

(4/3/24 District Administrator's Corner Article)

As the snow melts, and our temperatures rise, everything seems a little lighter. And, there is nothing like the tradition of April Fools' Day on the 1st as a fun way for families to extend a prank, which is a practice that has been occurring for hundreds of years. (Teachers are also known for a good prank, by the way.)

Historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. In the Julian Calendar, as in the Hindu calendar, the new year began with the spring equinox around April 1 ... thus our connections to the date.

People from the countryside who were slow to get the news or were a little slow to transition practices to January 1 were targeted. Most often rural folks, they continued to celebrate the beginning of the year during the last week of March through April 1 and then became the target of jokes and hoaxes. They were then called "April fools." These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as "poisson d'avril" (April fish), which symbolized easily caught fish and a gullible person (History.com). The practice spread to England and then to other English speaking countries.

It is an exciting time as we near the end of a school year. We have just enjoyed a Spring Break, there is anticipation of spring sports and activities, and it is the final push of the year toward graduation. The energy of our students during spring seems to be infectious and we all tend to smile a little more.

Here are a few jokes—family friendly, of course—to share with someone to spark a smile:

~What did the mama cow say to her calf after he stayed up too late on April Fools' Day?

"It's pasture bedtime."

~Why don't eggs play April Fools' pranks?

"They might crack each other up."

~What kind of shoes do frogs wear when spring comes?

"Open-toad."

~Why don't chickens play pranks on April Fools' Day?

"They don't engage in fowl play."

Enjoy the weeks of added sunshine! River Valley School District students are ready to finish this year with a smile on their faces and a spring in their step.

Sincerely,

Loren Glasbrenner, District Administrator  
River Valley School District