

ACADEMY REPORTER

VALENTINE'S DAY FACTS



One legend has it that Valentine's Day originated to commemorate the anniversary of the death of St. Valentine, a Roman clergyman who was executed on Feb. 14, about 270 A.D., for secretly marrying couples in defiance of the emperor. According to

another, the holiday began as a Roman fertility festival. Americans probably began exchanging handmade valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther Howland, a native of Massachusetts, began to sell the nation's first mass-produced valentine cards.

Top Ways to Celebrate Valentine's Day

Household participation rates

Greeting Cards	65%	Plush	21%
Date Night	44%	Other Gifts	17%
Candy	38%	Perfume/Cologne	12%
Flowers	32%	Jewelry	11%
Gift Cards	29%		

ources: Hallmark/Retail Industry Leaders Association/NRF

2.2 million

The number of marriages that take place in the United States annually. That breaks down to more than 6,000 a day. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>



145,800

The number of marriages performed in Nevada during 2004. So many couples "tie the knot" in the Silver State that it ranked fourth nationally in marriages, even though its total population that year among states was 35th. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr53/nvsr53_21.pdf <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/003153.html>

25.8 and 27.4

The estimated U.S. median ages at first marriage for women and men, respectively, in 2004. The age for women rose 4.7 years in the last three decades. The age for men at first marriage is up 4.3 years. <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/ms2.pdf>

Men and women in northeastern states generally have a higher median age at first marriage than the national average. In Massachusetts, for example, women were a median of 27.4 years old and men 29.1 years of age at first marriage. States where people typically marry young include Utah, where women were a median of 21.9 years and men, 23.9 years. <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/fertility/005807.html>

http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/006116.html

THE PRINCIPAL'S PUZZLER

This week's winner: No One

This week's hint: He did not make any money.

This week's puzzle: A man buys rice at \$1 a pound from American growers and sells them at \$0.05 a pound in India. As a result of this he becomes a millionaire. How come?

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION

All Boxtops need to be turned in by Friday, February 12. The ten-cents we get from each label adds up very quickly when we all work together. Thank you for your ongoing support!

EDUCATOR'S CONVENTION

Just a reminder that our Educator's Convention will be March 5 instead of March 12. This is to make it possible for some other schools to attend and share with us.



REMINDERS

February 15 — President's Day, No School

February 15-17 — Local IHC

March 5 — Educator's Convention, No School

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT G4, INC.



02-14-2000

I have seen and read the Friday Letter.

Parent Signature _____

Please cut out, sign, and return this box to school.