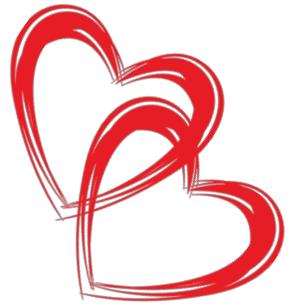


KAMSC's



84

STEPS

Valentine's Day Edition

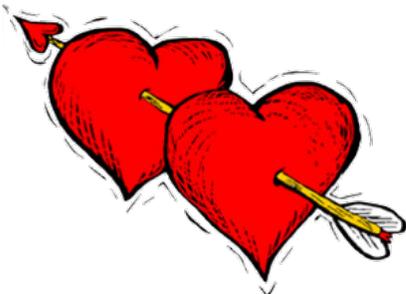


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Top 40: Romance Novels

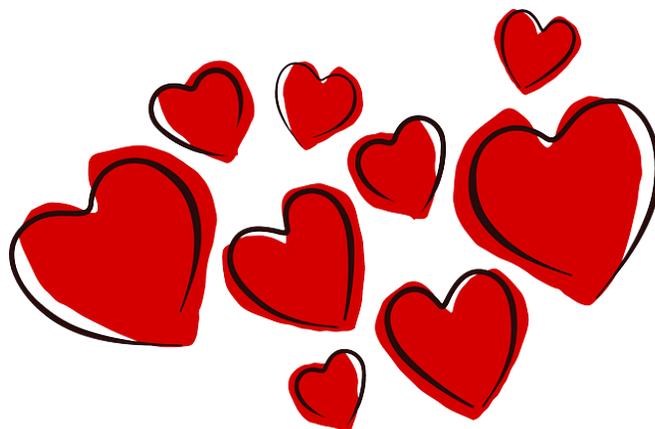


Zoha Aqeel

News

If you are alone on Valentines Day, the best alternative is to snuggle up in a blanket, and indulge in a romance novel—into the realm of fantasy. Here are some good reads:

1. The Fault in Our Stars by John Green
2. The Truth About Forever by Sarah Dessen
3. Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell
4. Just Listen by Sarah Dessen
5. Matched by Ally Condie
6. Lock and Key by Sarah Dessen
7. The Selection by Kiera Cass
8. Shiver by Maggie Stiefvater
9. If I Stay by Gayle Forman
10. Looking for Alaska by John Green
11. Someone Like You by Sarah Dessen
12. It's Not Summer Without You by Jenny Han
13. The Moon and More by Sarah Dessen
14. This Lullaby by Sarah Dessen
15. Duff by Kody Keplinger
16. Leaving Paradise by Simone Elkeles
17. Forget You by Jennifer Echols
18. Second Chance Summer by Morgan Matson
19. Along for the Ride by Sarah Dessen
20. The Book of Broken Hearts by Sarah Ockler
21. Emmy and Oliver by Robin Benway
22. Saint Anything by Sarah Dessen
23. Heart Breakers by Ali Novak
24. The Promise of Amazing by Robin Constantine
25. UnEnchanted by Chanda Hahn
26. Star Flight by Mellisa Landers
27. I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson
28. The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chb
29. An Abundance of Katherines by John Green
30. P.S I Still Love You by Jenny Han
31. All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven
32. Carry On by Rainbow Rowell
33. Catch a Falling Star by Kim Culbertson
34. Crossed by Allie Condie
35. Things We Know by Heart by Jessi Kirby
36. The Boy Most Likely To by Huntley Fitzpatrick
37. Since You've Been Gone by Morgan Matson
38. My Life Next Door By Huntley Fitzpatrick
39. The Start of Me and You by Emery Lord
40. The Thousand Skies Above You by Claudia Gray



Top 10 Gift Ideas For Valentine's Day



With Valentine's Day around the corner, lots of people are worrying about finding the perfect gift for their special someone. KAMSC students are stressed enough without the pressure of searching for hours. Here's a go-to list for your #1 nerd.

Top 10 Geeky Valentine's Day Gifts

1. Some of those really nice mechanical pencils. Especially if they've gotten to the point where *a* pencil becomes *the* pencil.
2. Anything Star Wars. Make sure not to start any arguments over who Rey's father is, though. (We all know it's Luke)
3. Buy their CS extra credit candy... especially the Milky Ways that take so long to get rid of.
4. Help with a USACO program. Because, let's be real, that's what most people really want.
5. A Rubik's Cube bigger than 3 x 3 for the ultra-nerd.
6. Starbucks/Biggby gift card. Is a KAMSC student even a KAMSC student without caffeine? I think not.
7. ANY sci-fi or math related film... *Interstellar*, *The Martian*, and *Good Will Hunting* are some great ones.
8. The equation of a graph of a carotid. Try $(x^2+y^2+ax)^2=a^2(x^2+y^2)$.
9. A cute message in ASCII binary.
10. Most importantly, a little understanding when he/she is stressed or upset. Stressed is something KAMSC students are an awful lot of the time and a little support can go a long way.

Student Senate Update



Jawad Aqeel

Update

Congratulations on getting past another set of KAMSC exams! Senate is back up and running, and we have a ton of events coming soon. Firstly, the KAMSC dance is coming soon and will be held on February 20th. The theme is Great Gatsby, as a result of the poll we had. In addition, Sci-Fi Film Fest is coming soon so mark your calendars for March 11th and 12th as this is a great way to bond with your KAMSC peers. Lastly, we will be raising awareness for sexual assault from February through March and more details on this will be provided soon.

As always, senate is open to anyone at KAMSC. Stay up to date on Senate news by checking out <http://kamsc84steps.weebly.com/student-senate.html>. We meet almost every Wednesday after Open Lab, and discuss interesting topics such as dance themes and songs, fundraiser events, and other fun items.

Happenings Around Kalamazoo



Simran Singh

Events

- February 12th – 14th – Singing Valentines, Kalamazoo Mall
- February 14th – Discover the Trout Run Trail, Kalamazoo Nature Center
- February 14th – Valentine’s Skate Date, Millennium Park Ice Rink
- February 19th – Beethoven and Nielsen, Miller Auditorium
- February 20th – KAMSC Spring Formal
- February 20th – Reptile and Exotic Pets, Kalamazoo County Expo Center
- February 20th – 13th Annual Teen Filmmaker Festival, Chenery Auditorium
- February 25th – Twilight Skate, Millennium Park Ice Rink
- February 28th – Winter Blast Half Marathon (5k and 10k), Portage Central HS
- February 29th – Leap Day Hike, Kalamazoo Nature Center
- March 11th – 12th – Annual Sci-Fi Film Fest Lock in, KAMSC
- March 12th – 13th – Maple Sugar Festival, Kalamazoo Nature Center

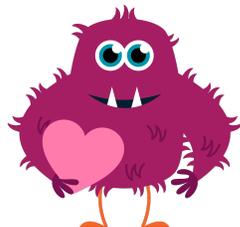


Top 10: Ways to Say “I love you”



With Valentine’s Day coming up, I’m sure you’re looking for the perfect way to say “I love you” to your special someone at KAMSC. Try out one of these, or perhaps a few of them:

1. “Being with you feels like acing a test.”
2. “Wear your goggles and know lab safety procedure, I can’t bear the thought of anything happening to you.”
3. “You’re better than finding an exact melting point.”
4. “If you’re my life’s input then my program will always run smoothly.”
5. “I hope my time with you is like the limit of $1/x$ as x approaches $0\dots$ infinite.”
6. “You are my favorite part of the entire Cosmos.”
7. “01101001001000000110110001101111011101100110010100100
000011110010110111101110101”
8. “Your heart must be massive, because mine is attracted to it almost gravitationally”
9. “You give me so much energy, I could give up caffeine”
10. “The happiness you bring me could not possibly be due to chance alone”



Sports Corner: Superbowl



Super Bowl Sunday: The day where football and non-football fans rejoice. The Super Bowl is a great day to spend time with family and friends eating junk food and “watching” the last game of the NFL season. Even if you aren’t a football fan, the Super Bowl is still fun as it provides a great reason to hang out with friends on a day normally reserved for homework. The Super Bowl this year was yet another fun day of enjoyment and here is what I took away from the game:

1. Cam Newton -- I feel bad for Cam Newton. He played one bad game and the world turned against him, similar to the situation with the Michigan punter. Cam Newton may have sulked a little more than usual and he may have left his press conference early; however, I believe he is being scrutinized too much. He lost the biggest game of his career of course he should be mad, and although he could have handled himself better, I give him a pass for his behavior.
2. The Half Time Show --The half time show featured three big names in music right now; however, the main attraction of Coldplay was overshadowed by Beyoncé and Bruno Mars. I feel like the NFL was pressured to add Bruno Mars and Beyoncé to the half time show after backlash ensued when they announced Coldplay as the headline act. This was unjust to Coldplay in my opinion who put on a great show before Beyoncé and Bruno Mars joined them on stage.
3. The Advertisements — The advertisements were not the best I had ever seen, but the movie trailers were the best part of the Super Bowl this year. So many movies showed trailers during the Super Bowl including *X-Men: Apocalypse* and the *Captain America: Civil War*.
4. Von Miller — Five words: Von Miller is a beast. He tried to prove to the Panthers that they shouldn’t have picked Cam Newton over him in the 2011 NFL draft, and he did so in style stripping Cam Newton of the football twice leading to 14 points off those turnovers.
5. Peyton Manning — Peyton Manning has been anticipated to announce his retirement as he is not the same quarterback that he was in the past. This Super Bowl was the perfect storybook ending for Peyton, and its great that one of the best players to ever play the position is able to retire in this fashion.
6. Papa John — After the game, the first person Peyton acknowledged on the way out to the center of the field was Papa John as he kissed him...that wouldn’t be the first person I would kiss after I won the Super bowl if I was married.

Valentine's Day Pick Up Lines

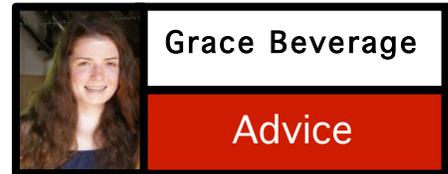


With Valentine's Day just around the corner, love is in the air. Got your eye on that special someone? These geeky pick up lines are sure to do the trick!

- Are you missing one electron? Because I've got my ion you
- Are you a carbon sample? Because I want to date you
- I wish your name was Avogadro, because then I would already know your number
- When I'm around you, I go through anaerobic respiration because you take my breath away
- Are you a 90 degree angle? Because you're looking right
- I wish I were adenine because then I could get paired with U
- If I could rearrange the periodic table, I'd put Uranium and Iodine together
- Baby, we've got chemistry together... next period
- My sudden protracted cardiac arrhythmia tells me I love you
- Are you my appendix? Because I have a gut feeling I should take you out
- I don't know if it's igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic, but baby, you rock!
- Do you dissociate completely? Because you're electrifying
- Do you have a high current? Because I can't resist you
- Even if there were no gravity on Earth, I'd still fall for you!
- Are you a hydrogen-based star? Because you're stellar
- I feel like an accretion disk, pulled in by you



Dear Grace...



We all know getting through the school year can be tough, and that some dilemmas need a second opinion. Submit any of your questions, qualms or queries to 'Ask Grace' at kamsc84steps@yahoo.com for anonymous & amateur advice. Questions are also accepted in the form of sealed letters quietly slid across tables, no questions asked.

Dear Grace,

I'm pretty sure I have senioritis. It's a serious case. When I do my homework it feels like an out of body experience: I'm just watching someone write and calculate without caring if they find the correct answers. Sometimes the clock will strike eleven before I even get around to starting my assignments, and some nights I honestly just don't do work at all. How do I get help?

Sincerely,
Señor Senioritis



Dear Señor Senioritis,

In four more months, it will all be over. So you can decide to keep up the effort and please your teachers by finishing the year strong, or just coast until graduation. If you choose the latter and find you have a lot of free time on your hands, take up an end-of-high-school-hobby! Crochet, run, cook, or write some articles for the 84 Steps. I have a feeling that when we're busy and over stimulated at college next year, we will appreciate having spent these months appreciating the simpler things in life.

Sincerely,
Grace



Dear Grace,

So I have a few friends who are very interested in what is clearly the most obnoxious high school activity in human history: forensic speaking. Apparently their season hasn't even started yet and they're already talking about it non-stop, it's almost like listening to a foreign language. Each and every one of them will swear by the importance of learning how to speak publicly, but I can not comprehend how anyone would reap so much joy out of speech tournaments, or how anyone could go on for hours without realizing how cyclic and boring it is to speak about speaking. I've tried dodging conversations on the subject, but my friends can't get off the topic. How do I deal with the endless forensics blab?

Sincerely,
Finished with Forensics

Dear Finished with Forensics,

How. Dare. You. Speak. A. Word. Against. My. Fellow. Forensicators. That's right – I'm one of them. And you should be too, because the best way to understand forensic speaking is to try it. Honestly, it's kind of a rush to have so much focused attention and expectation from the judges and audience as you present, and like your friends say, it is a wonderful learning opportunity. Speaking in front of others is difficult, but through forensics this difficulty is made into a fun opportunity to spend the day strutting around a school in a power suit, feeling strong and ready to vanquish – I mean supportively watch – your fellow competitors. If you do not want to participate or do not have time, try to at least visit a tournament to see what all the fuss is about. A few tips: do not touch visuals, especially not in front of their owners, do not judge anyone who looks like they walked out of a cartoon, those are the storytellers, and do not enter a room full of suits in a non-visual hallway unless you are ready to sit through an hour of oratorical or extemporaneous speaking. Know the difference between PA and Interp, and always tell your friends you would give them the one or the two after a round.

Sincerely,
Grace

Dear Grace,

Lately I have been seeing a lot of sexual assault awareness posters on the walls around KAMSC. I appreciate the information they present, but I am not quite sure how I can make a change. What can I do to contribute to the cause?

Sincerely,
Quick to Contribute

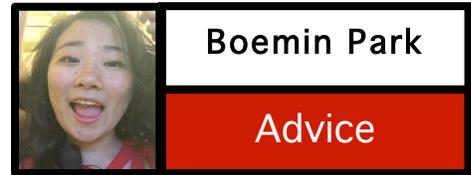
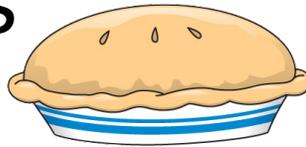
Dear Quick to Contribute,

Actually, asking yourself what you can do is a tremendous first step, and one of the main goals of the KAMSC sexual assault awareness campaign. Encountering the opportunity to make a difference in a case of potential sexual assault may not be an everyday occurrence, but it is important to be ready and motivated to act whenever possible. If you see a situation in which someone you can help may be in danger of sexual assault, do not fall prey to the bystander effect (our tendency to place moral responsibility or responsibility for action on others) and be sure to act. Call authorities if you feel unsafe confronting the situation. If you know one or both parties involved, a good strategy is to create a distraction so that the situation can be deescalated. Doing something as simple as giving an upbeat “hey I need to tell you something” and pulling a friend aside can help get them out of potentially dangerous situations. Know the risks and statistics surrounding sexual assault, and share these facts with others. While the information given by the KAMSC sexual assault program may not be immediately useful, it is unfortunately very likely that these facts will be relevant to students either as they become upperclassmen or enter their college years. So keep them in mind and remember: you can make a difference by preventing sexual assault.

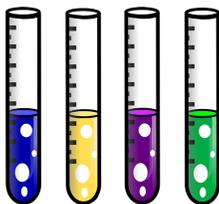
Sincerely,
Grace



Funny Quotes



- *Pointing at the formula $A=\pi r^2$ * “I used to think that pies were round, but looking at this formula I know that pies are squared.” – Mr. Milka, Calculus AB
- “A stranger’s dog licked my boots today and I just remembered my boots were coated in spilled acetaminophen powder. Hope your dog is okay, dude.” – Grace Beverage, PC Senior
- “I spent more time studying the forecast [for a snow day] than I did for my final.” – Tony Kayany, PC Senior
- “Term paper is due tonight and I haven’t started. KAMSC has prepared me for this moment.” – Connor Sloan, SC Senior
- “Freedom of speech means that you have the right to voice your opinion. It also means I have the right to call it stupid.” – Claire Holley, PN Junior
- “Why do something the hard way when you can do it the easy way?” “Yeah, that’s why we’re in here and not in Calc BC.” – Mr. Milka, Calculus AB, and Otto Kailing, KC Senior
- “I’m wearing a sweatshirt tomorrow so I can wipe my tears on it during my exam.” – Lizzie Kimmel, PN Junior
- “I chose to go shopping instead of doing KAMSC homework and I don’t regret it at all.” – Daryn Dratt, CS Sophomore
- *Watching the Super Bowl Celebration* “That guy is holding a sign that says “World Champs.” Only America plays football?” “We have to invent our own sports game to be called world champs...that says something about us.” – Alexa Vanderhoff, PN Senior, and Drew Schaefer, PC Senior
- “How do I get that orgo smell out of my hands?!!” – Amirah Bin-Mahfouz, KC Junior



- “Bernie Sanders ran long-distance track in high school. If that’s not a good enough reason to vote for him, I don’t know what is.” – Alexa Vanderhoff, PN Senior
- “I don’t have chemistry with chemistry.” – Liya Jin, PC Sophomore
- “Raisins are like old grandmas.” – Kyra Kothawala, PN Junior
- “I’ll postpone this quiz to save lives.” – Mr. Alsheri, Advanced Calculus

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