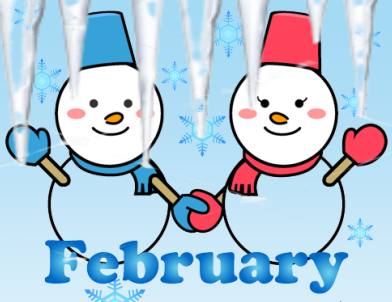


Newsletter

Happy New Year

Start the New Year Off Right: Resolve to Raise a Reader!

Many New Year's resolutions focus on developing healthy habits. Here's one that is important to make and keep: provide a regular diet of books and reading materials for students!

YCS Staff care for children every day so that they will grow into a healthy, happy students. Similarly, providing reading and literacy experiences that will enhance language development and stimulate learning skills. Try this menu of reading activities:

Read every day

A daily reading routine will give all the readers in the school a chance to read and learn. Not only YCS Staff, but dads, moms, siblings, caregivers, and friends can all be a part of ensuring students gets 20 minutes of being read to each day.

Be a reading role model

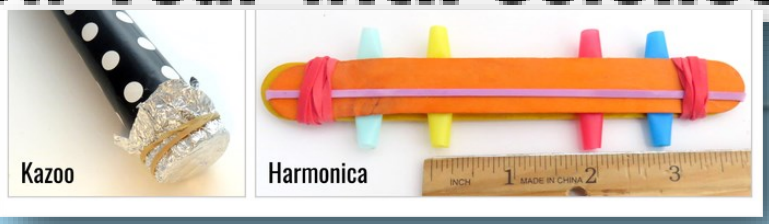
It is common for children to want to imitate others. It is therefore critical to provide plenty of reading material for students both at school and at home. Let children know how much you enjoy reading to them

Read every where you go

You can find reading on the road, at the bus stop, in the store, and at the restaurant. Play a game to find words by taking a look in classrooms for words. At home, encourage students to find words on everyday items like cereal boxes, toothpaste, and household appliances

"According to studies that measure the likelihood of a child growing up to be a reader, the most important factor is not how well reading was taught in the child's school, nor the number of hours spent reading aloud to the child. Regardless of the parents' income level or education, the statistic most highly correlated to literacy is the number of books present in the home."

Make Some Noise for the New Year with Science!



Turn Up the Volume with this Quartet of Noisemaker Science Activities!

Whether you are looking for last-minute ideas for the science classroom or suggesting fun DIY science ideas for students to explore at home, these hands-on science activities make learning about sound fun—and noisy!

These short science projects are a great way for students to explore the physics of sound and make something they can use, too!

Make Your Own Harmonica!: Make a harmonica from craft sticks, straws, and rubber-bands and observe how vibration of the rubber bands creates sound waves.

Can You Kazoo?: Make a simple kazoo from a cardboard tube and experiment with different materials for the covering at the end to see which produces the most vibration when the kazoo is played.

Build a Disk Siren: Make a disk siren using a plastic lid with holes punched around the rim and then experiment to see how different sound patterns are created based on how fast the disk is spinning.

Paper Squawker: Use paper to make a small instrument that "squawks" when you blow in it. Experiment to feel the vibrations related to the sound waves and explore ways to change the pitch of the sound by changing the design of the squawker.

Other Sound Science Explorations

If your students enjoy making noisemakers like harmonicas, kazoos, and squawkers, be sure to check these other sound science resources and activities from Science Buddies, too:

18 Lessons to Teach the Science of Sound

Make a Rubber Band Guitar (elementary school and middle school Lesson Plans available!)

- Musical Bottles
- Do-Re-Mi with Straws
- Build a Paper Speaker
- Make Sprinkles Vibrate with Sound (Lesson Plan available!)

How to Insert a Picture in PowerPoint

One of the ways to make your presentations visually appealing is by adding images to them. You can use Microsoft PowerPoint's built-in options to add pictures to your slides from multiple sources. You can also use an image as the background for your slides. We'll show you how.

You can add photos from your Windows or Mac machine, Microsoft's stock images repository, or the internet. You can then reposition and resize your images, so they fit your slides.

https://helpdeskgeek.com/office-tips/how-to-insert-a-picture-in-powerpoint/

Capture and Add a Screenshot to PowerPoint

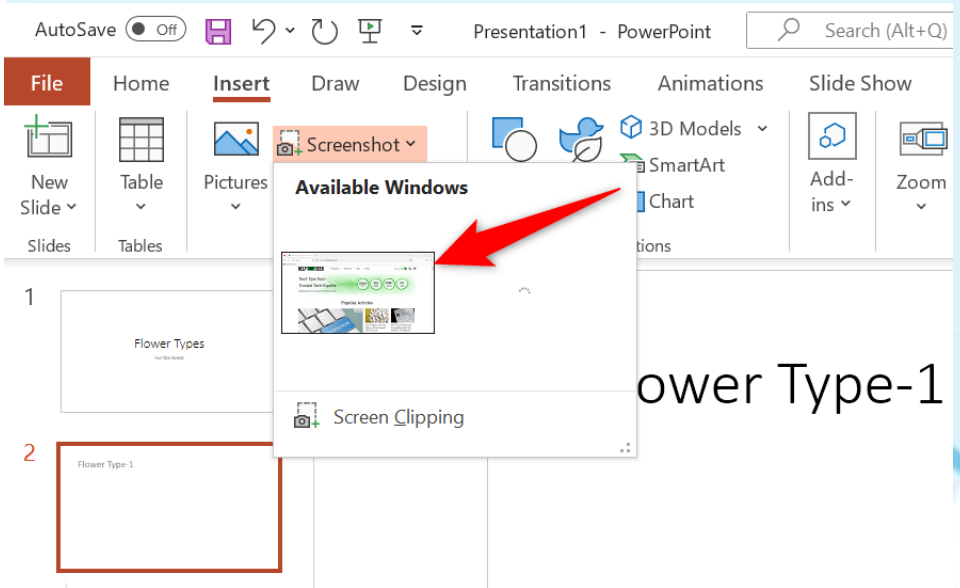
PowerPoint includes a screen capture tool that allows you to take a screenshot and add that image to your slides. This way, you don't need a third-party app to grab screen captures and then load them into the app.

Open the window that you want to take a screenshot of.

Access your presentation in PowerPoint and select the slide where you want to add your screenshot.

Go to PowerPoint's Insert tab at the top and choose Screenshot in the Images section.

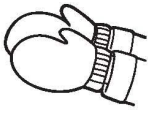
Select the window you want to capture an image of. The app will add the screenshot to your current slide.



January Monthly Character Trait is...

Kindness

January Writing Prompts

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Describe how you and your family celebrated New Year's Eve.	2 Write a creative story about a new machine that can make it snow anywhere.	3 One thing I hope to accomplish in 2017 is…	4 Write a story about your pet penguin. Where did you go and what did you do?	5 How are ice cream and chocolate the same? How are they different?	6 Would you rather spend the day sledding or reading? Explain.	7 Describe the steps for building a snowman.
8 Describe a place you would like to visit to escape cold weather.	9 Have you ever been a hero to someone? Explain.	10 Would you rather visit the North Pole or the South Pole? Why?	11 Write a funny story about the day it snowed marshmallows!	12 Bears hibernate all winter. If you could do only one thing all winter, what would it be?	13 Would you rather be a famous actor or a famous scientist? Explain.	14 My favorite thing about winter is…
15 It is Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Write about something he taught people.	16 Every snowflake is unique. I am unique because…	17 Pretend you are a polar bear! Write about your typical day.	18 To me, peace is…	19 What is your favorite food or drink to enjoy on a winter day? Why?	20 Do you think students should have homework on the weekends? Why or why not?	21 What would it be like if dinosaurs were still living? Where would they live?
22 Describe three ways you are important to your family.	23 Pretend that you are a pencil. Write about what your life is like.	24 Think about a time you needed advice. Who did you turn to, and why?	25 One thing I can do to keep peace with others is…	26 If there were no school today, I would…	27 My teacher would probably appreciate it if all students would…	28 Pretend you're writing to a pen pal who lives somewhere warm. Tell them all about snow.
29 Think of someone who might need encouragement. Write a letter to that person.	30 Write a book review about a good story you read recently.	31 What are three things you enjoy doing with your friends?				

February Newsletter

Did You Know?

Did you know that learning to read is a challenge for almost 40 percent of kids? The good news is that with early help, most reading problems can be prevented. The bad news is that nearly half of all parents who notice their child having trouble wait a year or more before getting help. Unfortunately, the older a child is, the more difficult it is to teach him or her to read. If a child can't read well by the end of third grade, odds are that he or she will never catch up. And the effects of falling behind and feeling like a failure can be devastating.

Early identification is crucial. If you suspect a problem, don't hesitate! Learn about reading difficulties, get your child assessed, find out what you can do to help your struggling reader, and don't

February: A Month of Celebrations!

February is month of celebrations. It's often thought that a groundhog can reveal how much longer winter will last. This short month provides a special time to show affection with or without a Valentine. February also is a time to celebrate leaders, past and present; presidential or simply stalwart.

Black History Month

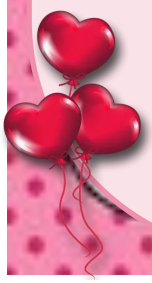
Launching young readers!
Reading Rockets

[Reading Rockets Book Suggestions]

15 Fun Facts About February

February is here! And with it comes Black History Month, Presidents' Day, Valentine's Day, and even Groundhog Day. What are some fun facts about February? The list is as follows…

1. February is National Hot Breakfast Month and Black History Month!
2. Valentine's Day was first celebrated around the year 500.
3. Shakira, Rebel Wilson, Chris Rock, Ashton Kutcher, John Williams, Jennifer Aniston, Rihanna, Emily Blunt, and Rashida Jones are just a few celebrities born in February.
4. Pisces and Aquarius are the zodiac signs for this month.
5. The word February comes from a Latin word meaning "purification."
6. February's birth flower is the violet.
7. The birthstone for this month is the amethyst.
8. February is Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month!
9. Mardi Gras, celebrated this year on Feb. 21, is also known as Pancake Day.
10. Feb. 29 is National Frog Legs Day. The next Leap Year is 2024.
11. In February of 1878, inventor Thomas Edison was granted a patent for the phonograph.
12. The chance of being born on Feb. 29 (this date only occurs on a Leap Year) is 1 in 1,461.
13. According to grammarerrors.com, February "is probably one of the most commonly mispronounced words in the English language."
14. Chinese New Year starts on Friday, Feb. 13 of this year. According to the Chinese calendar, 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit.
15. In the 1500s, February was known as "Feverell."



"February is short and very sweet."

February Monthly Character Trait is.....

Excellence

February Writing Prompts

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Describe the weather today. How does it make you feel?	2 If you were a groundhog, how would you predict the weather?	3 I am most happy when I spend my free time…	4 If I had a million dollars, I would spend it on…
5 Write a story about a time you were surprised by something or someone.	6 What is the most important invention of all time, and why?	7 To celebrate the 100th day of school, I can collect 100 _____ because…	8 It's National Children's Dental Health month. How do you take care of your teeth?	9 Living on the moon might be fun because…	10 Three things you can do today to help someone at your school are _____.	11 Thomas Edison was born in February. Why are his inventions important?
12 It's "Honest Abe" Lincoln's birthday. Why should a president be honest?	13 Do you like to send valentines on Valentine's Day? Why or why not?	14 Write a valentine to someone in your family explaining why he or she is special.	15 If I could have any animal for a pet, I would choose a/an _____ because…	16 What three words do you think your teacher would use to describe you? Why?	17 Explain why you think some people can do cartwheels and others cannot.	18 When I was little, my favorite picture book was _____ because…
19 If you could spend a day with any president, who would it be and why?	20 Today is Presidents' Day. What would you like to say to the president?	21 Write a story about a hibernating bear that woke up too early!	22 It's George Washington's birthday. Why is he called "Father of Our Country"?	23 What is your favorite holiday? Explain what you like about it.	24 I really wish I were old enough to…	25 One classmate I would like to know more about is _____ because…
26 When I see snow, it makes me wonder…	27 Create a new candy! Think of its name, description, and wrapper design.	28 What are five healthy snacks that you could pack in your lunch box?	29 Plan a Leap Year party for your class. How will you celebrate?			

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