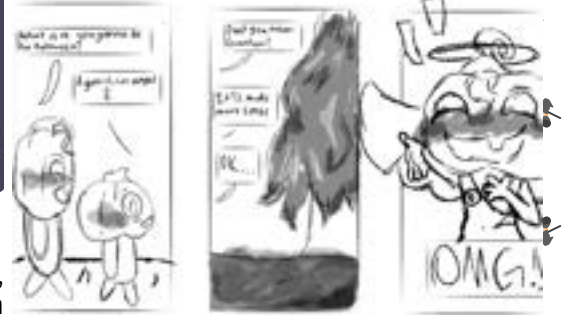
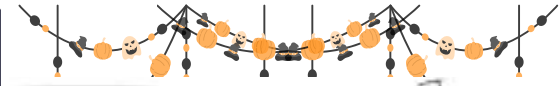




OCTOBER MAGIC: THE BIG BLUE HALLOWEEN

ISSUE



Costume Craze: What Will You Be This

Halloween?

Hailey Collado

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)- While some people might think that you want to stick to the basics when you choose a halloween costume, the most common Halloween costumes are classic horror characters, animals, fictional characters from movies, series or video games, historical figures and other relevant figures in today's popular culture.

While these are just a few examples, there are many more to choose from for this delightfully spooky event! Some ideas for costumes are a headless horseman, a demon, a skeleton, a spider and a clown are just a few of many different types of costumes you could choose. Why not let your furry friends join the fun on this spectacularly spooky night? Maybe they could wear a mask or a hat and even a costume to match yours! Halloween costumes are a fun way to express creativity and imagination during this season!

A Witch's Kindness

Cheyenne Neal

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

It was the night of ghouls, pumpkins, and fright—but for Emy, a witch with a kind heart, it was a night for action. Every Halloween, Emy came out of the woods to spread the kindness she longed to share every day—and this night was no different. She ran past the trees into a town glowing with orange lights and spooky decorations for the night's festivities. Children filled the streets, laughing and racing from house to house, their costumes swirling in the chilly air.

As Emy wandered happily among them, her smile faded when she spotted a boy sitting alone on a curb. He looked about nine years old, his candy bag empty, his face downcast...cont on page 4

The 2,000-Year History of Halloween

Evie Keeler- WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)

When you think of Halloween, what pops into your head? Glowing jack-o'-lanterns, spooky costumes, haunted houses, and of course—CANDY!

But Halloween didn't start with trick-or-treat bags and skeleton decorations. Believe it or not, it goes back over 2,000 years!

It began with the Celts, who lived in what is now Ireland and Scotland. Every October 31st, they celebrated Samhain(pronounced SOW-in), their version of New Year's Eve. The Celts believed that on this night, the barrier between the living and the dead grew thin, allowing ghosts to cross into our world. To protect themselves, they lit huge bonfires and wore animal skins or masks to

scare away wandering spirits.

Centuries later, Christianity spread to Celtic lands. In the 8th century, Pope Gregory III declared November 1st as All Saints' Day, also known as All Hallows' Day. The night before became known as All Hallows' Eve, which eventually shortened to Halloween.

In the 1800s, Irish and Scottish immigrants brought these traditions to America. Over time, the holiday changed from a night of fear and superstition to one of fun, creativity, and treats. Today, Halloween is celebrated around the world—still filled with mystery, magic, and just the right amount of scare.

So next time you're out trick-or-treating, remember... you're taking part in a 2,000-year-old tradition!

Fun Facts for a Frightful Night
By Megan Walters

- Jack-o-lanterns were originally made from turnips.
- Samhainphobia is the fear of Halloween.
- Pumpkins were originally grown in Mexico.
- Early trick-or-treaters had to dance for candy.
- 17% of people in the US dress their pets up for Halloween.
- A full moon on Halloween occurs roughly every 19 years.

The Power of Choir

Leja Newhouse
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

Choir has helped me so much. I used to really dislike going to school, but when I joined the choir, everything changed. It made my day brighter and gave me something to look forward to.

In choir, you meet new people—people you might never have thought you'd talk to—and somehow, you all connect through music. I found myself there. It's a place where you can truly feel happy. You can see people come in upset, and by the time they leave, they're smiling. Our teacher, Ms. Hoefler, is amazing. She's sweet, kind, and incredibly patient. She makes everyone feel welcome and confident.

Choir has helped me in so many ways, and I'm so thankful for it. If you love to sing or just want a place to belong, you would really enjoy being there.

Donation



The WHMS Choir appreciates donations for concerts, uniforms, and travel. Due October 31. Questions? Contact Kendall.Hoefler@sumnerschools.org

Happy Thoughts

Ally Tackett

HELLO! IF YOU KNOW ME-HEY! IF YOU DON'T, I'M ALLY, AND I'M A HAPPY THINKER. I FOCUS ON HAPPY THOUGHTS.

I'M IN SIXTH GRADE, AND I'VE FIGURED OUT HOW TO STAY CALM WHEN I GET OVERWHELMED OR OVERSTIMULATED. HARD, RIGHT? WHEN I'M WALKING DOWN THE HALLWAY AFTER FINISHING A TEST AND I'M UNSURE HOW I DID, I USE POSITIVE SELF-TALK AND SURROUND MYSELF WITH GOOD FRIENDS.

HERE'S WHAT HELPS ME: RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM. CHALLENGE IT. REPLACE THE NEGATIVE THOUGHTS WITH POSITIVE ONES. RECOGNIZE. CHALLENGE. REPLACE.

EVERY TIME YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP, REMIND YOURSELF: WHEN HAVE I EVER GIVEN UP? NEVER HAVE AND NEVER WILL.

TRY THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU HAPPY. COUNT THE DAYS UNTIL AN EVENT YOU'RE EXCITED FOR, OR UNTIL YOU SEE SOMEONE WHO MAKES YOU SMILE. DON'T LET STRESS TAKE OVER—AND EVERY MORNING, TELL YOURSELF ONE NICE THING. MAKE IT A HABIT TO BE KIND TO YOURSELF.

I HOPE MY ADVICE HELPS YOU, AND I ENCOURAGE YOU TO GIVE IT A TRY. REMEMBER: HAPPY THOUGHTS MAKE HAPPY DAYS!



Upcoming Events

EVENTS

FCA Whole Group - Every Wednesday & Friday at 7:40

Newspaper Club - Wednesdays until 4:30

Robotics Club - every Thursday until 4:00

Book Club - Wednesday Morning, Friday

Club Day - November 6

Special Events

10/24-8th Grade Career Fair Field Trip

PTO Dance 6:30-8:30

Thanksgiving Lunch 11/12

VENDING

October 31

SCHOOLS OUT

November 4th

Thanksgiving Break 11/24-11/28



Teacher Spotlight



Ridge Mills

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

Our amazing teachers do so much for us, not to get a spotlight. One of those teachers is Mrs. Pay who is a 7th grade teacher. She works very hard and gives her students the best learning experience. I asked what is one thing she likes about her job and she said "I love meeting new kids everywhere and getting to know them." On a lighter note I also asked what her favorite ice cream flavor is and she said strawberry. So lets thank Mrs. Pay for being such a great teacher and let's eat some strawberry ice cream.

2 Lies and 1 Truth

Norah Garrett and Olivia McCook
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

Get ready to play a guessing game! Can you crack the code and figure out where each teacher really went on their fall break? Two of the destinations are fake, but one is the real deal. Have fun guessing!

Mrs. McCook: Orange Beach / Panama / St. George Island

Ms. Paek: North Carolina / South Carolina / Virginia

Mrs. Zazzaro: Delaware / Pennsylvania / New York

Coach Colley: Ohio (to visit family) / Oklahoma / Alabama

Ms. Williams: Bahamas / Hawaii / Alaska

Mrs. Scheel: Machu Picchu / Training a puppy at home / Washington

Mr. Kelley: Gatlinburg / Kentucky / Mount Everest

Mrs. Hearn: Taking a nap at home / The Amazon / Going bungee jumping in Brazil

Answer Key:

- Mrs. McCook: Orange Beach
- Ms. Paek: North Carolina
- Mrs. Zazzaro: Pennsylvania
- Coach Colley: Ohio
- Mrs. Williams: Bahamas
- Mrs. Scheel: Training a puppy at home
- Mr. Kelley: Gatlinburg
- Mrs. Hearn: Taking a nap at home

Halloween Popcorn

Balls

1 stick of melted butter

16 oz mini marshmallows

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

8 oz Movie Theater Butter-flavored popcorn

Festive M&M's

Halloween sprinkles

In a large saucepan, melt the butter and mini marshmallows on low heat until smooth and paste-like.

Stir in the vanilla extract and mix well.

In a separate bowl, add the popcorn. Pour the marshmallow mixture over it and mix until evenly coated.

Add M&M's and sprinkles for a festive touch.

Grease your hands (or wear gloves) and roll the mixture into popcorn balls.

Place them on baking paper to cool. Once cooled, put them in individual treat bags—and enjoy!



Headlines!!

That Drives Me Crazy!



Ash King- WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)

We asked some teachers and students about their biggest pet peeves, and here's what they had to say. One teacher said they don't like it when people go into the area where his green tape is. Another teacher said it bothers her when students say they "didn't have time," even after she gave them extra time. A third teacher shared two pet peeves: bullies and students not cleaning up after themselves.

One student said their biggest pet peeve is slow walkers. Another student said it's annoying when people eat in front of their locker. A third student said they dislike it when people cough loudly during tests.

Movie of the Month

by HENSLEY BAKER



It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown
Genre: Comedy, Family

This classic animated movie centers around Linus and his unwavering faith in the Great Pumpkin, a mythical creature he believes will rise out of the pumpkin patch at midnight and bring toys to children. While the other characters celebrate Halloween with trick-or-treating and parties, Linus waits in the pumpkin patch. Eventually, he experiences a moment of excitement when Snoopy's flight as a World War I flying ace is mistaken for the Great Pumpkin. Will Linus prove to the others that the Great Pumpkin is real?



2025 WHMS Dance Team

White House Dance Team Brings the Energy

Sadie Cobb--

WHITE HOUSE(Big Blue News)

By Sadie Cobb

Our White House Dance Team is awesome! Their performance at the recent pep rally was absolutely amazing.

The dance team practices regularly. Once a month they visit the intermediate school on Tuesdays, and they also meet on Fridays and sometimes on weekends. Practices usually last about an hour, but can go up to two hours when preparing for performances.

Here's what a few of our dance team members had to say about their experience.

Ally, a 6th grader, says that being on the dance team teaches her, "the meaning of never giving up." She also loves how kind the teachers and other members are.

Enger and her friends, who are in 7th grade, say they love being part of the team too. They think it's super fun, but also challenging because, "you have to work really hard to get the parts."

It's clear that the White House Dance Team isn't just about dancing, it's about teamwork, dedication, and school spirit. Keep up the great work, dancers!



What animal is the worst at hiding?

The leopard - he's always spotted.

Support Staff of the Year



Olivia McCook

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

Mrs. McCook has worked at WHMS for four years, beginning as a classroom assistant. She loves both the students and the teachers she works with. Over the years, she has served in several different roles, giving her a well-rounded perspective on everything happening at our school.

This year, Mrs. McCook became the Bookkeeper, and she's excited about the new opportunity! When asked what is most important to her at work, she shared, "being part of a solution, having a positive attitude, and being a team player."

She added, "I feel lucky to be part of the Blue Devil family, both as a parent and as an employee!"

Mrs. McCook is married and has two children who attend White House schools.

Congratulations, Mrs. McCook, on being named Support Employee of the Year! We are so lucky to have you as part of our Blue Devil family!

Book of the Month

by HENSLEY BAKER



★★★★★

A Good Girl's Guide to Murder
Genre: Mystery

Five years ago, in the small town of Fairview, Connecticut, a schoolgirl named Andie Bell was murdered by Sal Singh. Everyone in town knows he did it. Pippa Fitz-Amobi has grown up in the same small town consumed by Andie's murder, but she isn't sure it's that simple. When she chooses the case as the topic for her final-year project, she begins to uncover secrets that someone in town wants to stay hidden. If the real killer is out there, how far will they go to keep Pip away from the truth?

Teacher of the Year



Ava Ellis
 WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-
 Mrs. Ordoñez was the wonderful teacher chosen as teacher of the year this year. Mrs. Ordoñez says that she feels super encouraged that all of her hard work is seen, and she’s so grateful to be thought of by her peers. Some students say that they think Mrs. Ordoñez is a wonderful educator, and her presence can absolutely light up a room, but she says that she thinks she only got chosen because she “always looks tired.” Ordoñez also says that she feels “very unworthy” about being chosen out of all our teachers,” and “there’s so many excellent hardworking teachers in this building, everyone works so hard and gives beyond expectations.” Mrs. Ordoñez says she loves White House Middle, and it’s her home.



Student Spotlight



Many students at White House Middle School participate in band or choir. Some even do both! But one 7th grader goes above and beyond. She’s involved in Cheer, Tumbling, Band, Choir, Yearbook, FCA Leadership, Junior Beta Club, and our

very own Newspaper Club!
 Her name is Everleigh (Evie) Keeler, and we interviewed her to find out how she handles such a busy schedule. You might think that sounds super stressful, but Evie says it’s not as hard as it seems. She’s been balancing all these activities for three to four years, and she’s gotten used to the routine. Plus, as she puts it with a smile, “I get Sonic after cheer practice, so it’s totally worth it!”



A Witches Kindness cont..

Without hesitation, Emy sat beside him. “Who are you?” the boy asked quietly. “I’m Emy,” she said with a smile. “Why are you sitting out here all by yourself?” The boy shrugged and stared at his shoes. Emy’s heart ached with concern. After a moment’s thought, she reached into her satchel and pulled out a small glass bottle that shimmered faintly in the moonlight. “What’s this?” the boy asked, wide-eyed. “It’s a levitation potion!” Emy replied eagerly. Before he could respond—or even realize she was a witch—Emy uncorked the bottle and drank a few drops. Instantly, she began to float up into the air! The boy gasped, then laughed in disbelief. Not wanting to be left behind, he took a sip too—and soon he was floating beside her. For the rest of the night, Emy and the boy soared above the rooftops, gliding past jack-o’-lanterns and twinkling lights. They laughed, waved to the children below, and danced through the starlit sky until the moon began to fade. When the potion’s magic wore off, they gently drifted back to the ground. “See you next Halloween,” Emy said with a wink before flying away into the woods once more. And from that night on, the boy never spent another Halloween alone.

PART 2

Whispers of Power and the Forgotten Past

EVIE SCHEEL AND ELISE WALLER
 WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)

When I entered Velmir Academy, a wisp of magic nearly knocked me over. The whole school was flooded with wisps, and as I watched, a large one blew a girl with a water birthmark halfway across the field. I finally saw Aidan and Aine over by an oak tree. They are both a year above me, so their powers are unlocked already. I headed towards the backyard where everyone was practicing or roaming. I saw my cousins talking to a boy, I looked over at his birthmark and saw that it was a tree. I bet his power has to do with nature, easy to guess. As I watched, he made a small rose bloom. The scent of magic filled the area, reminding me of my task. I headed to the entrance, a huge gate made of glittering jewels. I found a small package addressed to me. Inside was a small vial of shimmering silver liquid.

The instructions were vague, simply telling me to drink it. I took a breath and downed it in one gulp. I gagged at the bitter taste coating my mouth. Suddenly, the bright entrance was ripped away and I fell onto the cold, hard wooden floor. “Dumb Teleporter magic.” I mumbled. But when I opened my eyes, I stared at the sight before me, my jaw dropping. I was in the Great Hall, an enormous room packed with Gifted people arriving every second. The Headmaster, Professor Ravenwood, stepped forward as the last of the students fell from the ceiling.

“Welcome, new students, to Velmir Academy!” The hall erupted into cheers. He raised his hand to silence them, then continued. “It is time for the Unlocking.”