February is the second month of the year. Most of the months have 30 or 31 days in a month but February is shorter. February has 28 days until Julius Caesar gave it 29 and 30 days every four years. This is because the Roman emperor Augustus took one day from February and added that to August because August was a month that was named after him.

The Legend of the Snowdrop

Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) are one of the first bulbs to flower and signal the start of spring. The flower is a symbol of hope.

According to legend, the snowdrop became the symbol of hope when Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden. When Eve was about to give up hope that the cold winters would never end, an angel appeared. She transformed some of the snowflakes into

snowdrop flowers, proving that the winters do eventually give way to the spring.

The name snowdrop does not mean 'drop' of snow, it means drop as in eardrop - the old word for earring.

The Latin name for the snow drop is *Galanthus*, which means "milk flower".

Famous People born in February

On 7 February 1812: Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth, Hampshire, England. He spent much of his life in Kent and London.

Charles Dickens wrote some of the most popular and widely read novels of the 19th century, from *Oliver Twist* to *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Great Expectations*.

**Thomas Edison*

Who was Thomas Edison?

Thomas Alva Edison was born on 11 February 1847 in Milan, Ohio. He was a brilliant American scientist and inventor who developed many devices that greatly influenced life around the world.

Edison was thrown out of school when he was 12 because he was thought to be not intelligent.

Edison is one of the greatest inventors and industrial leaders in history.

Why is Thomas Edison famous?

Thomas Edison held a world record of 1093 patents for inventions such as the phonograph, the motion picture camera, and a long-lasting, practical electric light bulb.

In 1877, Edison created a way to record sound. The first words that Edison recorded were "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

February Celebrations

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day (Saint Valentine's Day) is celebrated on February 14. It is the traditional day on which people express their love for each other by sending Valentine's cards, presenting flowers, or offering confectionery.

Who is Saint Valentine?

There were many Christians names Valentine. The Valentine that most experts believe is the actual one remembered on Saint Valentine's Day was a Roman who was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity.

What happens on Valentine's day in Britain? Every year, in the UK, people offer books, cards, flowers, chocolates and other gifts for Valentine's Day. Traditionally these were sent anonymously, but nowadays people often make it clear who is sending each 'Valentine'. In the United States romantic valentines are popular. Family and friends give each other

valentines, too. In schools, children also observe Valentine's Day. There are parties, games, and cards. One custom is the valentine box. Each student gets a card from everyone else in class. These valentines sometimes show cartoon or movie characters. People enjoy heart-shaped cakes, cookies, and candy. Giving chocolates in a heart-shaped box is one custom.

Dances are another custom on Valentine's Day.

The United States and England are the countries with the most Valentine's Day customs.

Traditionally, spring begins on St Valentine's Day (February 14th), the day on which birds chose their mates. In parts of Sussex Valentine's Day was called 'the Birds' Wedding Day'.

Featured Events and Special Days in March

**First Morning of the Corn Flake 7 March 1897.* Cornflakes are a popular breakfast cereal originally manufactured by Kellogg's through the treatment of corn (maize). On 7 March 1897, they were served for the first time ever at the Kellogg health centre. Kellogg's Cornflakes were accidentally discovered

In 1894, Will Kellogg was trying to improve the diet of hospital patients. He was searching

for a digestible bread substitute using the process of boiling wheat. Kellogg accidentally left a pot of boiled wheat to stand and the wheat became tempered (soften). When Kellogg rolled the tempered or softened wheat and let it dry, each grain of wheat emerged as a large thin flake. The flakes turned out to be a tasty cereal. Kellogg had invented corn flakes.

Alexander Bell

On 10 March 1876 Alexander Graham Bell made the first telephone call in his Boston laboratory, summoning his assistant from the next room.

"Mr. Watson--come here--I want to see you"

Who was Alexander Graham Bell?

Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on March 3, 1847. He was a scientist, inventor, and innovator. In 1870, he emigrated to Canada and moved from there to the United States in 1871.

Why is Alexander Bell famous?

Alexander Graham Bell is credited with inventing the first practical telephone. He was the first person to invent a way of sending the human voice over electric wires.

On 7th March 1876, 29-year-old Bell received a patent for his revolutionary new invention, the telephone.

On 27 March 1884 the first long distance telephone line between New York and Boston was made.

St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in the whole of Ireland on 17 March, in honour of St Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

Who was St. Patrick?

Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. He was born in Wales somewhere around AD 385. He was carried off by pirates and spent six years in slavery before escaping and training as a missionary.

Saint Patrick's day is marked by the wearing of shamrocks (a clover-like plant), the national emblem of both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated with parades in the large cities, the wearing of the green and drinking Guinness (traditional drink of Ireland).

<http://projectbritain.com/nationaldays/ireland>

Ludwig van Beethoven

On 26 March 1778 Beethoven gave his first known public performance, at Cologne, Germany.

Who was Ludwig van Beethoven?

Ludwig van Beethoven was a German composer and pianist. By the time he was twelve, he was earning a living for his family

by playing organ and composing. His music includes Symphonies 1 through 9, Moonlight Sonata, Fur Elise, Fidelio, and Missa Solemnis

Why is Beethoven famous?

Beethoven is considered one of the most important figures in the history of music. He continued to compose even while losing his hearing and created some of his greatest works after becoming totally deaf, such as his ninth symphony.

Michelangelo, the famous painter and poet was born on the 6th of March, 1475 His full name was MICHELANGELO DI LODOVICO BUONARROTI SIMONI, but he is always known as just Michelangelo Italian Renaissance sculptor, painter, architect, and poet who exerted an unparalleled influence on the development of Western art.

Houses of Parliament Summer Opening Central London

The Houses of Parliament, also called the Palace of Westminster, was one a royal palace.

The last monarch to live here, Henry VIII, moved out in 1512.

The Houses of Parliament is where the two Houses of the Parliament of the United Kingdom (the House of Lords and the House of Commons) conduct their sittings. It is the place where laws governing British life are

debated and passed. Parliament has met here since around 1550.

You will find interesting things about your school, your town; this is the place for you to express your opinions, to find out interesting facts from all around the world.

The Students' Corner



Going Shopping

**Adina and I love to go shopping at the mall. In general, we like to buy clothes, jewellery and shoes. In addition, Adina likes to buy cosmetics and we both like to look at various household products. Shopping can be fun!*

Adina Marian & Păduraru Iustina (XC)

*We like shopping because, let's admit it, who doesn't like to buy new stuff? I, Gheorghiță, like to go to the book store as often as possible, I like the smell of new books. I don't buy books very often but when I do, I prefer fantastic literature. I am a big fan of science-fiction literature, too, and I can recommend you a lot of books which are easy to read and also very entertaining.

In our opinion, books can improve your imagination and even your way of thinking.

Gheorghiță Țepeș & Roberto

Atănăsoaiei (X C)

*Shopping is for many of us a passion, a way of relaxing ourselves or even a goal in itself. We go shopping on weekends, we usually go with our friends because we have fun, we buy what we want and what we like.

When we two go shopping we like to buy clothes, books or perfumes. We like to be fashionable, it is important for us to look good and always keep up with the latest trends in fashion.

Ana Arădoaia & Maria Chiuariu (X C)

Using the Internet

We enjoy using the Internet because we can learn a lot of information and download music or films. But if you use the Internet too much, it is bad for your health- it is bad for your eyes and you can become unsociable. If you use the Internet to play video games, you may have a backache if your posture in front of the computer is an incorrect one. For many people playing video games has become a hobby. Our favourite game is League of Legends. If you are a very good player, you can make some money or win some trophies which are available for the best players.

CoșBre (Ioan Coșerariu & Marius Brehuță) -XC



*We enjoy using the Internet in our free time. On the Internet we can talk with many friends from all over the world. We think that the Internet makes our life easier and it can help us with many things. We also use the Internet to play multiplayer games, even if this activity takes a lot of our time and it can become addictive.

Bogdan Pavăl & Mihai Bostan (X C)



Going to the Cinema

*We like going to the cinema. We usually go with our friends, it is much better than going by yourself because it is more pleasant and we have a lot of fun together. We like to watch thrillers because they keep us in suspense, but we also like comedies because everybody has a lot of fun. We like having fun with our friends

and watching movies together is a very good option.

Vlăduț Vrânceanu & Ana Nistor (X C)

<i>If they enjoy</i>	<i>Let's take them to</i>
shopping	cinema
eating	restaurants
playing badminton	shopping mall
watching films	sports centre

*I, Alexandru, prefer an evening with friends at the cinema. Roxana likes to watch a movie in front of her computer at home. If she goes to the cinema and is disappointed by the film, she says her typical line: "it was better at home, in front of my computer." But I like the atmosphere and the after-film discussions with my friends. Roxana says she just likes the company of friends and sometimes the food (I agree with her because I like the food there, too). Although we sometimes have different opinions, we both love watching a good movie at the cinema.

We usually go with friends, but there are times when they do not like to

come with us or they have other things to do. I sometimes choose to watch old movies; Roxana prefers to watch movies with vampires or romantic comedies.

We often go to Dacia cinema hall or at the Mall.

An evening spent at the cinema is a real pleasure especially if it is followed by a heated discussion about the film.

**Vasile Anechitei & Elena Roxana
Nacu (X C)**

What is free time?

Free time / spare time / leisure time / pastime is something that everybody looks forward to. This is the time we are free to work or other duties and we can do what we like.

Ask:	Answer:
1.What's your hobby?	1.My hobby is . . .
2.Do you like. . . ?	2.I like/love/enjoy. . .
3.Do you have any hobbies ?	3 ...is my favorite.
4.What do you like to do?	4.I am crazy about...

Hobbies: playing chess, playing piano, playing basketball, playing football, playing computers , fishing, shopping, swimming, walking, painting, singing , dancing, reading, sleeping, listening to music, flying kites, collecting stamps, watching TV

It's good to know that...

Hamburger – the short history

The hamburger has no connection to ham. It got its name from the German town of Hamburg, which was famous for its ground steak. German immigrants to the United States introduced the “hamburger steak” at the St. Louis World’s Fair in 1904, hamburger steaks were served on buns for the first time. Hamburgers on buns were convenient and tasted good. This became the usual way of eating hamburgers.

How did the hamburger become the most popular, most typical American food ?

The introduction of the bun is an important part of the answer.

Another important part is McDonald’s, the fast-food restaurant. The first McDonald’s was opened in San Bernardino, California, in 1949. Hamburgers were the main item on its menu. People liked the restaurant’s fast service. By the 1960s, there were many McDonald’s restaurants. McDonald’s was a part of nearly every community in the USA. There were also other fast-food restaurants that sold hamburgers. McDonald’s alone sold millions of hamburgers a year.

Today, of course, there are McDonald’s restaurants around the world. The food they

serve is considered typically American. Although McDonald's has expanded its menu, the main item on that menu is, as always, the hamburger.

Popcorn- THE SHORT HISTORY

A seed or kernel of corn must have 14 percent water in it to pop. Other kinds of corn have less water and don't pop. When you put a kernel of corn on a fire, the water inside makes the corn explode. This makes a "pop" noise.

That is why we call it popcorn.

The American Indians popped corn a long time ago.

The Indians knew there were three kinds of corn. There was sweet corn for eating, corn for animals and corn for popping.

The Indians introduced corn to the first settlers, or Pilgrims when they came to America in 1620. One year after they came, the Pilgrims had a Thanksgiving dinner.

They invited the Indians. The Indians brought food with them and one Indian brought popcorn !

Since that time Americans continued to pop corn at home. But in 1945 there was a new machine that changed the history of popcorn. This electric machine popped corn outside the home. Soon movie theaters started to sell popcorn to make more money. Popcorn at the movies became more and more popular. Today, Americans still continue the custom of eating popcorn at the movies.

Americans use 500,000 pounds of popcorn every year. Many people like to put salt and melted butter on their popcorn. Either way – Americans love their popcorn !

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