

Eagle's Nest



Valley Middle School

February-March 2019

February Fun Facts

By Kiera Kupsho



- ◆ The birthstone of February is the amethyst.
- ◆ The month is named after the Latin word februum,

which means purification.

- ◆ The flowers for the month of February are the iris and the violet.
- ◆ The zodiac signs for this month are Aquarius (January 20-February 18) and Pisces (February 19-March 20). People who have the birth sign Aquarius are known to be friendly and original while people from Pisces are known to be caring and dreamers.
- ◆ Women purchase 85% of all valentines.
- ◆ About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are sent in the U.S. alone.
- ◆ Here is a list of Valentine's Day superstitions: If you see a goldfinch on Valentine's Day, you will marry a millionaire. If you see a flock of doves, you will have a happy, peaceful marriage. If you see a squirrel on Valentine's Day, you will marry a cheapskate. If you see a robin on Valentine's Day, you will marry a crime fighter. If you find a glove on the road, your future beloved will have the other glove.
- ◆ Candy hearts were originally marketed as medical pills.



- ◆ According to a survey, both men and women prefer chocolate over flowers.
- ◆ February is the month when Chinese New Year starts. 2019 is the Year of the Pig.
- ◆ February is the only month where it is possible that there might not be a full moon. This instance has happened only twice, February 1865 and February 2018.
- ◆ Passing out valentines is a 600 year tradition dating back to 1415.
- ◆ Roses are marketed as the flowers of love because they happen to be the favorite flower of the Roman goddess, Venus.
- ◆ Valentine's Day and Mother's Day are the top two holidays for sending flowers.
- ◆ Fifteen percent of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.
- ◆ About 3% of pet owners will get their pet something for Valentine's Day.
- ◆ In Victorian times it was considered bad luck to sign a Valentine's Day card.



- ◆ The chance of being born on Leap day is 1/461!
- ◆ There are approximately 4 million leap year babies.
- ◆ The French call the leapfrog "saute-mouton" which literally translates to leap sheep.

March Fun Facts by Kiera Kupsho

- ◇ In Ancient Roman times, March was the first month of the year.
- ◇ The birthstone of the month is aquamarine and the flower is the daffodil.
- ◇ March got its name from the Roman god of war, Mars.
- ◇ The two zodiac signs for March are Pisces and Aries. Pisces are known to be optimistic and determined, while Aries are known to be passionate and leaders.
- ◇ The first St. Patrick's Day celebration was held in Boston in 1737.
- ◇ The color of St. Patrick's Day was originally blue.
- ◇ Strangely, St. Patrick was known for wearing blue.
- ◇ The real St. Patrick wasn't Irish. He was actually born in Britain in 390 a.m. to an aristocratic family.
- ◇ St. Patrick's Day was not allowed to be celebrated in Ireland until 1970.
- ◇ There are 37.7 million people who have some form of Irish ancestry. This is three times the population of Ireland itself!
- ◇ The chance of finding a four-leaf clover are 1 in 10,000.



- ◇ The three-leaf shamrock was originally used as a teaching tool. St. Patrick used it during his time as a missionary to teach people about the Holy Trinity.
- ◇ Those with Irish heritage have been scientifically proven to have a higher household income, own their own homes, and have more educational degrees.
- ◇ There are six towns in the U.S. named after a shamrock. They are located in Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Missouri.
- ◇ The first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in New York City in 1762.

Limericks

A limerick is often a funny, light-hearted poem with a strong beat. The limerick became rooted in children's literature thanks to Mother Goose nursery rhymes. Read the following by Alyson Mummey:

Supersize

There once was a girl named Heaven
 Who eats twenty-four seven
 Every meal she eats is a feast
 That is why she is obese
 And Heaven was only eleven!



Lazy Head Fred

There was once a boy named Fred
 Who was too lazy to get out of bed
 He sat there all day
 Just like bird prey
 And when his mom came hoe that
 day, she thought he was dead.





by Grant Russo

Every year, millions of people take minutes of their day to create a NCAA bracket. In this tournament, 64 teams are faced with a pathway to victory. Since it is a single elimination bracket, anything could happen, and most games are won upon defense, momentum, and sheer heart. There were several mind-blowing upsets in the 2017-18 tournament such as number eleven seed, Loyola's, advance to the final four, or when University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMBC) toppled 1-seeded Virginia. The point is that seeding and previous games are out the window in the NCAA tournament. The point of "March Madness" is that anything is possible—especially bracket busting upsets.

This year's tournament features many great teams and players. With so many division one players on the court, anyone could become unconscious at any moment. The two heavy favorites of the tournament are Duke and UNC. With a star-studded roster featuring future lottery picks, Zion Williamson, R. J. Barret, and Cam Reddish, spectators have good reason to go for the ACC champs, Duke. UNC has more experience than the three freshman with its star player, Luke Maye, who has been averaging a double-double on the season. They also have five-star recruit Nassir Little. Both teams faced off in the ACC semi-final, and Duke squeezed out a 74-73 victory. Several stars have shined so far this year, such as Purdue guard, Carsen Edwards, or Tennessee's Admiral Schofield and Grant Williams. Murray State phenome, Ja Morant, is certainly NBA ready. Gonzaga's Rui Hachimura is a floor great shooting small forward/ power forward, and Tacko Fall is a 7'6 freak of nature. Wofford guard, Fletcher Magee, has recently set the Division One record of most made three pointers in NCAA history at 509 treys. Michigan State has their go-to star in Cassius Winston, and Virginia's Kyle Guy is another great pure shooter. There is so much great talent in college basketball, and the "madness" should be off the charts this year.

Filling out brackets and following the games is something I enjoy doing every year. Although all perfect brackets are gone, and the chances of achieving one are 1:9.2 quintillion, it is amazing to witness history of the best collegiate players on the planet clashing night after night. In conclusion, everyone should view the NCAA tournament and fill out brackets, because when March comes around, the "madness" follows.



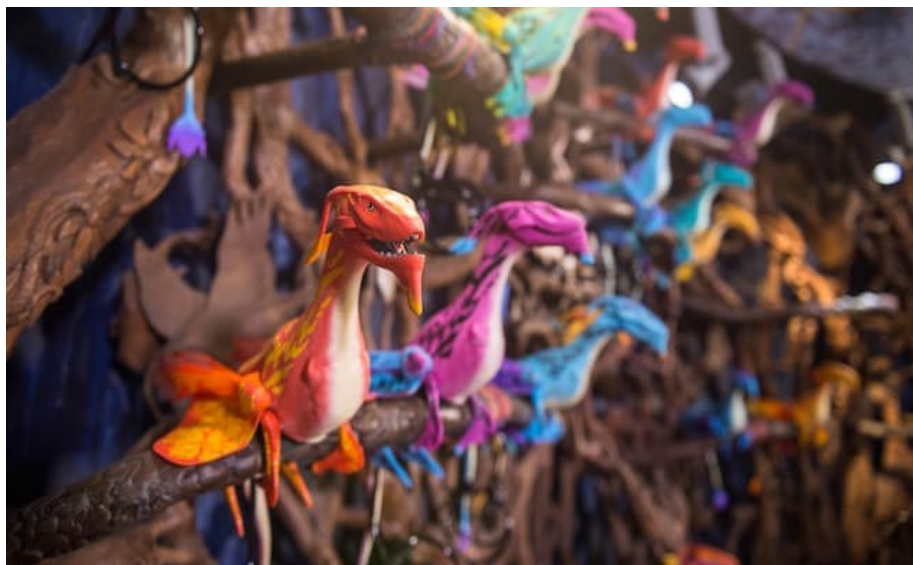
Pandora-the World of Avatar

by Emily Babula

Throughout the world, perhaps one of the most popular destinations for tourists and locals alike is Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. Although the majority of Pennsylvanians have never been to out-of-the-country resorts, such as Shanghai Disneyland, many have visited Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. This particular park officially opened on October 1, 1971, with thousands of eager guests at the gates. Since then, the company has expanded and added parks into the mix, which includes the most recent park called Animal Kingdom, which opened in 1998 on Earth Day of that year. In 2016, Pandora- the World of Avatar, a stunning environment inspired by the movie *Avatar*, was established in the Animal Kingdom.

Pandora features a wide variety of attractions, food, sights, and more. While entering Pandora through the Valley of Mo'ara, guests encounter floating mountains hanging prominently overhead and dense greenery along the pathways. Although this land is beautiful as it is, Pandora comes alive at night with bioluminescent plants and multicolored trails.

As tourists trek forward, Pandora's two astounding attractions become visible. One of which, titled Na'avi River Journey, is an incredible boat ride through the depths of a Pandoran rainforest in search of the Na'avi Shaman of Song. From alien species to beloved movie characters, there is no telling who or what guests will encounter along the way.



The long-awaited Shaman, who makes an appearance at the end of the ride, is quite an impressive animatronic, with elegant movements and detailed jewelry. Although this may seem as remarkable as a ride can get, Pandora's famed Flight of Passage definitely sets the bar for other Disney World attractions. The entrance to Flight of Passage, which includes bland white walls and a few small Na'avi artifacts, appears dull at first, but guests are guaranteed to be amazed at what's to come. The end of the queue line leads to a room of motorcycle-like seats. Once everyone is in place, the experience commences as each everyday tourist is transported into the body of their unique Avatar on a banshee flight across sprawling landscape of Pandora. In each location the banshee, a creature similar to a dragon, soars past, a new smell accompanies the vivid scenery. For instance, as the horde of banshees charge past oceans, the scent of a tropical breeze embraces riders as they journey across the sea's surface.

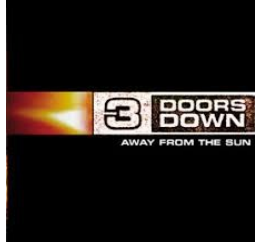
Overall, Pandora- the World of Avatar is a splendid place to visit and it should be a priority on your Walt Disney World vacation.



The Sounds of Music by Ryan Coghill

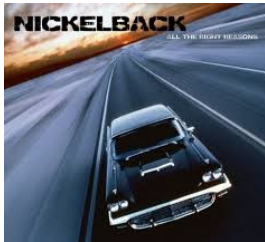


3 Doors Down—3 Doors Down is a rock band that formed in Mississippi in 1996. They



released a top Billboard hit with their hit single “Kryptonite.” Then they released their first album, *The Better Life* in the year 2000. This album had songs such as *Kryptonite*, *Loser*, and *Be Like That*. Then *Away From the Sun* in 2002 produced songs such as *When I’m Gone* and *Here Without You*. Next, *Seventeen Days* in 2005 had hits such as *Behind Those Eyes*, *Let Me Go*, and *The Real Life*. In 2008 they released the album bearing their name, *3 Doors Down*. This had hit songs such as *It’s Not My Time* and *Train*. Then in 2011, they released their album called *Time of My Life* recording songs such as *Time of My Life*, and *Round and Round*. Finally, in 2016 they released *Us and the Night* including songs such as *In the Dark*, *The Broken*, and *Fell From the Moon*. They have had many changes to the roster of the band over the years. This band is still performing today.

Nickelback—Nickelback is a Canadian hard rock band formed in 1995 in Alberta, Canada. They produced the albums *Curb*, *The State*, *Silverside Up*, *The Long Road*, *All the Right Reasons*, *Dark Horse*, *Here and Now*, *No Fixed Address*, and *Feed the Machine*. Some of their most famous songs are *How You Remind Me*, *Someday*, *Photograph*, *If Today Was Your Last Day*, *Someday*, *Lullaby*, *Rockstar*, and *If Everyone Cared*. The band has had much success over their years. Their most successful album was *All the Right Reasons* with songs like *Savin’ Me*, *Rockstar*, *Photograph*, *Far Away*, *If Everyone Cared*, and *Fight For All the Wrong Reasons*. Nickelback has become an icon in the 2000s’ rock world. The band is still touring for their latest album *Feed the Machine*.



Nickelback is one of my favorite bands. Some of my favorite songs are *Someday*, *Gotta Get Me Some*, *Bottoms Up*, *If Today was Your Last Day*, *Side of Bullet*, and *Next Contestant*. I grew up listening to Nickelback, and Nickelback is one of my favorite bands. Some of my favorite songs are *Someday*, *Gotta Get Me Some*, *Bottoms Up*, *If Today was Your Last Day*, *Side of Bullet*, and *Next Contestant*.

Evolution of Music Playing Devices—It all began with the music box and it was created in 1811.

It made sound by placing pins on a metal cylinder or disk and started to go into major production in 1815. Then in 1877 Thomas Edison invented the phonograph. This became very popular and revolutionized the audio and music industries. The first jukebox was created in 1889. In 1920, the radio station KDKA was broadcasting and paved the way for future music expansion. Eight-Track players and tapes came around in the 1960s. They were then installed into cars and trucks for people to listen to music while driving. The revolutionary device of the cassette tape came into existence in 1971. It gave high quality playback of music which changed the way people listened to music. Out of this invention came the iconic boom box which incorporated a cassette player, AM and FM radio stations, and two loud speakers. The Walkman was born and it was a portable cassette player that people could use headphones with. The compact disk or as we know it better, the CD, was created and opened a new array of possibilities of music playing. In the late twentieth century, MP3 were created and people could download music off of websites on the internet. MP3s became more popular and inventions like the iPod and touch screens modernized music playback abilities. Today we have different programs and software where we can download **music**.



If at First You Don't Succeed... by Avtar Singh

You may have heard of the company Nintendo who made many popular video games like Super Mario Bros, The Legend of Zelda and others. However, do you know how this multi-million dollar company started? Nintendo originally started up as a card company in 1949 and was run by Hiroshi Yamuchi who ended up changing the company's name from "Marufuku" To "Nintendo Playing Card." Later, Nintendo had a meeting with Disney and ended up making cards with Disney characters on them. This was a huge success for Nintendo.

Eventually, Nintendo started to experiment in new areas including a taxi company, food chain, and a vacuum cleaner company. All of these inventions ended up failing except for their toy company. Nintendo's first toy was the "Ultra Hand" which came about when Yamachui saw Yokoi, a game developer, make a fake arm. This toy was very successful and sold about 1,000,000 units. Yokoi began to make more toys for Nintendo, and he even made a toy gun for a video game.

Ever since the toy gun was created, Nintendo decided to make their own video games; one of them being the Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) in 1983. NES is one of the most popular systems of all time. It came with a toy robot called R.O.B. who would play a part in some of their games. Nintendo became very popular in the video game industry as soon as the NE with its popular games such as Donkey Kong, Mario Bros, and Kirby. Since the launch of NES, Nintendo has become a common household name. If at first you don't succeed, try, and try again.

Cold War Story by Ryan Coghill

You are an American Spy undercover in the Soviet Union. It's 1972 and you are stationed in the capital of Moscow. The mission you were sent on was to find information on the Soviets nuclear supply and their plans for top secret projects. Information about the supply lines to the North Vietnamese helps the United States. You have been undercover for the past five years and have infiltrated the government as a member of the secret police, the KGB. You witnessed many horrific acts and crimes that the KGB have committed. You yourself have had to partake in a few of them to keep your cover. So far you have recovered moderate amounts of information for the United States Government. You keep them updated every half a month and plant bugs for the US. Your commander came to your team today and said that they uncovered an American spy. The mission is to find and execute them. Your commander speaks in fluent Russian but you can understand him because you also have become fluent in the language. You fear that your cover has been blown. You are sent out with the standard AK-47 assault rifle. You reach the place that the suspected spy is hiding. The hiding place is the place you have called home for the last 5 years. You keep to yourself and hope that none of your comrades realize that the place is your house. Everything goes well until the when your team is about to leave. As you leave your fellow KGB member finds a picture of you with your family. You tried to hide it but it didn't work. You knock out the soviet next to you and start to run. You jump a couple of fences and return covering fire as you run. You make it to the edge of town and you think you lost them. You then continue to run into the snow. As you run a bullet hits your leg and you fall to the ground. You quickly get back up and tough through the pain. You escape into the wood but there is a trail of blood behind you. You continue to run and hope you escape.



After Action Report

January 16, 1972

7:23

One of our spies has been unresponsive for over three weeks. We presume their cover has been blown and they are in hiding or dead. We will destroy any evidence linking our spy to our other inside connections.

Agent 353- MIA

Best Underrated Young Adult Novels

by Emily Babula

In a world where books are available whenever and wherever we want them, it can be tough trying to pick a novel to read. Some obvious choices are books-turned-films and treasured classics, but some very well-written novels are often overlooked.

One underrated book that I enjoyed was *The Ostrich and Other Lost Things* by Beth Hautala. In this novel, eleven-year-old Olivia, who has a talent for finding lost things, deals with life with her autistic brother while also trying to have something that she doesn't have to share with her sibling. Although I would consider this a young adult novel, its touching storyline is sure to make people of every age learn a valuable lesson and shed a tear or two... or twenty. This is personally one of my favorite books.

Another terrific novel that is actually a set of books is *The Menagerie* by Tui T. Sutherland and Kari H. Sutherland. The first book is about a group of kids who have the responsibility of finding missing griffin cubs from a zoo of mythical creatures. From crazy antics to action-packed chapters, you will certainly want to read the entire series.

One other marvelous novel is *The Thing About Jellyfish* by Ali Benjamin. In it, a girl named Suzy reflects on her best friend's sudden death and theorizes that it was caused by a jellyfish sting. With themes of friendship, mystery, and heartache, *The Thing About Jellyfish* is unlike any other book.

All in all, these three novels are great to read and will keep your attention until the very last page.



White-Nose Syndrome

by Caden Kash

One bat eats thousands of mosquitos and crop-destroying insects per evening.

White-Nose Syndrome is an upcoming disease in North America spread by bats. This disease has killed millions of bats in the United States and Canada. There is a distinctive fungal growth near the muzzle and the wings while they are hibernating. It was discovered February 2006 on a photo taken in a cave from Schoharie County, New York. Since then the disease has been rapidly spreading. By early 2018, it has been discovered in 33 U.S. states and 7 Canadian provinces and the fungus was found in 3 more states. Mostly the disease is found in the eastern side of the world, but in March 2016 a little brown bat with the syndrome was found in Washington.



This syndrome is caused by a fungus called *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* which spread on the bats skin. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services strongly recommends removing dangerous substances from your clothing or equipment in such areas after use. The National Speleological Society has an update page to keep caverns apprised of current events.

Bats are significant in everyday life. They help protect many of the fruits we enjoy today. If bats would perish or become extinct, farmers would pay \$74 per acre on insecticides. Many of the fruit we love would be vulnerable.