

THE MCGINTY CHRONICLES



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SPELLING COMPETITION TO
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See Page 3 for all the details!

THIS MONTH AT MCGINTY

* February 2026

NO TECH WEEK 23-27 FEB
We are going back to basics with the aim to reduce digital overstimulation, foster improved focus, enhance social interaction and better mental wellbeing. By a move away from using screens this week, we want to encourage a deeper engagement with traditional learning methods, promote creativity and help students break the cycle of technology dependency



A Short History of this most romantic of days in the calendar

Valentine's Day – Romantic or Not?!

Valentine's Day did not start with hearts, chocolates, or cute Instagram posts. It started with drama 😊

Long ago in ancient Rome, there was a priest named Valentine. The emperor at that time thought single soldiers were better fighters, so he banned marriage. Valentine thought this was a terrible idea (and very bad for love), so he secretly married couples in hiding. Very romantic... but also very illegal. When the emperor found out, Valentine was arrested and put in prison.

Legend says he even fell in love with the jailer's daughter and sent her a note signed "From your Valentine." Yes – the first Valentine's card was basically a prison message 😅

Later, people remembered him as a hero of love, and February 14 became Valentine's Day. So today, when you eat chocolate and give flowers, remember: it all started with a brave priest, secret weddings, and a very angry Roman emperor. ❤️

Love is beautiful... but history is hilarious

**From All the Staff at McGinty
School of English**

Wishing you lots of love, chocolate, and wine
this Valentine's Day!



VOICES OF THE ACADEMY



OUR FAVOURITE FESTIVALS IN SPAIN



SAN JUAN - By Miguel Lao Madrid (B1)

San Juan is a celebration to celebrate the first day of summer. People wear normal clothes because it is not really a day for costumes. People make a fire and burn things that that don't like or need anymore like notebooks, school books and old clothes! San Juan is special because it is the 1st day of summer and school has finished. I like it because I can spend time with my family and we have a barbecue. Without a doubt, it is the most amazing festival in Spain!

25TH MAY - by Julieta Vivono (B1)

On 25th of May in Argentina, we wear traditional clothes like a gaucho clothes. The girls wear a brown, blue or white skirt and a bandana in their hair with two braids. For the boys, jeans, a white shirt and a bandana on their neck. We eat empanadillas asado, friend cake and we drink mate. It's so special for Argentinian people because we celebrate the independance of Argentina and its liberty. I personally love this celebration because I'm very proud of my country and the distance won't make me forget this magnificent celebrations of my beautiful country.

WITHOUT A DOUBT, IT IS THE MOST AMAZING FESTIVAL IN SPAIN!

NYE - Jorge Calvo Gimenez L9

My Favourite celebrations in Spain is New Year's Eve. In this celebration you are preparing for a new year and celebrate its start. People usually wear their best clothes or the most special ones, because it is one of the most important moments in a year. People normally have dinner with their family and when there are a few second left, the bells sound 12 times and you eat a grape each time for good luck! NYE is special because you can have a great time with your family and you reminisce about the year which has passed. And you? How do you celebrate New Year's Eve?

HALLOWEEN - By Julia Enciso Magan (B1)

In my city Halloween is cool! People dress up like spooky creatures. It's my favourite celebration because I can get free candy and wear weird clothes. People ask for candies by saying "Trick or Treat!" For me, Halloween is special because I feel a festive spooky aura. Last year I had a costume of a dead cat, I looked so cool! Well, I think so! My friends wore outfits like zombies, witches, pirates and dead angels but an angry neighbour didn't give us candies and kicked us out! Not very friendly at all!





MCGINTY SPELLING BEE



MCGINTY SPRING SPELLING BEE

Concurs Digital de Ortografia

Level 1:

<https://wordwall.net/play/105389/211/613>



Level 2:

<https://wordwall.net/play/105389/333/852>



Level 3:

<https://wordwall.net/play/105391/858/901>



Level 4:

<https://wordwall.net/play/105393/054/622>



Level 5:

<https://wordwall.net/play/105393/884/857>



Level 6:

<https://wordwall.net/play/105423/558/851>



Contestants should include their full name. Winners will be announced on 20th March 2026.





VALENTINES IDEAS



Here are 3 fun facts about your heart ❤

DID YOU KNOW???

1. It beats about 100,000 times a day
2. That's over 3 billion beats in an average lifetime — your heart is basically a non-stop worker that never takes a break 💪
3. It can beat on its own
4. Your heart has its own electrical system, so it doesn't need your brain to tell it to beat. It's like having a tiny DJ inside you keeping the rhythm 🎵
5. It's about the size of your fist
6. So if you make a fist 🤝, that's roughly how big your heart is — small, but super powerful!

TRY THIS FOR YOUR VALENTINE

Heart Handprint Card

What you need:

- Colored paper (red, pink, or white)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Optional: stickers, glitter, googly eyes

Steps:

1. Fold a piece of paper in half.
2. Have the child place their hand on the folded edge and trace it.
3. Cut it out — when you open it, it looks like a heart! 🌟
4. Decorate the front with drawings, stickers, or glitter.
5. Inside, write a simple message like:
 - "I love you!"
 - "You're my Valentine!"
 - "Happy Valentine's Day!"



GAMES & ACTIVITIES PAGE



**GAME
TIME**

COLOUR & CUT OUT THIS CUTE
VALENTINES DAY PICTURE OR
TRY YOUR HAND AT OUR
TOPICAL WORDSEARCH. HAVE
FUN!