

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 6-8

1 The Oscars

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences annual award nominations were announced last week for Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Director and so on. In a televised ceremony next month, Hollywood celebrities will watch the Academy give out its famous “Oscar” statues to the winners. In groups, form your own academy to give out eEdition awards. Look through the eEdition and select the best news article, feature article, reporter, photo, comic or cartoon and advertisement. Then discuss your group’s selections with the rest of the class. Be prepared to defend your picks.

Learning Standards: Responding personally, analytically and critically to a variety of oral, visual, written and electronic texts; developing and applying critical standards for individual use; providing examples of how texts influence students’ lives and their role in society.

2 Punxsutawney

Last week on Groundhog Day, the groundhog Punxsutawney Phil came out of his home and saw his shadow. According to tradition, that means six more weeks of cold winter weather in the nation’s northern states. How else do we know winter is hanging around? Using the eEdition, write a list of signs that winter is still here. (Some hints: Is there an article about people skiing? Is the weather forecast snowy?) Make the longest list you can from information in stories, photos and ads. Then compare lists with your classmates to see whose list is longest.

Learning Standards: Reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing critically and representing creatively; acquiring information from multiple sources; organizing and presenting the information.

3 Scream

On February 12, 1994, thieves broke into the National Art Museum in the European country of Norway and stole “The Scream,” a famous painting by Norwegian artist Edvard Munch. Munch painted in the Expressionist style, in which artists create very emotional works of art. “The Scream,” for example, conveys both fear and anguish. Pick an article in the eEdition, and write down two or three words that describe the main emotions in the article and the emotions you feel while reading it. Create a piece of art that represents those emotions.

Learning Standard: Reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing critically and representing creatively.

4 The Beatles

On February 7, 1964, the British band The Beatles arrived in New York City for their first U.S. tour. Their first stop was television’s “Ed Sullivan Show,” an appearance that is still ranked as one of the most-watched shows ever. In addition to performing, The Beatles wrote many of their songs. In groups, write a song, rap or rhyme based on something in the news. Share it with the class (you can read it, if you don’t want to perform).

Learning Standard: Communicating information accurately and effectively and demonstrating expressive abilities by creating oral, written and visual texts that enlighten and engage an audience.

5 Valentine’s Gifts

Valentine’s Day is Sunday, February 14, and many people are shopping this week for gifts and cards to give people they love. As a class, look for stories about Valentine’s shopping in the eEdition. Talk about all the ways shopping at stores and malls benefits the community and people who live there.

Then look through the Valentine’s ads in the eEdition for items you might like to buy for relatives or other people you love. Pick items for three people (don’t worry about the cost). Write a sentence for each explaining why you would give each person each gift. Then pick something you would like someone to give you for Valentine’s Day and write a sentence explaining why.

Learning Standards: Responding to a variety of oral, visual, written and electronic texts by making connections to students’ personal lives and the lives of others; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

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