



The Gazette '18-'19

Valentine's Day Issue

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Special Issue

Accept Yourself First

By **Tori Wesley**

It's that time of the year again! Boxes of chocolates fill almost every store. Couples are hugging and kissing more than usual. For others, this is a lonely time. However, the more popular types of love overshadow the most important one: love for oneself.

No, self-love is not referring to being narcissistic. It means someone is accepting of themselves, flaws and all. While doing so may be difficult, it is possible. Several methods can be used to reach this point.

To start, a list of accomplishments should be made. Focusing on flaws and mistakes is too easy, especially since many of us view self-criticism as "being realistic." As helpful as mistakes can be, dwelling on them too much results in feeling miserable. Take, for example, Farnoosh Brock, creator of the website, Prolific Living.

"Even at the height of praise and approval, I would find a hundred faults with myself," recounts Brock.

Keeping track of successes is a reminder of how much has been done well. In return, one will feel like a more accomplished person.

Speaking of mistakes, forgiveness of self for past errors is also crucial. Listing positives can be helpful (as said before). On the other hand, a person cannot truly move forward without re-evaluating and learning to accept the moments where they did something wrong. The sooner this is done, the easier it is to move forward in life.

Another vital part of achieving self-acceptance is the people in one's life. Friends are an influence on not only the actions of a person, but the way someone feels about themselves. Being with a social group that encourages personal growth provides a safe environment. This way, someone feels free to find and learn to accept themselves without being pressured to do things a certain way.

There are a variety of different ways to become comfortable with oneself. Each one works differ-

ently and takes a differing amount of time for everyone. We're all our own people, after all. Despite that, anyone can learn to love themselves. It just takes patience and perseverance.

"Self-acceptance is something we can nurture."



Inspirational quote

Why It's Okay to Be Single on Valentine's Day

By **Lili Stokes and Luq Ssengo**

Valentine's day is customarily a day of the year when people celebrate love and each other. Sophomore Malik Benson says, "it's the only day out of the year for caring and love".

This is a time when people in relationships buy presents and publicize their love for one another. But for the people who are single, what's special about Valentine's day? Why is okay to not be in a relationship on Valentine's day? With the special day approaching many people have different feelings about being single.

Benson feels relieved when seeing friends on social media with their significant other. "Considering there's lots of other lonely guys", in other words Benson isn't alone in his loneli-

ness. On the other hand, the feeling of obligation to romance with someone on that specific day, is perfectly normal.

Though, there are so many other activities to do on the holiday! You can hang out with friends and go out. Junior Deshaya Bonner says, "Go with friends and I will buy myself some candy." You can hang out with your parents or your grandparents, really anyone who you care for or "vibe" with. If you still feel inadequate for not receiving a gift, you can do a gift

Happy
Valentine's
Day to
myself.
I love you.

www.livellifehappy.com

exchange. Sophomore Brianna Speaks says, "You can have multiple valentines".

And you are certainly no worse off by being single this Valentines than you are any other day of the year. Celebrate what the holiday is really about, love! That doesn't have to be with a significant other. Have fun, don't think too hard into. Enjoy your Valentine's Day!

What Students have to say about Love

By Alexis Campbell

Love is like those movies that you see on Lifetime and Hallmark; it's romantic. Although, Franklin High has their own opinion on love.

Besides, people have different outlooks on love, whether they are in love or not. Love can be a topic that many may not discuss in a conversation or even think about. On the other hand, love can be something everyone dreams of one day. Most students have agreed that love is attainable for everyone.

Junior Rares Socaciu said, "I believe love is something everybody experiences in life." Though, he did have an opinion on "love at first sight." Socaciu said, "No, I don't believe in it because it's like the same thing as 'don't judge a book by its cover'."

Not only can love come fast, but it can also come slow depending on time.

Junior Ayana Jones said, "It doesn't have to take long for love to come. You know when you love

someone when they don't leave your mind."

There have been stories students read when they were younger about true love and a happily ever after, and students realize there's fear about it, too.

Sophomore Rori West said, "I'm scared of loving someone and them not loving me back."

In addition, love can be many things, but the majority of students said love was described as magical, amazing, and happy. Many can agree that they've gotten "the talk" with their parents at a younger age about being too young to know about love.

Jones said, "Love is an emotion, it doesn't matter what age you are to prove it."

West said, "I think it's not smart for parents to tell you how you feel, but we shouldn't listen to other opinions on how we feel."



(Left to Right) Lilah Henderson and Jonathan Shkolnikov going to homecoming.

Furthermore, some may say, love is a tricky thing and can change you as a person.

As West would say, "Yes it changes you! Have you seen Princess and the Frog?"

An Advice Column

By Lili Stokes

Do you have something you need advice with? Do you have no one reliable to talk to you? Do you feel like you don't have any help?

Look no further, Franklin High School students. Now we are introducing an advice column.

In fact, we now have an Official Instagram account that you can respond with your needed advice. Follow us @fhs_gazette



Valentine's Day Events

By Nakira Boyd

Do you want to impress the girl/boy you're with? Do you want to go on a romantic date? Maybe even ask out your crush at a place with great scenery? You came to the right article. You're going to learn about a few tips for achieving the perfect date.

Learning About Sceneries in Your Area for Valentine's Day!

What an exciting year to try different things to celebrate Valentine's day. Do you like scary things? Try going to Bennett's Curse Valentine Fear Experience located 7875 Eastpoint Mall in Baltimore starting February 9. Students and Military receive \$5 off their visit which brings your total to only \$30.

More Activities!

Now, let's not exclude the go kart racing for this special occasion! Autobahn Indoor Speedway & Events has several locations including White Marsh, MD and Jessup, MD. This is great place to go on Valentine's day considering it is inexpensive. Also, if you register right now you can get a free race for your birthday! Auto Bahn says, "Do something DIFFERENT for Valentines Day this year." To spread the love, Auto Bahn is offering a deal from Monday, February 11 until Thursday, February 14: when you buy 2 races, you get 2 for FREE! Go on the website autobahnsped.com to the cashier to redeem the promotion.

Now, let's not exclude the grownups out of this wonderful holiday! Visit the Truffle making for only \$27 per person. Located in Robinson Nature Center at 6692 Cedar lane in Columbia. This activity starts February 16, and it's a great extension to the romantic idea of chocolates with truffle making!



Bennett's Curse Valentine Fear

How Accurate is Your Astrology

By Jenifer Fridman

Merriam-Webster defines Astrology as "the study of how the positions of the stars and movements of the planets have a supposed influence on events and on the lives and behavior of people". Although some people really believe that astrology plays an important role in our lives, most others would say that there's no way it's real. Using students at Franklin High School, the Gazette team tested the theory.

We asked random students in C lunch what their birthday was and asked their friends how they would describe their personalities. This is what they told us....

Capricorn

Those with a birthday falls between December 23rd and January 20th and are typically marked by their ambitious nature, active minds and a desire to be in control of their lives.

Fatima Gastro is a Capricorn and her birthday falls on January 16th.

Her friend Taylor Ford described her as "very caring, funny, dependent. Although her dreams are always changing, she wants to be a journalist and she's ambitious."

Is the astrology accurate? **YES**



Aquarius

An Aquarians birthday falls between January 21st and February 19th. They are described as not caring what others think about them. They take each opportunity they have and work towards formulating new ideas.

Troi Beckett's birthday is January 26th.

Her friend Roy her as "cool, charismatic, and weird She does what she care what other she's creative."



day is January

Jackson described matic, VERY in her own way. wants and doesn't people think and

Is the astrology accurate? **YES**

Pisces

A Pisces birthday falls between February 20th and March 20th. They are described as being extremely sensitive and reserved, but very good listeners and friends.

Kimberly Londeros's birthday is March 9th.

Her friend Aris Taylor described her as "funny, nice, smart, reserved, and sensitive."

Is the astrology accurate? **YES**



Aries

An Aries birthday falls between March 21st and April 20th. They are described as being independent and courageous. They enjoy leading others and bringing excitement into the lives of others. An Aries is enthusiastic and very goal-oriented.

Delroy Miller's birthday is April 15th. His friend Jen Lam described him as "a very funny person who takes the time out of his day to talk to you. He takes a lot of risks and enjoys spending time with other people."

Is the astrology accurate? **YES**



Taurus

A Taurus's birthday falls between April 21st and May 21st. as being stubborn fighting for what otherwise easy can tend to be also have a good-



falls between April They are described when it comes to they want and going. They procrastinators but work ethic.

Brianna Demarcy's birthday is April 29th.

Her friend Leah Suvorovsky described her as someone who "fights for what she believes in, is sassy, can be stubborn if she cares, and works SO hard."



Gemini

A Gemini's birthday falls between May 22nd and June 21st. They are known for their energy and are very talkative, typically those you would consider "social butterflies". A Gemini will always take their lives in the direction they want to go.

Avneet Kaur's birthday is June 6th.

Her friend Michelle Chen described her as "caring, smart, not a coward, very loud and talkative. She hopes to be a psychologist and is VERY passionate about it."

Is the astrology accurate? **YES**

Cancer

A Cancer's birthday falls between June 22nd and July 22nd. They are marked by inconsistency. They enjoy security but also seek adventure. They are not very predictable and always keep others guessing.

Shane King's birthday is June 26th.

His friend Lloyd Dunbar described him as "loyal, ambitious, and intelligent. He tends to be more reserved around strangers and less reserved around the people he's comfortable with. You never know his next move."

Is the astrology accurate? **YES**



Leo

A Leo's birthday falls between July 23rd and August 21st. They are known to have high self-esteem and are very devoted. They are also very kind and generous. They can be hot tempered but are forgiving.

Gabe Kinstlinger's birthday is August 14th.

His friend Ethan him as "monotone, unique. He has a self-esteem and gets mad VERY easily but doesn't hold grudges."



birthday is

Banks described serious, and very high self-esteem.

Is the astrology accurate? **YES**

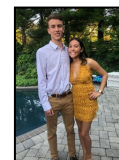
Virgo

A Virgo's birthday falls between August 22nd and September 23rd. They are described as very "mind-oriented". They are constantly analyzing and thinking. They enjoy bettering themselves and those around them.

Ben Morrison's birthday is August 24th.

His friend Esmeralda would describe him as "fun and a go-with-the-flow kind of guy. He typically does things in the moment. He procrastinates at times but always gets his work done. He is social around people he knows but doesn't typically step outside of his comfort zone."

Is the astrology accurate? **NO**



Libra

A Libra's birthday falls between September 24th and October 23rd. They are known for their diplomatic nature. They get along well with everyone and are ambitious. They also have very expensive taste and work hard to make money.

Navi Sidhu's birthday is October 10th.

His friend Robert Rosenberg described him as "oblivious, composed, calm and shy. He is not very passionate about the future and would agree that he does not have a good work ethic."

Is the astrology accurate? **NO**



Scorpio

A Scorpio's birthday falls between October 24th and November 22nd. They are described as very intense. They like to question everything and making sense of others with kindness and loyalty.



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Ben Clement's birthday is Nov 6th. His friend Katie Israel described him as "laid back and pretty relaxed. He is funny and a good friend but does not work as hard as he could."

Is the astrology accurate? **NO**

Sagittarius

A Sagittarius's birthday falls between November 23rd and December 22nd. They tend to have a very positive outlook on life.

They have vibrant personalities and enjoy meeting new people. They can also, however, be reckless.

Elise Glaser's birthday is December 13th.

Her friend Daisy Oberfeld would describe her as "caring, very attentive, empathetic, hard-working, and social. She's very careful and meticulous. She thinks through all of her actions."

Is the astrology accurate? **NO**

