

MSAB Fall Traditions January 2023

(music—rock/drum beat)

Marissa: Hey everybody, it's me, Marissa!

Bellah: And I am Bellah.

Marissa: We've been thinking of the cool fall traditions we have here at MSAB.

Bellah: Yeah, like trick-or-treating, Scarecrow Fest, and the Thanksgiving Feast, of course.

Marissa: Yeah, all of those. And we thought it would be fun to learn more about them.

(music—rock/drum beat)

Bellah: For the past couple of years we've been celebrating homecoming. Some events during the week are a talent show, Minute-to-Win-It games, track and field day, spirit or dress up days, and of course goalball. We usually have a staff versus students game.

(sounds of a goalball game in background)

Marissa: Another event we enjoy is MSA's Scarecrow Fest.

Bellah: We asked our Student Life Assistant Director, Hope Miller, to tell us more about it. She said Scarecrow Fest started years ago by staff member Sally Kramer, who is retired now.

Marissa: She also said it helped to bring together our schools and the community because in the past there were many outside businesses that would participate in the Scarecrow Fest. For example, child care centers, nursing homes, and other businesses participated. It was a big deal!

Bellah: Hope says that there have been amazing displays throughout the years; it's hard to pick a favorite. Last year she loved the 1st place team. Their theme was "Bee Kind" (B -E -E). There were bees made out of pop cans, flowers that were uniquely made of recycled products. It was amazing!

Marissa: On October 14th we celebrate White Cane Day. That's the day we go to the State Capitol. We gather in the capitol rotunda and we hear speakers, some which are our elected officials and hear the White Cane Day Law read. This year we sang a song which MSAB students wrote. Here it is:

(students singing, along with shakers, drum, and guitar)

*“Independence comes naturally,
It’s what my white cane does for me.
The White Cane Law we’ll all agree (gives me)
IN-DEP-END-ENCE!*

*When I travel with my white cane
Through intersections and traffic lanes
Cars must stop and give right of way
So I’ll stay safe and go on my way.
IN-DEP-END-ENCE!*

*Independence comes naturally,
It’s what my white cane does for me.
The White Cane Law we’ll all agree (gives me)
IN-DEP-END-ENCE!*

*Confidence is the key,
And this white cane is just for me.
I use my cane at work and school,
It’s my favorite special tool.
IN-DEP-END-ENCE!*

*Independence comes naturally,
It’s what my white cane does for me.
The White Cane Law we’ll all agree (gives me)
IN-DEP-END-ENCE!”*

Marissa: Later in October, we also have a costume contest for Halloween. It is sponsored by Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union here in Faribault. We asked Brenda Nelson, a mortgage loan officer who works at Affinity Plus, how this got started.

Brenda: Hi, I'm Brenda. I work for Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union. I do mortgages there, actually, and I've been there for 20 years, and I'm really glad to be here today to talk about some of your fall traditions. So I have had the honor to join your school as a judge. So many, many full moons ago, one of your employees who is also a member of the credit union, thought we may enjoy coming to your school and participating in the Halloween party as guest judges. I'm one of the employees that got to go into the community and talk about the credit union and what we have to offer, so I quickly volunteered. I believe it's been over 10 years now. A few years back I remember one costume that I couldn't figure out

and had to ask the young man what his costume was. He had the letter “E” made out of felt and it was brown in color. Can you guess what he was? He was a brownie! (Marissa chuckles.) Another year we had Prince and I love Prince, so I really enjoyed that year. And last year, one of the winners was a person in a shark cage!

(music—rock/drum beat)

Marissa: Here at MSAB we also do trick or treating in the hallways for Halloween.

Background voices: “Trick or Treat! Thanks for the Whoppers, Adam...”

Bellah: MSAB also has a tradition of having a Thanksgiving “feast” these days. This means we go to the cafeteria and have a turkey dinner at lunchtime. But back in the day, it was even a bigger deal. We asked Vicki Akemann about it.

Vicki: Hi, I'm Vicki Akemann. At present I am a SEPA. I've worked here 49 years. I think it began in the 70's. As far back as I can remember, it was probably about 1978. And it was something that the kitchen did for the entire school. Well, back then all the tables had white tablecloths. They were cloth and the napkins were cloth, and they had flowers on every table and candles, and the entire school got to eat for free. I worked night watch that year and I had... I was in Dow Hall on the third floor by myself in that big scary building, and at midnight I had to go down to the basement where the kitchen was and turn the turkeys on. And then the next day the whole school would smell like turkey.

(music—rock/drum beat)

Marissa: Hey Bellah, what's your favorite food they have at Thanksgiving Feast to eat?

Bellah: My favorite food at Thanksgiving Feast is the Turkey and mashed potatoes.

Marissa: My favorite dessert they have there at that Thanksgiving feast is pumpkin pie.

(music—rock/drum beat)

Marissa: It has been interesting to hear about how these traditions were started. Everyone who we interviewed had a lot to say, and we couldn't include it all. These events are a fun addition to our usual school schedule.

Thank you to everyone who we interviewed: Hope Miller, Brenda Nelson, and Vicki Akemann.

(music builds and fades)