

Leaping Past the Years

By Gabriel F. Grade 3



“Thirty days hath September, April, June, and November; all the rest have thirty-one, excepting February alone, which hath twenty-eight, in fine, until leap year gives it twenty-nine.”

And so goes the story of leap year. Did you know that someone born on leap day only celebrates a birthday every four years? A leap year is a year with one extra day inserted into February.

The leap year occurs to synchronize the calendar year with the solar year. The solar year is the length of time it takes the earth to complete its orbit around the sun. This takes $365\frac{1}{4}$ days. In a leap year, there are 366 days.

The chances of being born on leap day are 1 in 1500. In the United States, 187,000 people have been born on leap day.

My mom was born in a leap year on leap day. When she was little, she felt left out, not having her own birthday every year. She celebrated her non-leap year birthdays with her brother, who was born on February 21. One of mom’s favorite birthday memories was her twentieth birthday. My grandma and grandpa gave her a surprise party. Because she was really only five, all her presents were those given to a five-year-old. She got yo-yos, crayons, bubbles, stuffed animals, and crayons! Now that she is older, she does not mind skipping a few birthday years!