

The Green Team Gazette

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Festive February

February in an elementary school is a busy month. It's the month of Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, even 100th Day (the point in the school year where the 100th day of school falls—which typically is in February.) February is American Heart Month, African American History Month, Children's Dental Health Month, and every four years there's Leap Year! What do all of these days have in common? Not just cupid arrows or groundhog shadows...but awareness. Awareness how?



- ✦ **Awareness of the past** (presidents and important African American leaders that have shaped our country);
- ✦ **Awareness of healthy choices** (taking care of our teeth & our body by making good dental, nutrition, and exercise decisions);
- ✦ **Numeric awareness** (Why do we have that leap year every four years? How many more days of winter? 100th Day helps make place value more real & meaningful to students).

Take advantage of this month of awareness to share the importance of taking care of our planet & its health to build greater awareness of the future. Don't forget to add in: it takes us all to help out!

Love Makes the World Go 'Round

Back in 1973, George Harrison came out with a song called "Give Me Love (Give Me Peace on Earth)." The lyrics make a great Valentine's love song to our planet here today, 36 years later:



Give me love,
 Give me love,
 Give me peace on earth.
 Give me light,
 Give me life, Keep me free from birth.
 Give me hope.
 Help me cope, with this heavy load.
 Trying to touch and reach you with, heart and soul.



Enlist the help of your students or your own children by combining the celebration of 100th Day with the sentiment of Valentine's Day. Pose this challenge to your youngsters to take action: have them compile a list of 100 ways they can show they care for our planet. In doing this, it will help bring hope and longevity to all of our futures! Simultaneously practice place value by trying to come up with 10 eco-friendly things to do in each of these 10 areas:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ✦ Ways to help at school | ✦ Ways to help in the kitchen |
| ✦ Ways to reduce energy usage | ✦ Ways to help in the bathroom |
| ✦ Ways to help when out on the move | ✦ Ways to reuse old items |
| ✦ Things to recycle | ✦ Ways to help in your room |
| | ✦ Ways to spread the word |
| | ✦ Things to research |

Go to www.meetthegreens.org if you need help brainstorming. Click on "Special Features" then click on Printables. Make your list a love letter to the Earth!

Movie Mentions

If you are looking for something slightly different from the romantic comedies to curl up and watch this February, here are some great documentaries that will help teachers and parents alike gain a new perspective on some of our planet's issues. Make it your Valentine to our Planet by raising your awareness!



King Corn: <http://www.kingcorn.net/>

- ✦ Take a peek at how far-reaching corn is in our diet today.

Who Killed The Electric Car:

<http://www.sonyclassics.com/whokilledtheelectriccar/>

- ✦ Just where did the electric cars of the mid-1990's go?

Inconvenient Truth: <http://www.climatecrisis.net/>

- ✦ Al Gore's wake-up call to all to check out global warming.

The Green Team Gazette

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CynerGreen, CGKidz, and Gibson Island Country School, a Green School in Pasadena, Maryland. Our mission is to educate and share ways to "go green"—both big and small--and be environmentally-proactive at home, in school, and beyond. It is written by Vicki Dabrowka, and edited by Danelle Hoffer. Additional contributors include: G.I.C.S. Science Teacher Tim Decker; G.I.C.S. Head of School Laura Kang; CGKidz creator, twelve-year old Riley Hoffer. To learn more visit www.cynergreen.com, www.cgkidz.com, and www.gics.org.



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