

The Talon

Seminole Middle School
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Valentine Issue

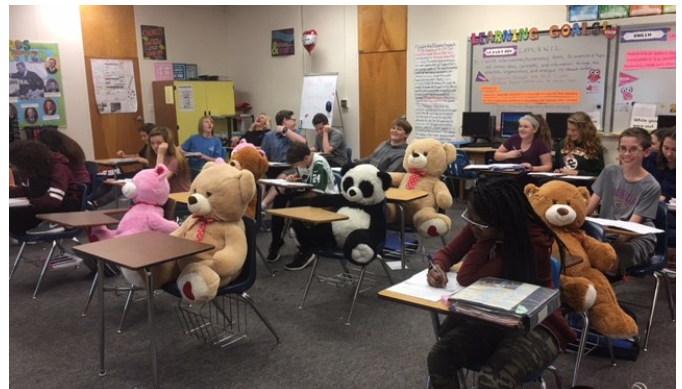
February 2017



History of Valentine's Day

By Ellie Carrington and Jocelyn Markiewicz

Valentine's Day, also known as Saint Valentine's Day, the feast of Saint Valentine's or V-Day. This holiday is celebrated on February 14th. It originated as a western Christian liturgical feast day honoring one or more early saints named Valentine. The first time the day was associated with romantic love was within the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century. In 18th century England, it evolved into an occasion in which people expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, candy, and greeting cards. In Europe, Saint Valentine's keys are exchanged as romantic symbols and invitations to unlock the other person's heart. Valentines day symbols include the heart shape, doves, and the figure of the winged cupid.



This year the giant bear was one of the most popular gift ideas of SMS Valentines!

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Famous quotes for Valentine's Day:

"Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love."
- Albert Einstein

"Love is like the wind, you can't see it but you can feel it." - Nicholas Sparks

"You don't need someone to complete you, you need someone to accept you completely." - inspration@boost.com

2017 Super Bowl Makes History!



By, Savannah Llano, Sydney Gavaghan, and Nataleigh Symes

2017, the year that the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons play each other in the Super Bowl. The Super Bowl has been going on for 51 years now. The Falcons have never won the Super Bowl, while on the other hand, the Patriots had won four times. The Super Bowl featured a halftime show with Lady Gaga at the NR6 stadium in Houston, Texas on February 5th. Here at SMS, Mr. Wright and Mr. Nash both were hoping for the Falcons to take the win. When it comes time for the Super Bowl, Mr. Wright likes to watch the game with couple friends and snacks. On the other hand, Mr. Nash is more of a Super Bowl party guy and throws a big party with lots of friends and family. Also, Mr. Nash was looking forward to the Super Bowl because "both teams have high scoring offences." However, it comes down to this: only one team can win, the New England Patriots or the Atlanta Falcons. Which side were you on? Turns out after a rough first half, the New England Patriots came out with a win after the first over time EVER in the Super Bowl history! The final score was Patriots 34, Falcons 28!

Recap of 2k16

By: Victoria Cangemi, Logan Ferrell, Hannah Robinson and Katherine McClellan

Throughout the year 2016, there had been SOOO many internet trends, almost too many to count, but there are some that stand out. The first trend of 2k16 was the "dab." The dab originated from a song by iheartmemphis. People all over the world would "lean and dab." Within days of release it was #10 in apple's iTunes store. Then within one week, it was #1 in the world.!



The next HUGE trend was the song "watch me" that started a famous dance "the whip nae nae." Everyone around the world loved it. It was performed in Times Square on New Year's Eve for the year 2017 just hours before midnight.



The biggest app was Pokémon Go. Around the world everyone was playing it. There was 2.1 million downloads a day. The app's purpose is to catch virtual Pokémon creatures. In sports, the Chicago Cubs finally beat the "curse of the goat" when they won the world series for the first time in 100 years. Justin Bieber also made a famous comeback during the year 2016. The last huge trend was making slime. Everyone wanted to make the glue borax mixture to make slime!

The internet promoted lots of challenges in 2016 as well, but the most popular one was the mannequin challenge which emerged when the song "black beetles" started playing by Rae Sremmurd.

There were a ton of challenges that went down at Seminole Middle School last year. Some of them were the mannequin challenge, bottle flip challenge, "Andy's coming" challenge, and the eraser challenge. Raeghan Williams has some feedback on the different challenges. She said, "The kids did the bottle flip challenge the most. They still do to this day." Also she said, "The 'Andy's Coming!' challenge was definitely the most annoying out of all of them." Some of them did not happen a lot. For instance, the eraser challenge which Raeghan Williams thought they could have done a little more.



Although Raeghan had some good feedback, right along with her, Olivia Bordeaux has some too. She thinks "the bottle flip challenge was done the most by far" and the bottle flip challenge was her favorite to do. She said, "I hated when they did the 'Andy's Coming!' challenge...it got on my nerves." Both Olivia and Raeghan have very strong opinions about these challenges. All in all the students here at SMS liked doing the bottle flip challenge the most in 2016!

The Great American Teach-In Inspires SMS

By Bridget Thomas & Kamryn Kight

Do you know what the Great American Teach In is? It is the one time of year where people get to come into schools and teach students about what they do for a living and some of their hobbies. This year the Great American Teach In (also known as G.A.T.I) was filled with all different kinds of unique and interesting jobs and hobbies. During the G.A.T.I. there was a woman who came to SMS and she worked for Gulf Coast Animal Sanctuary. She brought two iguanas: one male and one female. Fun Fact: Female iguanas will lay eggs even if the eggs are physically unable to hatch.

Also on campus during G.A.T.I., there was a family whose hobby is to race racecars. They had three cars with them: there were two adult cars and one child size car. One ran on alcohol and the other on gas. The car that ran on alcohol was faster. The cars were skinny. Larbi Torain, 8th grade, thought it was cool how they showed them all different parts of the cars. Rodney Craft, 8th grade, thought it was awesome because it taught them how to use a dragster.

Also, there was another presenter who

brought a Shelby car. It weighs basically nothing, and goes up to 160mph. This was not a original Shelby, but it's a model of a real Shelby. A real Shelby in good condition could be worth up to 400k right now. His car was made in the 1990's.

Another man named Paul Johnson came and talked to the health classes about nutrients. He was talking about



Renetta Williams, Microsoft in Education Ambassador, works with 8th grade Personalized Learning students, Emma Morgan and Lexie Ray, on creating SWAY presentations during the Great American Teach-in.

how important it is (especially for people our age) to get the proper amount of water, protein, and sleep.

Seminole Middle School had many awesome people come in for the Great American Teach In with amazing jobs and hobbies. Mrs. Grego helped to schedule presenters for the day. She said, "The GATI is an exciting way for students to be exposed to hobbies, business fields and life experiences. Everyone has a presentation in life, some are different than others, and that's what makes them so exciting. The GATI teaches our kids the power of presentation, and how it can make a difference."



One presenter brought a 1990's model of a Shelby car.



John Carty, 7th grade, helped present his family's racecars to SMS students during the Great American Teach-in.



Ladies from the Gulf Coast Animal Sanctuary got a little caught up in their presentation of iguanas in the media center during the Teach-in!

Groundhog Day has made a peek every year since 1886

By: Mikaela Wright & Peyton Hoffman

Groundhog Day started on February 2nd, 1886. It was originally called the Candlemas. Candlemas came from a Christian festival held on the same day as Groundhog Day. It was started because it's about halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. The Winter Solstice is the marking of the shortest day and longest night. The Spring Equinox is when the sun crosses the equator and the day and night are equal lengths. In the 1700's, German settlers arrived in America, and they brought the tradition of Candlemas, which is now called Groundhog day.

Punxsutawney Phil is the world's most famous groundhog. On February 2nd, the city of Punxsutawney holds a special festival for their famous little groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil. Since then he has grown in fame. He has seen his shadow 97 times and has not 15 times and 9 are not unaccounted for. Phil's predictions have been correct 37 percent. When it is cloudy and sometimes rainy, and the groundhog emerges, that means it will be spring because the clouds cover the sun so he will not be able to see his shadow. If it is sunny when he emerges, it will be winter because the sun shines down so he can see his shadow.

In 1993, they even made a movie about Groundhog Day starring Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell. This year on February 2nd, Phil emerged and saw his shadow so that means we are in for six more weeks of winter!



Winter Chill

By: Cheyenne Cronk and Isabella Cadogan

On January 20, 2017 an event called Winter Chill took place at SMS. The event was for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders with flight cards only. The event went on in the café and gym with music, snacks, and drinks in the café and fun in the gym playing things like basketball or just chilling out. In both areas students could have their phones out to play games or do whatever. The only catch was that you weren't allowed to bring food or drinks into the gym.

There were lots of students there, so that means a lot of flight cards! Flight cards have changed by the way you achieve them. In order to get one, you need to have no referrals and to have good behavior. It used to be different than this because you needed good grades (A's and B's). This change has affected students in different ways, but all in all the school believes this way is better for a reason. According to Mrs. Evans, a sixth grade history teacher and a part of PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System), the reason they changed the way to get a flight card is because they believe that positive behavior should be rewarded, and if you have good behavior, good grades will follow behind that. So, if you have good behavior you will tend to get better grades. She believes this way is better because students that act right should be noticed.

Flight cards help students who follow the rules be noticed, and at the same time students who get good grades also get noticed by the school...students with straight A's received a goody bag full of candy and little rewards. Therefore if you work hard for something, you will be noticed. This is exactly what Winter Chill did. It rewarded the students for following school rules by having this event. This was to tell students to keep being good and following rules because if you do you will get rewarded.

During Winter Chill they were playing popular hit songs like "Juju on That Beat" and "Steal Her Man." During the 7th grade Winter Chill at one point, everyone was crowded cheering on a dance off with 3 to 4 boys. While everyone was cheering, it suddenly turned into disbelief, then screaming... Drew Holyfield did a backflip for the crowd! Now that's something to remember! Everyone was singing and dancing and playing in the gym along with snapchatting, filming videos, posting, etc. Every moment of Winter Chill for everyone with flight cards at SMS was a blast, and that's all that really matters because a reward is something to appreciate when you deserve it!

Snow: Have You Ever Seen Snow?

By Sydney Gavaghan and Nataleigh Symes

It's not every day you run into some one in Florida that has seen snow. You can do a lot of fun and cool things in snow such as having snow ball fights, you can go sleighing, build a snow man, and so much more! Only twenty-five students in Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Evans and Mr. Mellinger's 7th period classes have seen snow out of 66 students. Mrs. Evans said, "I grew up in Michigan. You know that when your state looks like a mitten that it is going to be cold." Mr. Mellinger said, "living in a snowy state takes lots



of work rather than living in Florida because you have to shovel out your drive way if you wanted to leave your house." People in Florida don't get the snow experience so they go to Disney

World or Busch Gardens for the fake snow experience instead. A lot of people in Florida choose to do this rather than traveling. Overall, snow has it's advantages and disadvantages!

ALCATRAZ: THE STORY OF "THE ROCK"

By Bridget Thomas

A rock hard solitary place which was one of the most confining places known to man. It's name is Alcatraz. Alcatraz is most famous for the daring escape of John Anglin, Clarence Anglin, and Frank Morris, but do you know the history behind Alcatraz?

Alcatraz was not always a prison. It used to be a place where military prisoners were held. The prison was built in 1934 and closed in 1963. It had the ability to originally hold 348 inmates but twelve were removed for the stairs so it then had the ability to hold 336 inmates. It was closed after 29 years of operation because of the expensive of running it.

So, what happened to the people who escaped from Alcatraz? Nothing has been proven yet. However, people have many different opinions: some people think they're alive and others don't. I had the chance to ask some people about their opinions on the matter. Ms. Larision thinks they just disappeared and is quite uncertain of their fate. While Mrs. Russo thinks they had a boat waiting for them, and escaped, and are still alive to this day. Ms. Leikum and Mrs. Evans think they died due to the icy cold water in

the cold San Francisco Bay. Ms. Honig thinks they survived, but are not alive today due to old age. What do you think?

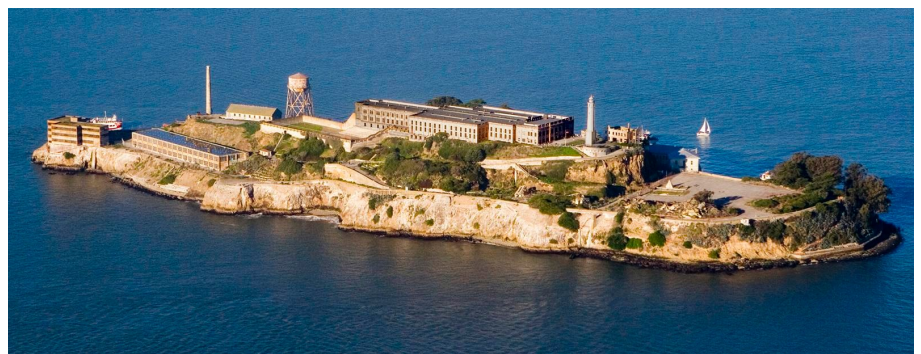
Alcatraz island is located in San Francisco Bay, 1.5 (2.4KM) offshore from San Francisco, California, U.S.A. None of the teachers who were interviewed have ever been to Alcatraz, but they would all like to go one day. Ms. Honig even went to San Francisco and tried to go to Alcatraz, but the tickets were sold out.

Mrs. Russo's favorite part of the Alcatraz story is the mysterious event that happened at the Anglin brothers' mother's funeral. This event happened after they escaped from Alcatraz. There were two

very tall, mysterious-looking women at the funeral who researchers suspect were the two brothers in disguise. Also, the best part of it all is they were right under the FBI noses.

The most famous inmates in Alcatraz were Alphonse Capone also known as "Scarface," George Kelly also known as "Machine Gun Kelly," and Arthur Barker also known as "Doc." There have been a total of 14 acknowledged attempts to escape Alcatraz involving a total 34 inmates.

So have you ever been to Alcatraz? If so, and you lived to tell about it, then you can say that you have actually escaped from Alcatraz!



SMS Gets Their Run On!

By: Elle Strickland

On February 5th and 6th, over 50 6th, 7th and 8th grade students attended and tried out for SMS' track team. And on Wednesday, February the 8th, was the time these runners have been waiting for. The results were posted, and approximately 35 boys and girls made the team. Olivia Gordon, (Livi), was one of the lucky girls, and, even though that this was a huge accomplishment, making the team would affect her schedule. "Not with my daily schedule," she told the Talon, "Only my after-school clubs on Mondays and Tuesdays. The rest of the week I am free but am happy that exercising was fit into my schedule." Livi also explained that she already was using running as a sport to her,

as jogging around her block, but was very excited that her running skills were put to good use. "Being on track will make me an even better runner than I already am, by support from friends and family at meets and lots of determination. I love running and this will make me more excited to go to school!" Along with Livi, a 6th grader named Kate McClellan was very proud and excited to make the team, but realized soon after that this accomplishment would also interfere with her schedule as well. "I play softball out of school, but even though I have softball, track is very important to me and I had promised myself that I would be as focused on track as I am on softball," Kate explained to the

Talon. Kate also told the Talon that, since track is very important, she would practice daily from now on, even after practices. "I do another athletic activity that involves running as well. I do triathalons, that include biking, running, and swimming, three things I love to do, too. But since track is all about running and softball requires somewhat running, that will be what I'm focusing on the most." Kate finished. Don't forget to watch one of SMS' track meets for girls and boys! The first meet for girls, where you can catch Livi and Kate in action, is in the beginning of March, (exact date is not in form yet). And that is the same with the boys' meet, too. Catch you on the field and don't forget to read the next issue!

NCAA National Championship

By Andrew Fyock

Clemson and Alabama were in the National College Football Championship. Clemson recently won against Ohio State. Alabama recently won against Washington to get to the championship. The championship was on January 9th.

The score of the NCAA national cham-

pionship was 35 to 31 with Clemson winning the game and Alabama losing only by 4 points! Clemson's record for 2016 was 14-1. Alabama's record for 2016 was also 14-1.

The winning touchdown for Clemson was made on a pass from Deshaun Watson to wide receiver Hunter Renfrow, who was wide open in the end

zone. Deshaun Watson referred it to "a pick" after the game. Clemson intercepted the ball by Alabama, which placed them deep in Alabama's territory. Watson threw 130 yards in the fourth quarter with 2 touchdowns.



Why Pets are Important to Us

By Brandi Colliver

Pets aren't just cute and funny and enjoyable to have. They're also important to us, and there are so many reasons why! First of all, pets provide us company. If you're feeling lonely or sad, there are several things you can do with a pet:

- Cuddle with a cat!

- Walk or play with a dog!
- Hold a hamster!
- Let a reptile crawl on you!

Secondly, we all have a special connection with our pets. We treat them like family, and that's why they're so close to us. All of our furry friends (or scaly reptiles or fishy family) have different personalities. Some are play-

ful, funny, loud, loveable and much more. No matter what characteristics your pet has, I think we can all agree that we have a special connection with our pets!

In addition, we can have fun with our beloved animals. For this new year, think about why your pets are important to you!

Full House Takes A Step Into The Future!

By Olivia Bordeaux

If you're a fan of the classic TV show "Full House" then I think you will definitely like the TV sequel "Fuller House". Fuller House features many of the original characters including:

DJ [Candace Cameron]

Stephanie [Jodie Sweetin]

Steve [Scott Weinger]

Kimmy [Andrea Barber]

Danny [Bob Saget]

Jesse [John Stamos]

Joey [Dave Coulier]

Becky [Lori Loughlin],

But the creator, Jeff Franklin, decided to add some new characters to the sequel including:

Fernando, Ramona and Jimmy [Kimmy's husband, daughter, and little brother, also Stephanie's love interest],

Matt [DJ's love interest]

Jackson, Max, and Tommy [DJ's kids]

Lola [Ramona's best friend and Jackson's love interest] Popko

[Jackson's best friend and Ramona's love interest]

Pamela Donaldson Katsopolis [Jesse and Becky's adopted baby]

CJ and Rose [Steve's fiancé and soon to be kid, Rose is also Max's love interest] and last but not least,

The family dog, Cosmo

Different people have different opinions on this show. Some of the opinions aren't great. Elle Strickland, 6th grade, doesn't like Joey's kids, Popko, Crystal or CJ. Though these characters are not good in her opinion, Elle also has some positive things to say about the show too! For instance, "Fernando is hilarious!" Elle is definitely on team Matt. Elle's favorite episode is "Girl Talk" which is also the favorite of Quinn McGann. Quinn ".....likes season 2 way better." And her "...hopes

and dreams came true [when DJ started dating Matt]. I thought it was AMAZING!" says Quinn. Hannah Robinson is also on team Matt. Hannah thought "DJ was going to make the worst decision of her life if she chose Steve. Thankfully, she dated Matt before she could get the chance to tell Steve she had some feelings for him." Hannah was "so surprised" when she watched the last episode. All in all, this show would be rated 4 stars out of 5!



Middle School Music

By Blake Bennett

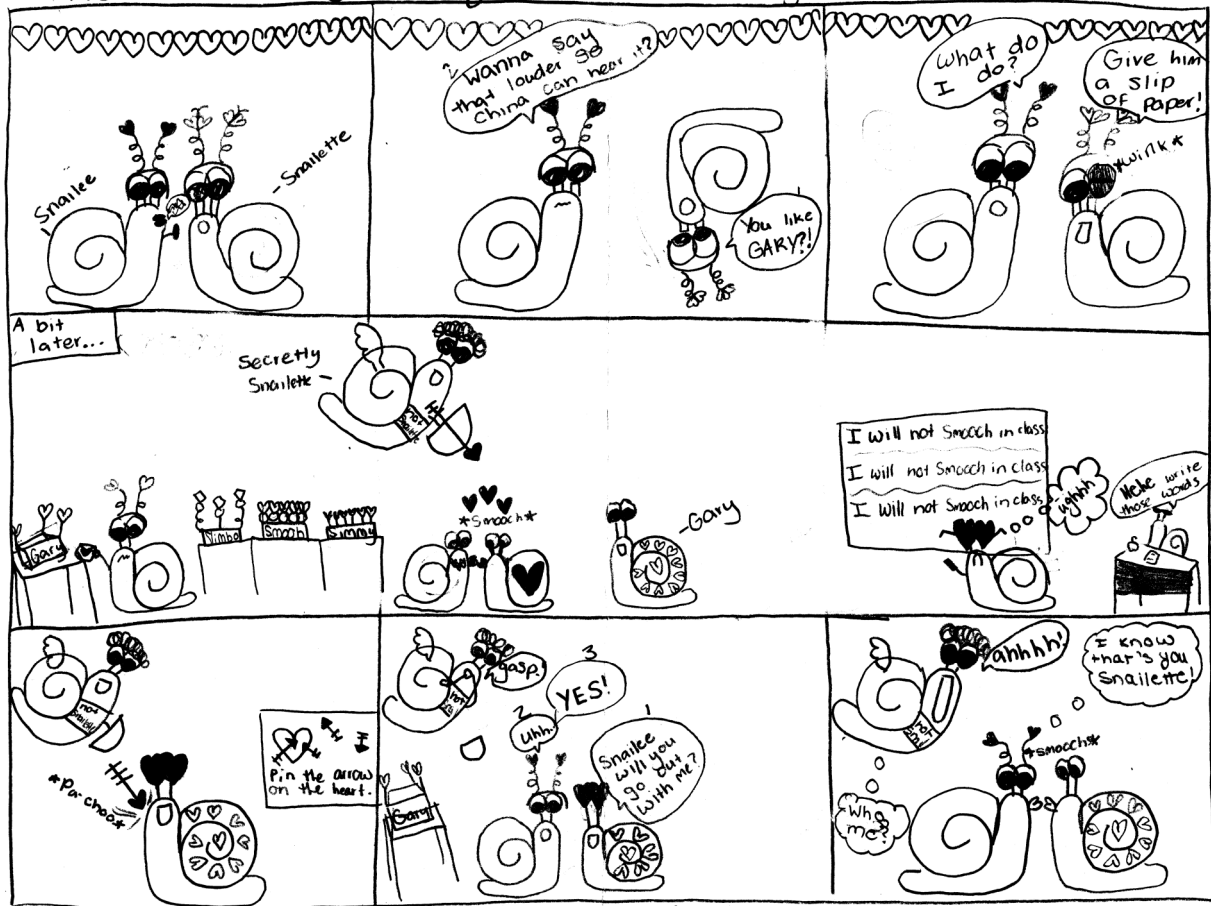
Middle school students listen to music all the time! Music genres vary from artists like Lil Yachty, Twenty One Pilots, Xxxtentacion and even more!! Some students listen to music just to get hyped up, to get in touch with their feelings, or just because they like the way the song sounds. I talked

to some students and results were all over the place. Student Keegan Zellmer said, "My favorite artist is Kodak Black." Other students favorite artists included Drake and songs like "One Dance." Some people also said their favorite artist is Justin Bieber. As you can see, these people have chosen many different artists that perform many different types of

music. Music is used in so many different ways. My favorite artist is "Xxxtentacion" and favorite song by him is "01 Manikin." So, how do you use, enjoy, and listen to music. Who is your favorite artist and what's your favorite song?

Snailentines Day

By: Quinn McGann & Elle Strickland



Birthday Coincidence!

By Ashelyn Bortner and Kyleigh O'Brien

Kids smiling faces. Balloons floating through the air. Presents stacked on a table. In many kids lives, their birthday is a very special day. Some kids plan their party for weeks. Others spend this day with close family. Whatever they do, kids all around the world look forward to celebrating on a day that's all about them.

There are only 365 days in a year but there are about 7 billion people on Earth. So of course, that means that many people will share the same exact birthday. Whether it's in the same year, or centuries apart, someone you know or have heard about, may share your birthday!

Around the world, September 16th is the most popular day to be born, and

September is also the most popular month. But, how does this compare to birthdates at Seminole Middle School? According to 117 different 7th graders around our school, October is the most popular month for birthdays. October has 19 birthdays, followed by March with 18 birthdays, and February with 13. December has the least amount, with only 3 birthdays. Then comes August with only 4. The most popular exact birthday is March 30th with 3 different birthdays falling on that day. That may seem like only a few, but it's actually a great coincidence for all 3 people out of only 117! We also found that most birthdays fall on the 2nd of every month, with 10 birthdays on that day! Most of the 7th graders we talked to were either 12 or 13 years old, meaning they were born in 2003 or 2004.

There are so many different coincidences revolving around your birth-



day! Maybe one day, you can find someone else with the same birthday as you!