



January 2026

## Nickels News

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## Love At First Bite Top 10 Valentines Day Sweets

Mae Avila

Valentines is the most famous time of the year for giving sweets to the people you know. You might be stuck on what to give them this year, so I can help you. Here are the top 10 Valentines Day sweets.

### 1. Conversation Hearts

*They give a cute message on both sides of the heart and have assorted, yummy flavors.*



### 2. Heart-Shaped Chocolate Boxes

*Taste amazing and look amazing. The gift is fantastic.*

3. Reese's Peanut Butter Hearts

*The best mix of hearts, peanut butter, and chocolate.*

4. Hershey's Kisses

*People love them. For their taste and for how they are opened*

5. Chocolate- Covered Strawberries

*A tasty, sweet treat, homemade or store bought.*

6. Lindt Lindor Truffles

*A crunchy, flavorful dessert. An absolute gift for your friends.*

7. M&M's Valentine's Mix

*Perfect for your M&M loving friends.*

8. Ghirardelli Chocolate Hearts or Squares

*A really nice chocolate for your really nice friends.*

9. Sour Patch Kids / Gummy Hearts

*A popular non-chocolate candy for your friends who aren't fond of chocolate.*

10. Russell Stover Boxed Chocolates

*Boxed chocolates so they don't finish it all in one day.*



# Valentines Day Around the World

Harrison Van Horn

We all know and love Valentine's Day and the traditions we have in the United States, but have you ever wondered what some of the different traditions of Valentine's Day are in different countries? If so, you have come to the right place. Today, we will be looking at Valentine's Day traditions from different countries, such as the United Kingdom, Mexico, and Japan.

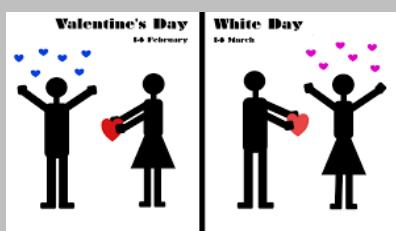
First, we are going to look at Valentine's Day in the UK. The UK has very similar traditions to the United States; likewise the most popular traditions contain giving, cards, chocolate, and flowers. The cards, whether anonymous or labeled with a name, are usually given to a partner, crush, or friend to show that you like and appreciate them. The chocolate normally comes in a box with multiple different types of chocolate. The flowers that are most commonly used are roses. Roses are a universal symbol of love and relationships.



Second, we are going to look at Valentine's Day in Mexico. Unlike the United States, Valentine's Day, also known as El Día del Amor y la Amistad in Spanish, in Mexico, Valentine's Day is not totally centered around being in relationships but instead spending time with your family. But there are still traditions for relationships as well. They often celebrate with a mariachi (A type of band). They often pay the band to play specific instruments or specific songs. People in Mexico also often take their loved ones to fancy restaurants. For the school children, like in the U.S., they exchange cards and treats, but unlike in the U.S., they also give out balloons.

Lastly, we are going to look at Valentine's Day in Japan. On Valentines Day or バレンタインデー, in Japanese, Instead of men traditionally giving chocolates to women, women give

chocolates to men. Chocolate, often called Honmei-choco, is normally given to a husband, boyfriend, or partner, is normally homemade and expensive. Giri-choco is a type of chocolate often given to friends, relatives, and colleagues. They are



always cheap store-bought chocolates. On March 14, men often give gifts to women, like expensive white chocolate and jewelry.

In conclusion, Valentine's traditions vary from country to country, and each tradition is unique and special, and no two countries have the exact same traditions. So when Valentine's Day rolls around this year, think about how you might be celebrating something completely different from someone on the other side of the world.



## CHOCOLATES, CARDS, AND FLOWERS

AMELIA RADLE

Many people give gifts on Valentine's Day. But what exactly do they give?

If you like popular gifts then look at the number 1 Valentines gift. If you like unique things then look at the most unique gifts.



Either way, what will you give this year?

## TOP VALENTINE GIFTS OF 2024 AND 2025



1. Candy and chocolate - In 2024 and 2025 around 56-57% of customers bought candy.
2. Flowers. About 40% of customers bought flowers. Is that what you will get?
3. Cards. Roughly 40% of customers bought flowers. Will that still be trending this year?
4. An evening out. Around 35% of people went out for dinner or an event. Will restaurants be booked?
5. Jewelry. About 22% of shoppers bought jewelry. Will you do the same?



## UNIQUE GIFT IDEAS



1. A handmade item by YOU. A scarf, an artwork, a pillow, a bookmark, a bracelet, a keychain, or if you're into baking, bake something!
2. Decoration. A snowglobe, a heart wreath, succulent with a heart pot, doormat (xoxo or heart etc), neon LED light, a mirror, or a heart picture frame.
3. Clothing. A Tshirt, a sweater, pants, pajamas, a robe, an apron, socks, a dress, or slippers.
3. Toys. A LEGO, a stuffed animal, a fidget, or a sqishmallow bouquet.



# The Winter Olympics 2026

Kooper Fonnesbeck



Some things to know about The Milano Crotina Winter Olympics are that it is being held in Milan, Italy and other nearby cities in Northern Italy. Another thing to know is that you can watch it on some broadcasting channels like NBC, Peacock, U.S.A Network, CNBC, and many more apps. Lastly, one of the

most important things is that it will take place from February 6 through February 22, and the Para Olympics will start March 6 through March 15.

## A New Sport To See

A new sport featured in the Olympics is called Ski Mountaineering (Skimo). Skimo is when athletes race up and down snowy mountains, using special climbing skins (boots) or hiking on foot, to climb up a mountain. They will transfer to skis and ski down the mountain. There will be medals given for the Men's Sprint, Woman's Sprint, and Mixed Relay.



## U.S. Athletes to Watch

Look for past Olympic stars like Mikaela Shiffrin and Lindsey Vonn who will compete in several Alpine Skiing events. Jessie Diggins, a Cross Country Skier, is expected to do well. Star Chloe Kim, a Snowboarder and past winner is hoping to medal again. Michigan Ice Dancers Evan Bates and Madison Chock will compete in Figure Skating. There is a Michigan connection with many of the USA Hockey team members. Many played for U of M's team or the Detroit Red Wings.



## Opening And Closing Ceremonies



Opening Ceremonies will debut on Friday, February 6th, with Andrea Bocelli performing with Mariah Carey, it is a 3 hour show that will be hosted on NBC.

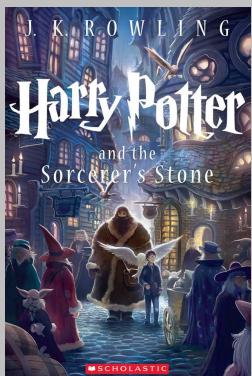
This year's mascots Tina and Millo will also be there. Tina is short for Crotina and Millo is short for Milan, the

locations of the Winter Olympics. For the upcoming Closing Ceremony held on February 22nd, ballet star Roberto Bolle will perform with opera music celebrating Italian cultural heritage. Traditionally at the Closing Ceremony the Olympic flame is extinguished. The flag of the next host city (USA Los Angeles Summer 2028) will be raised.



## Book Review

Addy Reer

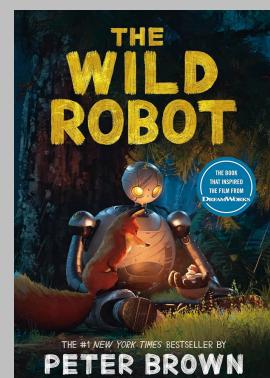


### Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling

Have you ever read the first Harry Potter book? If you haven't then you should. It is a great book about a boy named Harry Potter who gets chosen to attend a school to learn magic. There he meets people who become his closest friends, and when he goes to the sorting hat he gets chosen to be in the griffin door house. What happens next? Well you must read the book to find out.

### The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

The Wild Robot is a great book! It starts off with a robot who washes up on shore. In her panic she accidentally kills a duckling's family and she must raise the duckling, but she doesn't do it alone. Fox that she meets along the way helps her to raise the duckling and teach it to fly. You must read the book to find out if they can do



A  
it.

# What's Your Favorite Animal?

Anna Roskiewicz

Hi! Have you ever wondered what the school's favorite animal is? I asked 10 fifth graders and 10 sixth graders so let's get started.

## Fifth Graders

Dog  
Snake  
Flamingo  
Lion  
Turtle  
Turtle  
Cat  
Cobra



## Sixth Graders

Dog  
Cheetah  
Penguin  
Cat  
Parrot  
Chicken  
Elephant



And now the answer to the question you have been wondering...

*The most repeated animal was: DOG!!!*

Everyone has their own favorite animal but five people chose dogs. I love how everyone has their own special thoughts about their favorite animal. Have a good year people.

# Top Three Clothing Brands

## According to Me: Aislee Thrall

There are so many clothing brands in the United States but there has to be the top three, and here they are in my opinion.



At number one we have Louis Vuitton, Louis Vuitton is the most popular because of all of their classic shapes that are instantly recognizable. Also Louis Vuitton didn't start as fashion designer. He started as an elite traveling craftsman. Last but not least Louis Vuitton is tightly controlled with, pricing, distribution, and quality.

At number two we have a Chanel. From day one the Chanel brand has stood for elegant simplicity, black, white, clean lines. Just understated luxury. The Chanel doesn't chase trends, they let the trends come to them. Also, the Chanel isn't loud trendy or despite the fact they are disciplined, and symbolic..



In third place we have Nike. Nike isn't like "here's a sneaker you like", this is how you are when you wear them, your an athlete, a grinder, a rebel, and most importantly, you're a winner, even when you're just going to target.

