



Northern Light



NMS OFFICIALLY WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL, MR. NELSON

By Maya Halpert



The start of a new school year is always filled with excitement and new possibilities, but this year even more so, because former Assistant Principal, Mr. Nelson is starting off this shiny new school year as principal. Becoming the principal of a school is quite the transition, one that takes effort and patience. I was lucky enough to be able to chat with Mr. Nelson about his new position and his past teaching career.

Q: What made you first want to be a teacher?

A: For me, I always knew I wanted to work with kids. It started out with me wanting to coach. I loved sports. So I thought, what could I do to help me coach, and that was - become a teacher. My first choice was Phys Ed. But, ultimately I became a Social Studies teacher.

Q: What have you learned about teaching since you've started?

A: I have learned that kids learn best from people they like, and kids learn best when they enjoy a classroom environment a teacher creates. So it doesn't even matter what they're learning, if they like the person who's teaching them that, and if they like being in that person's class, then they're more likely to learn.

Q: Where do you get all your dad jokes from?

A: I get them from a dad-a base. Get it? DAD-a base? No, in all seriousness, sometimes students will give them to me, and sometimes I'll look them up, and sometimes I'll just think of them.

Q: What's your favorite dad joke?

A: I can't even say I have a favorite. I think the ones that I come up with on the spot, and that the ladies in the office will tell you, those are the ones I'm most proud of, because those I didn't look up.

Q: Did the way you look at things change, either from an educator point of view or just as an everyday person, now that you're the principal, and if so, how?

A: Yeah, it has changed. I see myself as principal more front and center. I need to be extremely visible. I need to have people see me as available, and as approachable, and that's both kids and staff. So I always need to project that I'm someone people should feel comfortable around, and that people should feel confident in knowing that they can talk to me about anything.

Q: What do you want the students at North Middle to take away from their time here?

A: I really want them to feel like they were seen and noticed and heard for who they were, or who they are. That there was at least one person, and ideally more than that, who really knew them and understood them, and helped them discover who they are.

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Q: If you weren't the principal, what would you do instead?

A: I mean, obviously I'd be a standup comedian. No, I think I would have loved to have been a doctor or something in the healthcare profession, something where you're helping people.

Q: How long have you worked at North Middle?

A: I was a guidance counselor here for three years, from 2015 to 2018. Then I came back as assistant principal in 2023. So in total I've been here for about five years; three years as a guidance counselor, one year as assistant principal and one year as principal.

Q: What do you consider to be the most important school subject?

A: Learning how to appropriately socialize with people, and it's kind of built into every subject, is the most important part of middle school. So I can't say that there's any one that's more important than the others, but I think all of them provide opportunities for people to learn how to be appropriately social with each other.

Q: What is the most valuable thing you've learned from being an educator?

A: I've learned that, as an educator, you don't have to do big, large, grandiose things to make a difference. You just have to be consistently good to kids, consistently understanding towards kids, and consistently showing excitement for your subject, and you're going to make a positive impact on people's lives.

Q: You were interviewed for an earlier issue of Northern Light, before you became the principal, coincidentally by my sister, Lila Halpert. Does it feel different to be interviewed as principal, and if so, in what ways?

A: It still sometimes doesn't feel real, that I'm principal. Sometimes I can't believe it; that I have this enormous responsibility. Now sometimes I wake up and I still can't believe that I'm principal. I feel so blessed and fortunate that I get to be (principal), but it still surprises me sometimes.

Q: Some students think that you and Mr. Parker look similar. What do you think?

A: Really? I have heard that, and a funny story is, when I left in 2018 to go be an assistant principal at another school, they hired him the summer that I left. I got a lot of texts and calls that said, "There's a guy working here, who looks just like you!" Except, at the time, I had no gray hair, so that's why he looked just like me, but I could see the similarities. I think he's definitely better looking than me, but so be it. He's younger, he's smarter, he's got a lot of things going for him. But I definitely see the resemblance. He's got the red beard, I had a red beard before it turned gray. So I see what people mean when they say that.

As you can see, from Mr. Nelson's thoughtful responses and playful dad jokes, he is committed to the students here, and is willing to put in the work to help make North Middle an even better place to learn. The future is looking bright for our school, and it's certain that Mr. Nelson will make a wonderful principal.



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NMS's 2025 School Musical: *The Lightning Thief*

By Lily Weinberg

On Wednesday, March 19 and Thursday, March 20, North Middle School will be introducing their new musical....the one, the only, *The Lightning Thief*! Dun Dun Dun! You're probably asking, "Lily, what's *The Lightning Thief*?" It is a fantasy about a modern light hearted boy who learns his biological father is Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea. That means he is a demigod. Some of the challenges that Percy had to face were his ADHD and his dyslexia, which led him to multiple expulsions. He also had to go on a big quest to the entrance of the underworld in Los Angeles.

I interviewed Mrs Murdocco, the director of the school musical.

Q: Why did you choose this musical?

"I am a huge fan of the Percy Jackson series and Rick Riordan in general. When the musical first came out, I wanted to be able to bring what I've read to life. After two years of more classic shows (*The Wizard of Oz* and *Newsies*), the team was looking at something modern that we had never done before. While *The Lightning Thief* has a lot of technical aspects that are challenging (we have to bring a Minotaur to life!), the music mixes different styles of rock plus traditional broadway, pop and even bluegrass!"

Q: Have you ever seen this musical?

"Unfortunately, I did not have a chance to see it when it was in New York City. That being said, there are a lot of clips floating around YouTube so I have had a chance to see what they did with it. I try not to let other productions influence how I direct so I often will wait on watching outside performances. That being said, I am re-reading the book so I can use what was written in the original text to influence my choices."

Q: What role do you play in the play's production?

"My job within the musical world is the Director and co-Music Director. I am in charge of creating the entire world the audience sees and my choices affect what the rest of the team does. I also work on the vocals with the actors and conduct the musicians in our orchestra. I'm very lucky to work with a lot of wonderful adults who have been a part of our productions for many years."

Q: Is there anything else you would like to share?

"I would encourage every student to be involved with one of our shows at least once. While it can be time consuming, the reward at the end of the process is worth it and it is the only place in our building where a large group of students from every grade are working together on a long term project with a performance goal. We hope to see many of the readers at our auditions!"

Personally I'm very excited about this opportunity. How about you?



The New Harry Potter Club

By Karin Norber

Journalist Karin Norber interviews Alexis Gelb and Ms. Andreacchi!

Alexis Gelb has come up with an idea to make a Harry Potter club! Ms. Andreacchi agreed to this and is helping her with her new club idea. This club will be interesting for any book lovers, even those who have not yet read this amazing series of books! Did you know that the Harry Potter series is about 17 years old? The first book came out in 1997, but the entire series was completed in 2007!

Read below for the exciting interview with Ms. Andreacchi and Alexis Gelb!

Q: How did you get the idea for this club?

Alexis Gelb: I've always loved the Harry Potter books. The wizarding world is so amazing and it makes me feel as if I were there with the characters experiencing all the magic. Since fifth grade when people came to tell us about the clubs in middle school, I had the dream to start North Middle's own Harry Potter club!

Q: Why did you decide to make a club about a specific series (Harry Potter)?

Alexis Gelb: Because I love the Harry Potter series, it's my favorite!

Q: What will you do in this club?

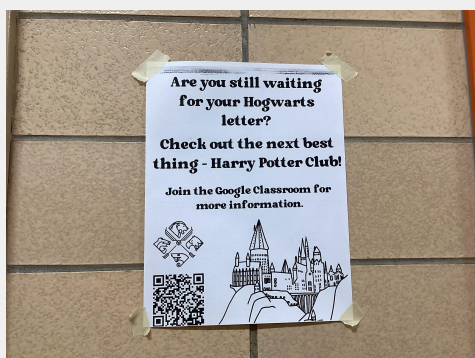
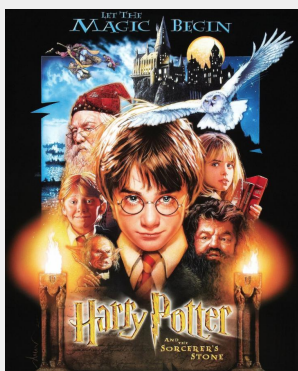
Ms. Andreacchi: All sorts of Harry Potter stuff! We'll play games, watch some movies, and maybe make some art, like making your own wand."

Q: Why do you think this club is important to other students to attend?

Ms. Andreacchi: I think it will be fun, and I think it's good for people to meet other people with the same interest.

Q: Where would this club be attending? Why this place?

Ms. Andreacchi: 154 because it's my classroom, and the club will be meeting on Thursday.



The Club Fair

By Ella Shapiro

NMS's club fair took place on September 26 in the school gym. It started at the beginning of homeroom. First, you would either drop your stuff off at your locker and then go to the gym, or go straight to the gym.

When you got to the gym, you would look around at all the clubs. There were so many clubs including our very own club, Northern Light, the Woodworking Club, the Robotics Club, Crafty Cooks, ect. All of these clubs were set up on tables throughout the gym. Each table had the Google Classroom code and an example of what they would do in the club meetings and events.

My personal experience was that I chose to go straight to the gym, then I looked around, found some friends and walked around. The clubs I personally chose were Woodworking, Northern Light, and Robotics.

I interviewed other students and teachers. One of the people I interviewed was Lily. I asked Lily what clubs she joined and she said that she joined 6th grade Homework Help, Northern Light, and the school musical. I also asked what her experience was with the club fair. She said that there were so many different clubs she could barely choose. The last thing I asked her was what her favorite club was. She said that her favorite club that she saw was Crafty Cooks Club.

I also asked one teacher, Ms. Wang and she said it was exciting to see all the kids come in. She also said her favorite part was seeing all the different ways club advisers get students interested in their club. For example, Mr. Denise had all of the video game consoles displayed. Additionally, Ms. Yarow displayed all of the games she would use in the Unplugged Club.

This is how the club fair works and many of the club advisors hope to see you join one next year.

Advice from Miss Know-It-All

Dear Miss Know-It-All,

I am a 6th grade student who is taking the bus for the first time. It has been a few weeks, but I am still scared walking to and from my house. Since I live a block away, I'm worried of getting hurt, or that a stranger will approach me. My parents are often out of the house by the time I get home. There is no one else on my stop and I only have a couple of friends in my neighborhood. I'm the last one getting off the bus. What should I do?

Thanks,
Worried Wendy

Dear Worried Wendy,

It is a big transition from elementary to middle school. The bus is a safe way to get from home to school. My advice may sound harsh, but it is true. Just do it. Do not avoid going on the bus. You can invite a friend to go home with you in the afternoon or sleep over and go on the bus with you in the morning. When walking to and from the bus stop, make sure you are alert. This means not to look down at your phone or listen to music on your air pods. Over time, you will get used to the bus and it will be just another thing you do each day.

From,
Miss Know-It-All

Dear Miss Know-It-All,

I am an 8th grade boy who has always wanted to try out for the play. I've always been given ensemble roles, but want a bigger part. I am not a great singer, but I love to perform in front of an audience. The last time I was on a stage was in a 5th grade play. I had a small part with only 2 lines. Since I'm in the oldest grade this year, I am hoping to get a bigger speaking role. I don't want to audition and have to quit because of my role. I want to show others that I am worthy of more. How do I guarantee myself a good role?

Please help,
Peter Peterson

Dear Peter,

First of all, I give you credit for wanting to be on a stage in front of an audience. Not everyone is comfortable performing for a crowd. Second, it is also great that you want to be part of the play and the drama club. I hear they are a great group of people. This year's play is supposed to be great and there are a lot of potential roles. If you haven't tried out for "One Acts" then you definitely should. It is an opportunity to audition for a part without having to dance or sing. I realize by the time you get this, it might be too late. In that case, when it is time to audition for the play, you will have the chance to choose a song or a monologue. The bigger roles are given to those who sing. It doesn't mean you will be singing solo in the play. Practice every day in front of a mirror, friends, and family. The more you practice, the better you will be. I wish you luck. Hope to see you on stage in March.

From,
Miss Know-It-All

Presidential Profiles

By Becky Aguirre



The 2024 presidential election was held on November 5. This year the two candidates who were running for president were Donald Trump and Kamala Harris.

Kamala Harris is the 49th Vice President of the United States. She was born on October 20, 1964 in Oakland California, and she is 60 years old. She is in the Democratic Party for political affiliation. She has two daughters and she is married. She was the vice president for Joe Biden. Harris worked as a deputy district attorney in Oakland California and had a reputation for toughness as she prosecuted cases of gang violence, drug trafficking, and abuse.

Donald Trump was born in Queens, New York on June 14, 1946. Donald Trump is 78 years old. Donald Trump has 5 children. During the 2016 primary, Trump defeated more than a dozen rivals to win the Republican nomination. While he lost the popular vote in 2016, Trump defeated former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in the general election by winning a majority of Electoral college votes. His campaign slogan was “Make America Great Again.”

In the end, Donald Trump won the election.

The Presidential and Vice Presidential Debates

By Dylan Chen

This year, there were three presidential debates. The first was on June 27th, broadcasted on CNN in Atlanta and was between Trump and Biden, the second was on September 10th, broadcasted on ABC News in Philadelphia and was between Trump and Harris, and the third was the vice presidential debate on October 1st, broadcasted by CBS News in New York City, and was between Walz and Vance.

Debates are held because seeing how a candidate responds to certain issues reveals things about the candidates. Seeing how they respond is important because people often need to know how they make decisions to have a final opinion. In the debate, the candidates were asked about a certain issue and had two minutes to respond to it. Issues included border security, immigration, climate change, poverty, and more.

To conclude, presidential debates let you see how candidates respond to certain issues and their view on the world.

Impact of Recent Hurricanes: Hurricanes Helene and Milton

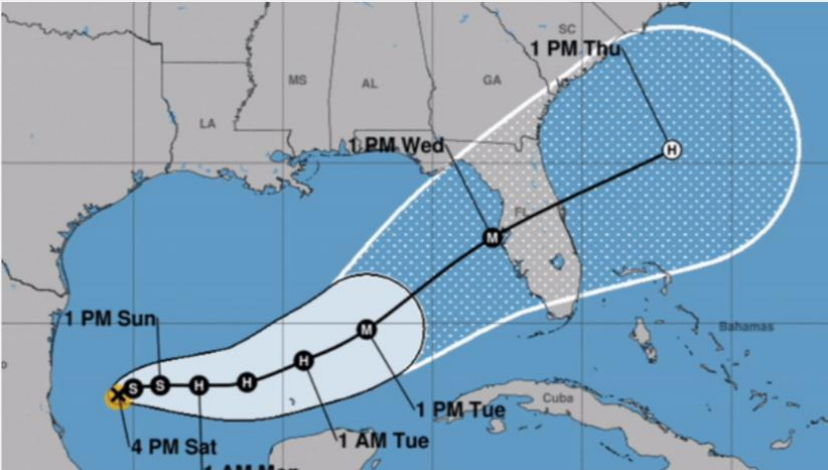
By Eric Lu

On September 26, 2024, Hurricane Helene made landfall near Perry, Florida, with sustained winds of Category 4 strength (140 miles per hour). That morning, Helene was a Category 2 Hurricane and that’s when it began its period of rapid intensification, becoming a Category 3 at 2 p.m. and at 6:20, a Category 4 Hurricane. The next day, Helene moved inland towards the Appalachian Mountains, and started to affect the Carolinas. Helene dissipated two days later.

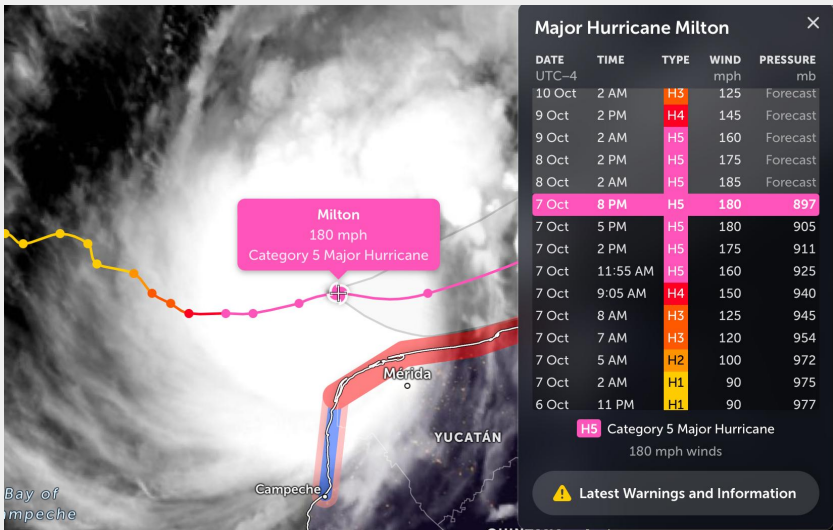
Over the week after Helene struck, officials began counting the fatalities and the damage. Especially hard-hit was North Carolina, with over 75 fatalities there. Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Kentucky all had fatalities. The initial damage estimate was \$20 billion, but now the estimate is \$40 billion with other companies estimating much higher. Some North Carolinian towns did not expect such a strong hurricane to land, and many people did not evacuate.

Just when the people of Florida thought that they could return home to inspect the damage, the environment proved them wrong. Hurricane Milton formed on October 5th, as a tropical depression in the Gulf of Mexico. Though it eventually became category 5, one of the initial advisories did not forecast this, but it did state that “nearly all of the forecast models are showing a peak of category 4 or 5 in three days”. During the day of October 7th, Milton underwent explosive intensification. Walking into school, zoom.earth showed Milton as a Category 3 with wind speeds of 120mph. At 8 a.m., Milton was upgraded to a Category 3 with wind speeds of 125mph. At 9:05 a.m., Milton was upgraded to a Category 4 with wind speeds of 150 mph. At 11:00 am Milton was upgraded to a Category 4 with wind speeds of 155mph. Later in the afternoon, Milton became a Category 5. The hurricane did not stop its intensification after the school day. At 8pm that night, Milton reached its peak intensity, with a wind speed of 180 mph and a minimum central pressure of 897 mb. Many Floridians were freaking out at that point. Milton weakened before making landfall in Florida as a Category 3.

After the damage, total costs for both hurricanes were about 85 billion and deaths at over 300. People and organizations can help these communities that are in need of hurricane relief! North Middle school is one of these organizations! NMS raised \$500 to the American Red Cross!



Forecast: Before



Forecast: After

The Tesla Cybertruck: The Future of Cars

By Joshua Shaul

On July 15, 2023, the first Tesla Cybertruck was built in Tesla's giga Texas facility. The Cybertruck may look odd at first, but the amazing physical and internal features make this car a bit ahead of its time.

Tesla is a multi billion dollar company owned by billionaire, Elon Musk. Two men named Martin Eberhard and Marc Tarpenning originally founded the company on July 1st 2003, in San Carlos, California. The company was originally named Tesla Motors. The name "Tesla" was a tribute to the inventor and electric engineer named Nikola Tesla. Although Elon Musk did not originally found Tesla, after becoming the company's biggest shareholder, then being promoted to the position of the company's chairman, he eventually was promoted CEO. From then on, Elon Musk has remained the CEO of Tesla, creating new, innovative ideas. From the original Tesla Car, to what is now the Cybertruck, Tesla has come a long way.

Now that you know what Tesla is, let's take a look at the Cybertruck. The Cybertruck, as of 2024, is one of the most popular topics when it comes to cars. At first glance, the Cybertruck may look pretty boxy. This is because Tesla's original goal was to reimagine what a truck could be. The Cybertruck also has a special feature for power. It charges with an electrical charging station. This charging station is connected to the car, just like filling it up with gas! The Cybertruck is more on the futuristic side, with its distinctive shape and many safety features, this truck is like no other.

The Cybertruck comes with a wide variety of safety features that makes it different from other car brands. The most useful features include an auto pilot mode, bulletproof windows, and the truck being able to tow over 11,000 pounds. A feature that makes this truck safe is the crash resistance. If a head-on crash were to occur, the front of the car is designed to shatter into small pieces, reducing the impact for the driver. Out of all the features this truck has, the rest pale in comparison to the autopilot. The autopilot uses a number of cameras and sensors to detect vehicles, pedestrians, road signs, and obstructions on the road. The autopilot makes it so that if the driver were to let go of the wheel or not put pressure on the pedal while driving, the truck would take over and pull over.

The truck's design seems very peculiar and random, but this concept was inspired from somewhere. The truck does look futuristic, because the film it was inspired from really looks futuristic. The film is called *Blade Runner* and it is a 1982 sci-fi/action film. The vehicles in this film show great resemblance to the real thing, because that's where the inspiration was from.

Popular opinions state that this truck looks really odd, but if you look into it, it's a step towards the future. From the autopilot to the fact that it's charged with an electrical charging station, this car is the future of cars.



A Tesla Cybertruck



A Tesla facility



A car from *Blade Runner*, with a clear resemblance to the Cybertruck

Social Trends: The Must-Buy Halloween Costumes of 2024

By Scarlet Zhang

HAHAHAHAHAH! It's Spooky Season! We've noticed some costumes that you could use! YES YOU! So put on your costumes & prepare for a tale that will frighten you to buy off the social media market ASAP ! Here, we list the top three costumes in the world that are a MUST-BUY for the month!

#3 most searched this year

The matching one and only two pink best friends, Barbie & Ken! After the movie release, the fans went wild! This original movie & TV show *Barbie* has many Barbie dolls that were a top-hit in the U.S back then– and are now costumes! Time is ticking! Order your Barbie and (maybe) Ken costumes today! (From Netscale.com)

#2 most searched this year

The flexible, fast-moving breakdancer champion of Australia: Raygun! After getting the gold medal from the WDSF Oceania Championships of 2023, Raygun's popularity skyrocketed to unmeasurable heights! The Raygun costume has been the 2nd most searched costume this year for Halloween! Get your Raygun costume now before the stock runs out! (www.CNN.com/sport/Raygun)

#1 most searched this year

This character is the one and only original, who is from Broadway and movies... the shrunken head from *Beetlejuice*! The viral old-but-remade-movie went all the way up to first place in the most searched costume of the year for Halloween! The special shrunken head for the costume makes the costume unbeatable and unique! (& a bit scary!) Buy your shrunken head costume from *Beetlejuice* before it runs out of stock! Hurry!! (nbcсандiego.com)

1. *Beetlejuice* shrunken head
2. Raygun, breakdancer for Australia
3. Barbie & Ken matching costumes from the live action movie, *Barbie*



Entertainment Pages

Reviews, Fashion, Trends & MORE

Upcoming Holidays

By Sophia Kwon

As you know, November 28 is Thanksgiving. People celebrate by getting together and eating delicious foods such as turkeys, vegetables, pie, and mashed potatoes. People take a family photo and kids write what they are grateful for with coloring pages.

Thanksgiving began as a religious holiday. Almost 400 years ago, the Pilgrims, some of the first settlers from Europe, set aside a special day to remember God's goodness and to thank Him for taking care of them. When Pilgrim's labor were rewarded with a bountiful harvest after a year of sickness and scarcity, the Pilgrims gave thanks to God. It is now a national holiday honoring the early settlers and Native Americans who came together to have a historic harvest feast.

Fun Fact: November 28 is also my birthday. I'm going to celebrate and eat cake and have fun while we celebrate Thanksgiving. Wishing you all a great Thanksgiving Day!



Full House Review

By Pierce Kamali

Full House is a classic TV show made in 1987 and is rated TV-G. This show is a sitcom. It is hilarious and has a bunch of one liners throughout the show. It is about a dad named Danny, played by Bob Saget, who has to raise three kids without a wife. Raising these kids is very hard for him so his best friend/brother-in-law named Jesse (played by John Stamos) is the fun bad boy parent who moves in to help him raise his kids. His other best friend, Joey Dave Coulier, also insists on moving in and is comedian of the house.

There are many characters in the show. Danny, the main character, is a talk show host along with his coworker Rebecca, played by Lori Loughlin, who he is close to. His oldest daughter D.J., played by Candace Bure Cameron, fights a lot with his middle daughter Stephanie (played by Jodie Sweetin). His youngest daughter Michelle is played by Mary-Kate Olsen and Ashley Olsen, two actresses that are identical twins. One other character that is like a sister to D.J. is Kimmy, played by Andrea Barber

This show is beloved for its humorous, heartwarming moments because it's a family favorite and it is nice to see the three dads help the kids solve their problems. This show also is full of heavy moments and life lessons at the end of the episodes.

What sets *Full House* apart is its ability to deliver emotional, sometimes heavy moments while still remaining light-hearted and fun, creating a perfect mix for viewers of all ages.

Entertainment Pages

Reviews, Fashion, Trends & MORE (cont'd)

Tasty?: Wacky Food Combination

By Owen Zar

Wacky food combinations. Some might be tasty. Some might be a shame to this world. In this article you will find one wacky food combination, and find out whether or not you should try it too!

This article's wacky food combination is vanilla ice cream, sea salt, and olive oil. I'll try it so you don't have to! I guess...

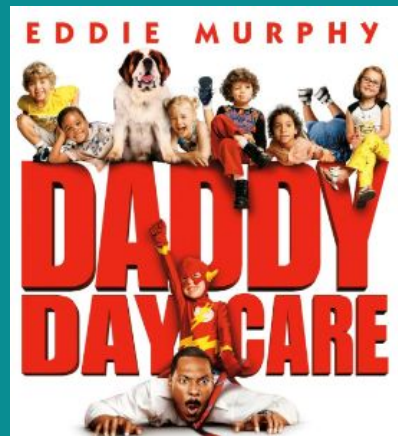
First of all, who came up with this? According to *Cozymeal.com*, this combo has Mediterranean origins. It is said that the olive oil adds a nice texture to the dish, and sea salt sharpens the overall taste.

After tasting the dish, I noticed a heavy after taste of salt for 4-6 minutes. While I was eating I loved how the oil was sweet and creamy, and the sea salt added salty flavor. These two combinations counteracted each other like a chocolate covered pretzel. I know I'm not a big ice cream lover so I don't know if I would try it again but, I would definitely recommend it if you love sweet and salty foods.

Overall my taste test partner and I rate it a 🍪🍪🍪🍪🍪🍪🍪/🍪🍪🍪🍪🍪🍪🍪, or a 7/10.

Daddy Day Care Movie Review

By Pierce Kamali



Daddy Day Care is a classic family movie and a comedy that was made in 2003 and is rated PG. This is an amazing movie because it is hilarious. Two men are starting a daddy day care because they both lost their jobs at an advertising company. What makes this movie even more interesting is that it's unexpected for men to stay home and take care of a bunch of wild children instead of going to find a new job.

While they run the daddy day care, Charlie (played by Eddie Murphy), his wife Kim (who is played by Regina King) works all day. Charlie's partner Phil, played by Jeff Garlin, helps him run daddy day care. Charlie has a kid named Ben and Phil has a kid named Max. Both have their issues and quirks. It turns out Charlie and Phil are loved by the kids and the best day care for kids, so they need another employee to help. Eventually, they hire a goofy guy named Marvin, who is played by Steve Zahn. The kids love him because they feel like he's one of them.

But like every movie there's always a conflict for them. In this case, it's a greedy woman named Mrs. Harridan, played by Anjelica Huston. This woman is not just greedy, but she's a malicious woman that runs a daycare center and is trying to boot the daddy day care out of town because it is taking away from her day care business. With all of these plans, will she succeed and get daddy day care booted out of town, or will she fail?

Daddy Day Care is an entertaining and heartwarming film with plenty of laughs for both kids and adults. Its combination of classic humor, touching family moments, and a feel-good message makes it a great choice for family movie night.

Entertainment Pages

Reviews, Fashion, Trends & MORE (cont'd)

Rocket League Review

By Richard Yi

The video game *Rocket League* has over 7 million players daily and over 95 million monthly players. It's a car game at its base, but it is different in every other way. It's soccer with cars, simply put, but the game is actually pretty complicated, so let me break it down.

There are 6 types of Hitboxes in *Rocket League*. Hitboxes are a default body type for a car, and they include the plank, the breakout, the octane, the merc, the dominus, and the hybrid. The most used ones are the octane at first, the fennec at second, and the dominus at a distant third. The octane and the fennec both have the same Hitbox, just the graphics look different. There are hundreds of different types of cars in *Rocket League* but in reality they are just the same 6 cars with different graphics. All cars are also roughly the same size, and the car is pretty small compared to the ball. You can buy different types of car designs in the shop with cash or decals and different boosts. Cars also can have different paints and different boosts that look different.

Okay, enough with the car designs, let's move on to the game mechanics. Basically, there are 5 minutes per game and there are two teams with two giant goals. At first, it might seem very easy to score but hitting the ball is not that easy, trust me (I know from experience). If the game is tied, then overtime starts. But, the game does not end until the ball touches the ground, even after the clock has expired, which created the greatest rocket league goal of all time in pro play scored by jstn.

Okay, now to car mechanics. You can jump and double jump. Dodging is when you double jump while pressing forward and the car will flip forward. Airoll is when you spin your car in midair; most players learn left air roll but both are the same. There is also a thing called boost, which pushes your car and makes it go faster. It comes out of your tail. There are boost pads around the field: 100% boost pads on the middle and the corners, and 12% pads all around the field.

Boost can help you do aerials. An aerial is when you jump, tilt your car up, then boost and you will fly. This is a normal aerial. One good thing about a normal aerial is that you keep your second flip. You can then flip into the ball for more power. However, this is a very slow method of gaining altitude. A fast aerial is the same thing but when you jump and tilt up, you jump again while boosting right after your first jump. This makes your car go exponentially faster. However, you do it to keep your second flip since you have already used it to double jump while tilting up. If you approach the ball at a weird angle, you can air roll slightly so that your car faces the ball at a better angle and then you can flip into it for a straighter shot.

There are some high level skills in *Rocket League* that mostly players above diamond are able to do consistently. An air dribble is when you hit the ball in the air with many soft touches. You need boost for this. There are two types of air dribbles (which is balancing the ball on the roof of your car). The first one is off a wall. Basically you bring the ball up the wall and then knock it off the wall with the tip of your nose. Then you touch the ball with many soft touches into the net. The other one is a ground to air dribble. Basically you dribble the ball and then flick it up and then dribble it into the net. A flip reset is when you air roll and let the ball hit the underside of your car which resets your flip, hence the name. Then you flip into the ball if you want, and it can be unexpected. However, these skills are extremely difficult to do and will require at least 300+ hours in game to practice.

There are also different game modes in *Rocket League*. There is 1v1, 2v2, and 3v3, which is the game mode the pro's play. There is heatseeker, which basically means upon hitting the ball, the ball propels itself into the opponents net. It is very fast paced and people just usually play goalie. There is also rumble, where you get power ups every ten seconds like making your hits much stronger, like a grappling hook that hooks yourself into the ball. Finally, the game has 7 ranks, (bronze, silver, gold, platinum, diamond, champ, grand champ, and SuperSonicLegend (SSL)). Each rank is split up into 3 parts (for example: gold 1, gold 2, gold 3). Then each of the parts of each rank are split into 5 divisions.



Book Review: *Skandar and the Unicorn Thief*

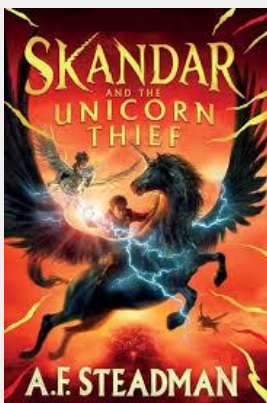
By Jojo Ohebshalom

The book *Skandar and the Unicorn Thief* by A. F. Steadman is a book full of mystery, adventure and friendships. The book *Skandar and the Unicorn Thief* is a book where a boy named Skandar lives on an island with his sister and dad. Every year, the 13 year olds take a written test to become a unicorn rider, someone who goes to the magical island, someone who controls elements with their unicorns while racing and battling.

When Skandar goes to school on his big day- the day he takes the test, he finds out that he can't take it- and all his dreams of being an amazing rider were crushed. But then later that night, at exactly 12:00, a mysterious unicorn rider shows up to his house to recruit Skandar.

When he gets to the island, he finds out he wields an element with his unicorn he didn't even know existed- something called the death element. Later, he finds out that there is someone who is terrorizing the island, someone who was a murderer, a villain, and a unicorn thief who wields the same element as him. He and his friends go on an adventure of solving mysteries, sneaking into places, and more. Overall, I give this book 5/5 stars.

There are also 2 other books in the series currently out and a book 4 coming out in May 2025!!



Inside Out 2: Movie Review

By Catherine Nikodem

On June 14, 2024, one of the biggest movies of 2024 came out— *Inside Out 2*!! *Inside Out 2* is the sequel to *Inside Out*.

In *Inside Out* (1), we get to see what happens in the main character Riley's head. There are five emotions- Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear, and Disgust. They control what Riley feels and what she ultimately wants to do. Riley moves to a different town. She is really worried and it is up to the emotions to keep her okay.

In *Inside Out 2*, Riley grows up. She has four new emotions— Anxiety, Ennui, Envy, and Embarrassment. They seem healthy, but soon they ship off the other emotions. They think that they can control Riley better than Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear, and Disgust. Ennui, Ench, Anxiety, and Embarrassment take over Riley. Soon, Riley is found choosing the high schoolers instead of her friends, stealing things, and only pretending to like her favorite band.

I would rate *Inside Out 2* 5 stars because I think it's really interesting to see what the new emotions do to Riley and I found it interesting how the other emotions tried to get back in Riley's mind. I also enjoyed seeing plot twists, which there were a lot of.

The movie has made over one billion dollars and has many interesting fun facts!

According to IMDb, "Phyllis Smith came out of retirement to reprise her role as Sadness for *Inside Out 2*. She requested that Pixar find her a recording studio in Missouri, as she had no intention of traveling all the way to Los Angeles just for that." That is a real commitment!

Here's another fun fact: did you know that Guilt and Love were supposed to be emotions? They were cut because they were too negative. The new movie also introduced new actors to the *Inside Out* movies. In *Inside Out* (1), Mindy Kaling voiced Disgust. In *Inside Out 2*, Liza Lapira voiced Disgust. In *Inside Out* (1), Kaitlyn Dias voiced Riley. In *Inside Out 2*, Kensington Tallman voiced Riley. In *Inside Out* (1), Bill Hader voiced Fear. But in *Inside Out 2*, Tony Hale voiced Fear.

Top Rock Music (Album) Releases!

By Jacob Brown

Have you ever wondered what rock music has released recently and how well it has done? This article will talk about all of the great rock music releases since the start of 2023.

There were 30 main rock and metal album releases in 2023. They included Metallica’s *72 Seasons*, and *Darkfighter* by Rival Sons. Coldplay also released a new album this year called *Moon Music*. It was a big hit because there had not been an album release since 2014. The metal band Jesus Priest also released their new album *Invisible Shield*. There haven't been many new major album releases in the past 30 years.

Right now it is the age of pop music, such as Taylor Swift. The graph underneath shows that everything that Taylor Swift does is popular, so when a year has a lot, there is a lot of hype going around.

Metallica's 72 Seasons:

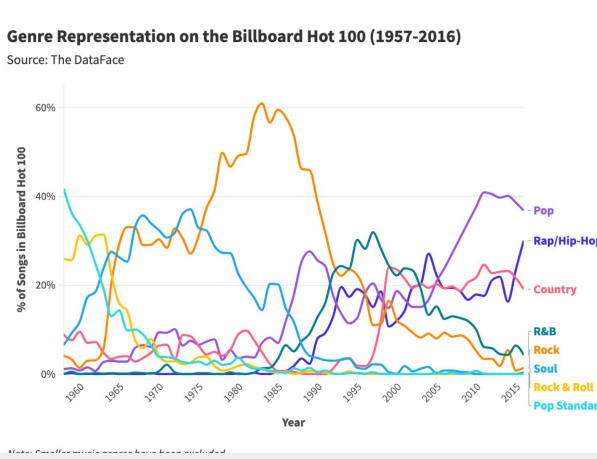
Metallica’s *72 Seasons* album is one of the most popular in the past 2 years. It was referenced by ultimate Metallica.com as “Metallica's new album is the strongest, most powerful statement they've made as a band since.” It sold 146,000 copies of it in the first week. It has sold 100,000 copies in Germany this past year. It also won a Grammy for best Metal Performance. For every big music rating website, this album had at least 3.5 stars. Some of its best songs are *Chasing Light*, *Lux Aeterna*, and *If Darkness Had a Song*. It came from a book James Hetfield read when he was younger about sorting out childhood as an adult. 72 seasons are the first 18 years of your life. Overall, *72 Seasons* has been a great album.

Saviors by Green Day

Saviors is the fourteenth studio album by Green Day. It was released January 19, 2024. Some people say it was the best album since *American Idiot* in 2004. It has 4.7 stars with 427 reviews with google. The chart below shows its immediate popularity. One of its big songs is *The American Dream is Killing Me*. It is a very iconic song released in 1981.

In conclusion, there have been some major rock album releases. They probably are making lots of cash, so maybe you should start making a band. It can either be for fun, or for the experience.

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Metallica

1.9B Streams
80.4M Listeners
164.5M Hours
184 Countries

Spotify for Artists #SPOTIFYWRAPPED

April 25, 2024		
Song	Total Streams	Daily Streams
Fortnight (feat. Post Malone)	105,244,052	+12,171,916
The Tortured Poets Department	59,850,560	+5,131,664

72 Seasons track listing

No.	Title	Writer(s)	Length
1.	"72 Seasons"	James Hetfield · Lars Ulrich · Kirk Hammett	7:39
2.	"Shadows Follow"	Hetfield · Ulrich	6:12
3.	"Screaming Suicide"	Hetfield · Ulrich · Robert Trujillo	5:30
4.	"Sleepwalk My Life Away"	Hetfield · Ulrich · Trujillo	6:56
5.	"You Must Burn!"	Hetfield · Ulrich · Trujillo	7:03
6.	"Lux Aeterna"	Hetfield · Ulrich	3:22
7.	"Crown of Barbed Wire"	Hetfield · Ulrich · Hammett	5:49
8.	"Chasing Light"	Hetfield · Ulrich · Hammett	6:45
9.	"If Darkness Had a Son"	Hetfield · Ulrich · Hammett	6:36
10.	"Too Far Gone?"	Hetfield · Ulrich	4:34
11.	"Room of Mirrors"	Hetfield · Ulrich	5:34
12.	"Inamorata"	Hetfield · Ulrich	11:10
Total length:			77:14

Region	Certification	Certified units/sales
France (SNEP) ^[110]	Gold	50,000 ⁺
Germany (BVMI) ^[111]	Gold	100,000 ⁺
Poland (ZPAV) ^[112]	Platinum	20,000 ⁺
United Kingdom (BPI) ^[113]	Silver	60,000 ⁺

← Post

Talk of the Charts @talkofthecharts [Subscribe](#)

This week's Billboard 200 top 10:

- #1. (=) American Dream [2 weeks at #1]
- #2. (+1) One Thing At A Time
- #3. (+1) For All The Dogs
- #4. (NEW) Saviors
- #5. (+1) Stick Season
- #6. (-1) 1989 (Taylor's Version)
- #7. (+2) SOS
- #8. (-1) Pink Friday 2
- #9. (+3) Zach Bryan
- #10. (=) Lover

2:26 PM · 1/28/24 From Earth · 12K Views

Slime Recipes

By Audree Chen

Ingredients

Vital	Optional
Glue, activator	Shaving cream, soap, water, instant snow, charms, perfume, food coloring

Instructions

1. Add as much glue as you want.
2. Carefully add one drop of activator at a time. Be careful! Too much activator results in rippy, slimy slime that will harden over time.
3. When the mixture starts to clump, knead it with your hands until it comes together.
4. This is optional, but you may add food coloring and/or charms for your slime to be prettier. If you want your slime to be scented, you may add perfume and/or soap. For more jiggly slime, add water.

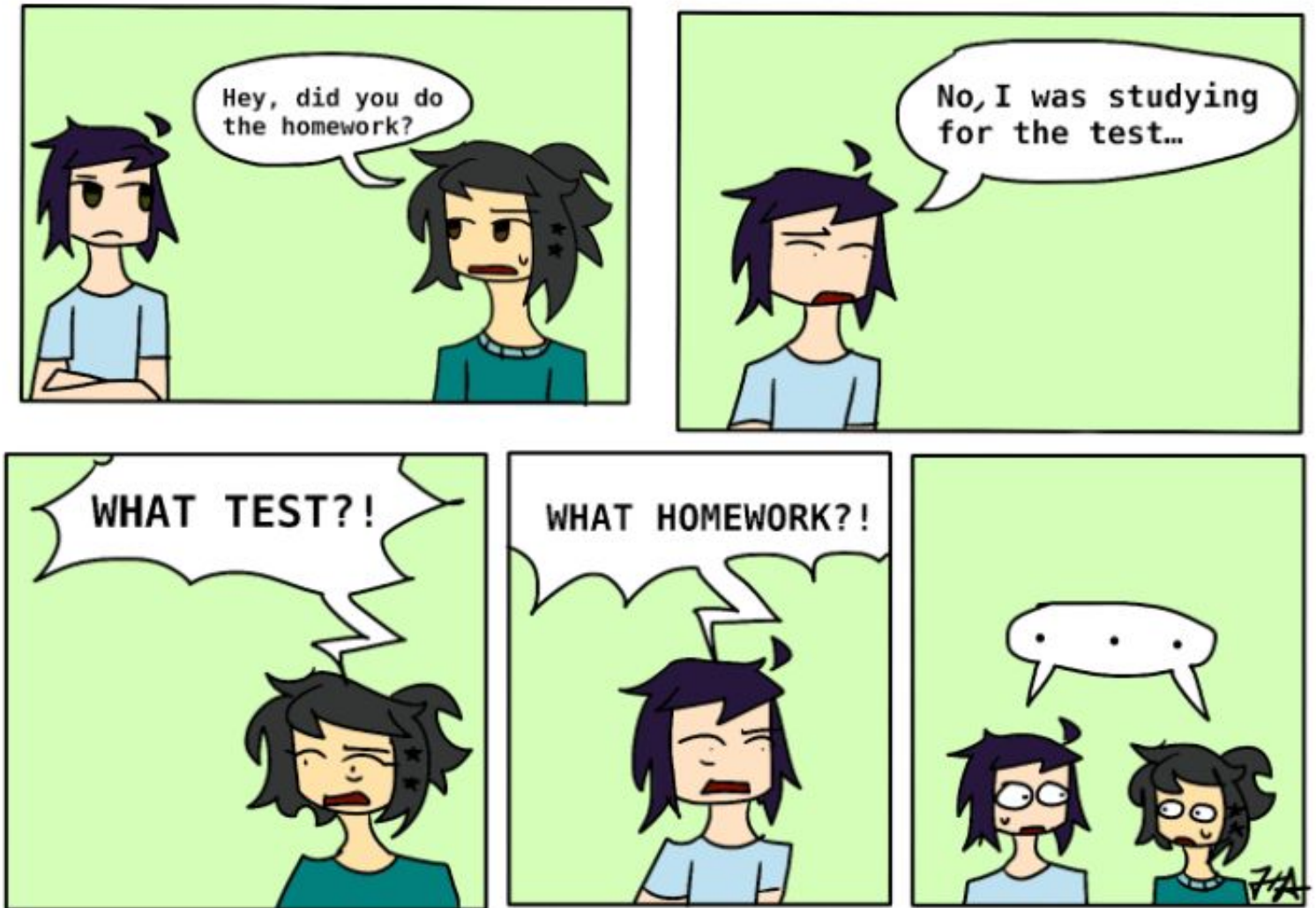
Variations

1. If you want your slime to be transparent, add clear glue instead of regular glue. Let it sit in a clean container with the cap on. It will usually take one or two days to clear up. This is called clear slime.
2. If you want your slime to be very soft and fluffy, add shaving cream and/or clay. Just like activator, too much shaving cream results in rippy, slimy slime that will harden over time. Make sure the amount of shaving cream you add is smaller than your slime. This slime is called butter slime. In terms of slime, butter means clay.
3. If you want your slime to be crunchy, you may add charms and/or foam beads. Be careful not to add too much. Don't do this if you have sensitive hands. This is called floam slime.
4. If you want your slime to feel wet and cloudy, add water to instant snow. Mix it and put it into the slime. This slime is called icee slime.
5. If you want your slime to make no sound, add instant snow without water. This is basically icee slime without water. It is called cloud slime. The "cloud" in "cloud slime" represents instant snow.

Tip : Always wash your hands and play with slime on a clean surface, or it will get dirty and shrink.



Comic Strips



By Haley Szeto



By Mark
Cacaj

The 2024-2025 NBA Season: Current Overview

By Andrew Zhou

The 2024-2025 NBA season began on October 24, 2024, and has quickly become an exciting chapter in the league's history, marked by impressive player performances, surprising team dynamics, and emerging narratives.

Key Player Performances

One of the most notable players this season has been **Victor Wembanyama** of the San Antonio Spurs. Building on his rookie season, Wembanyama has showcased his scoring, rebounding, and defensive skills, quickly establishing himself as a cornerstone for the Spurs and a rising star in the league.

Luka Dončić continues to be a dominant force for the Dallas Mavericks. His ability to impact the game as a scorer and playmaker remains unparalleled, and he has shown leadership as the Mavericks aim for a deep playoff run.

Jayson Tatum has also taken his game to new heights with the Boston Celtics, leading the team in scoring and emerging as one of the top MVP candidates early in the season. His performance alongside **Jaylen Brown** and newcomer **Kristaps Porzingis** has made the Celtics a formidable contender in the East.

Team Dynamics

The **Milwaukee Bucks** have been another focal point of the season. With **Damian Lillard** and **Giannis Antetokounmpo** forming a dynamic duo, the Bucks have displayed a potent offense and remain a strong title contender. Their chemistry on the court has generated buzz around their potential for a championship run.

The **Denver Nuggets**, led by **Nikola Jokić**, are also striving to defend their championship title. Jokić's versatility and ability to facilitate play have kept the Nuggets competitive as they look to repeat their success.

Injuries and Challenges

Injuries have impacted various teams early in the season. The **Los Angeles Lakers** have faced challenges with player health, particularly affecting their rotation. The management of veteran players like **LeBron James** and **Anthony Davis** will be critical as the Lakers aim for playoff contention.

The **Golden State Warriors** have been navigating injuries as well, impacting their lineup and performance. The team's ability to integrate younger talent with their established stars will be crucial moving forward.

Emerging Storylines

This season has seen several rookies making significant impacts. Players like **Amen Thompson** and **Brandon Miller** are proving their worth, adding excitement and depth to their respective teams. Their development is a sign of the league's promising future.

Additionally, the ongoing discourse around player movement and team dynamics continues to evolve. Discussions about the balance between star players and team cohesion are more relevant than ever, especially as teams adapt to new acquisitions and strategies.

Conclusion

The 2024-2025 NBA season is shaping up to be a thrilling ride filled with compelling narratives, standout performances, and challenges that teams will need to navigate. As the season progresses, the interplay between established stars and emerging talent will be pivotal in determining the playoff landscape and potential championship contenders.

This overview captures the essence of the current NBA season.

Sources:

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NY Yankees

By Jeremiah Baires

My prediction: My prediction was that the NY Yankees would bring the World Series home and they would have to face the NY Mets.

Sadly, my prediction didn't come true. The NY Yankees beat the KC Royals 3-1. It's unfortunate that the NY Yankees lost against the LA Dodgers and lost the World Series. The NY Yankees will bring it home next year and I hope we will see them shine and hope for them to get new players and be the best baseball team.



Fall Word Search

FALL	S	P	O	R	B	S	Y	L	E	A	V	E	S	U	A
AUTUMN	N	T	A	R	D	R	H	G	H	T	E	R	W	O	P
LEAVES	U	H	T	P	C	I	O	E	A	S	M	P	E	N	P
HARVEST	L	A	L	H	E	H	G	W	A	C	O	V	R	P	L
PUMPKIN	J	N	N	I	O	R	A	I	N	H	R	E	C	I	E
HALLOWEEN	U	K	P	E	C	R	S	R	I	O	I	L	F	C	C
THANKSGIVING	P	S	N	S	R	E	O	E	V	S	E	T	O	E	I
FOOTBALL	R	G	R	O	N	C	H	A	T	E	S	A	O	X	D
SWEATER	O	I	C	I	A	S	O	R	S	O	S	Y	T	T	E
APPLE CIDER	T	V	R	U	L	R	O	A	T	S	E	T	B	T	R
SCHOOL	R	I	A	G	L	E	L	A	T	E	G	N	A	R	O
ACORN	A	N	Y	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	R	E	L	Y	T
ORANGE	W	G	O	N	E	R	O	D	H	L	E	H	L	B	F
YELLOW	O	Y	N	E	M	A	U	T	U	M	N	D	R	A	A
BROWN	L	H	S	W	E	A	T	E	R	M	O	C	R	B	L
	L	S	K	O	O	B	A	C	V	J	B	R	N	N	L
	E	O	S	E	M	N	E	E	W	O	L	L	A	H	L
	Y	A	C	K	P	S	C	H	O	O	L	A	P	O	P