

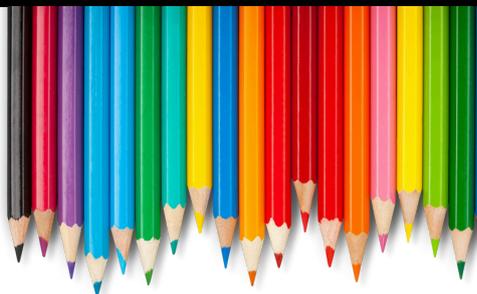
THE FALCON FORUM

Editor: Maddie Pollock



IN THIS MONTHS ISSUE WE HAVE...

- UPLIFTING DEVOTIONAL
- UPCOMING HOLIDAYS
- COMICS
- FUN FACTS SECTION
- UNSOLVED MYSTERY
- CRAFTS, RECIPES, AND MORE!



SEPTEMBER NARRATIVE

WRITTEN BY: MADDIE POLLOCK (8TH)

Hello Falcons!! I know that I am a bit late on saying this, but... welcome back to school! We are so excited to bring you our first issue of *The Falcon Forum* and share some of our Middle School world with you! If you have ideas for our newspaper or would like to join, please see me or any of our staff! Remember, **1 Peter 4:10-11** tells us to use the gifts that God has given us to serve others and give Him ALL the glory! Let's go, Falcons!



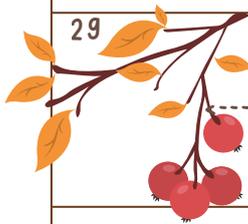
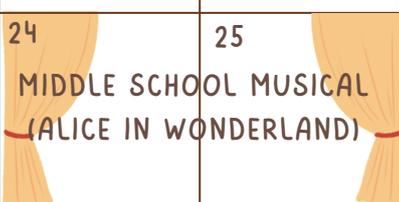
Staff:

- Aliyah Benton
- Liza Meade Cease
- London DeLee
- Alanna Dials
- Georgia Epting
- Isaac Gay
- Lucas Gleaton
- Liam Granger
- Arrow Hartman
- Ian Johnson
- Finley Jones
- Madison Clark
- McLawhorn
- Virginia Milne
- Katy Noonan
- Maddie Pollock
- Ava Grace Peake
- Travis Price
- Harper Robinson
- Matthias Scruggs
- Ella Claire Smigiel
- Juliet Spring
- Anna Kate Stubbs
- Connor Tabor
- Wade Wylie

OCTOBER CALENDAR

CREATED BY: MADDIE POLLOCK (8TH)



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
29 	30	1	2	3 ½ DAY	4 	5
-----SPIRIT WEEK----->						
6	7	8	9 1/2 DAY	10 	11 -----FALL BREAK----->	12
13 FALL BREAK	14	15 	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL (ALICE IN WONDERLAND) 	25	26
27 	28	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN 		

UNSOLVED MYSTERY

BY: ISAAC GAY (7TH)

The Dyatlov Pass incident was an event in which nine Soviet ski hikers died in the northern Ural Mountains on 1 or 2 February, 1959 under undetermined circumstances.

The experienced trekking group from the Ural Polytechnical Institute, led by Igor Dyatlov, had established a camp on the eastern slopes of Kholat Syakhl in the Russian SFSR of the Soviet Union. Overnight, something caused them to cut their way out of their tent and flee the campsite while inadequately dressed for the heavy snowfall and subzero temperatures.

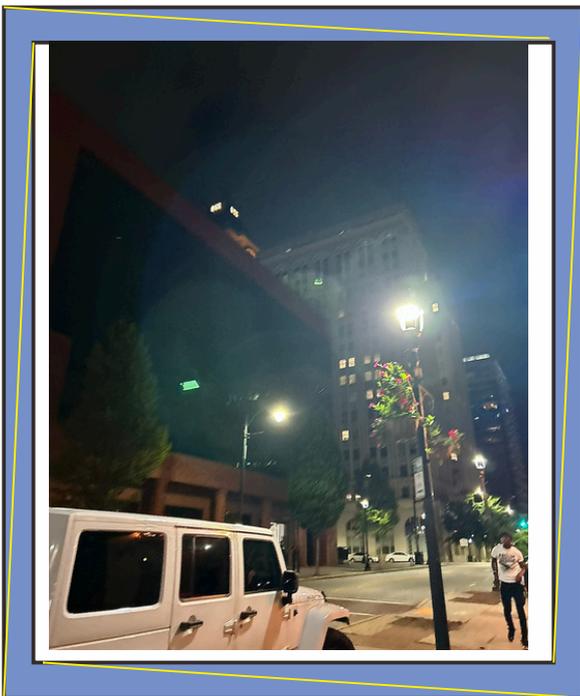
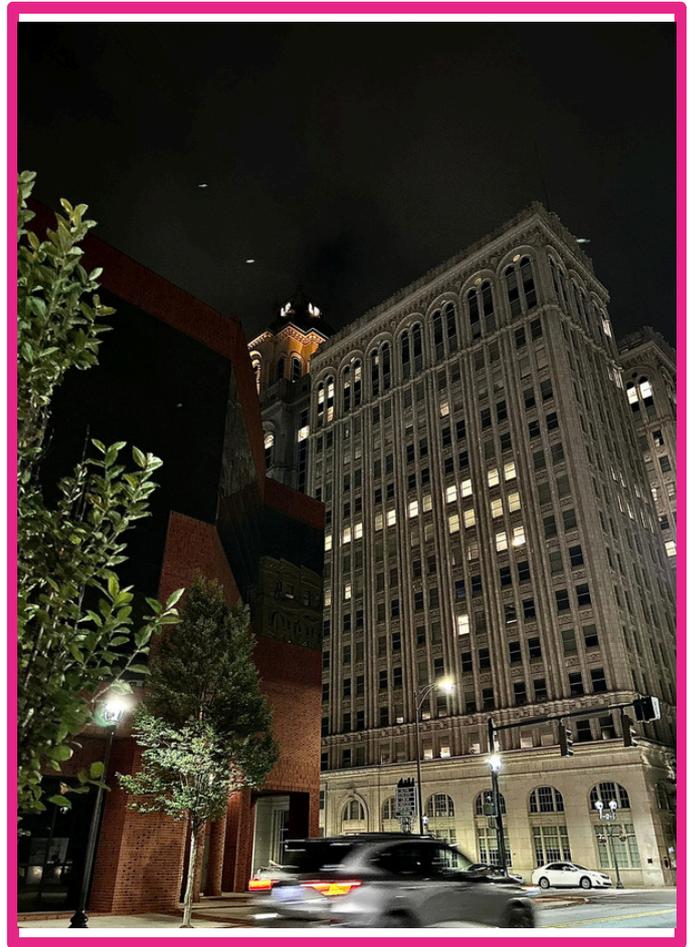
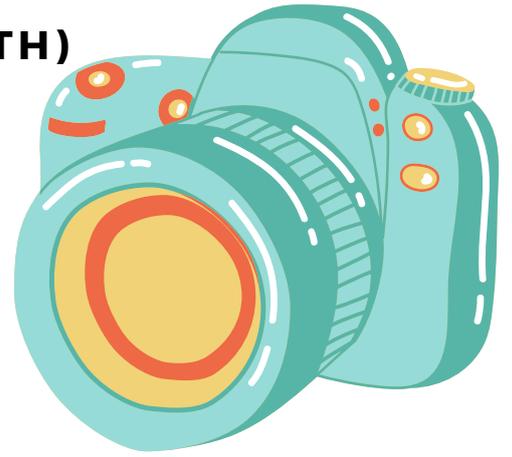
After the group's bodies were discovered, an investigation by Soviet authorities determined that six of them had died from hypothermia, while the other three had been killed by something else. They discovered they had some severe, disturbing injuries that caused their death. The investigation concluded that a "compelling natural force" had caused the deaths. Numerous theories have been put forward to account for the unexplained deaths, including animal attacks, hypothermia, an avalanche, katabatic winds, infrasound-induced panic, military involvement, or some combination of these factors.

Russia reopened an investigation into the incident in 2019, concluding in 2020 that an avalanche had most likely forced survivors to suddenly leave their camp in low-visibility conditions with inadequate clothing before ultimately dying of hypothermia. Andrey Kuryakov, deputy head of the regional prosecutor's office, stated that "It was a heroic struggle. There was no panic, but they had no chance to save themselves under the circumstances." A mountain pass in the area was later named "Dyatlov Pass" in memory of the group. Despite the incident occurring about 1,700 metres (5,600 ft) away on the eastern slope of Kholat Syakhl. A prominent rock outcrop in the area now serves as a memorial to the group. It is about 500 metres (1,600 ft) to the east-southeast of the actual site of the final camp.



Photography

BY: TRAVIS PRICE (8TH)



BLS TRENDS

CREATED BY: GEORGIA EPTING (6TH)

Middle School Trends By Georgia Epting



ATHLETA



lululemon

acorn
COFFEE CO



aerie

SUMMER FRIDAYS



LANEIGE



Enewton

Sol De Janeiro



Touchland



Quwala

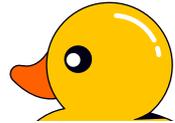
This Month's Funniest Headlines

CREATED BY: IAN JOHNSON (7TH)



Duck Head Stuck On Mrs. Horne's Ceiling!

6th graders laugh at this hilarious scene of a rubber duck's head! Apparently it is stuck there, and no one has figured out a way to get it down!



Robert Got Beef With Mr. Plunkett

"I was hungry after practice yesterday," said **Robert Alexander** after being approved by Mr. Plunkett that he could eat a steak in class!



If you have any hilarious stories or headlines from our Middle School, email me to include in next month's issue!

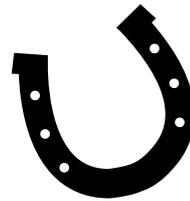
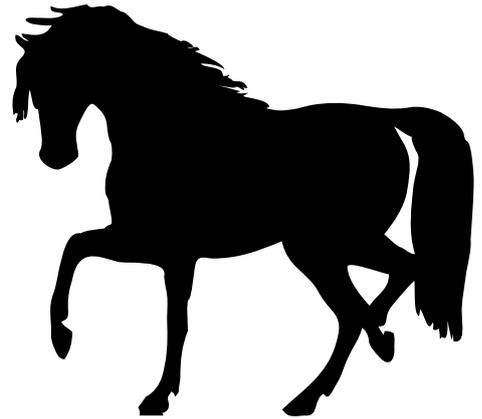


SPORTS COLUMN

BLS EQUESTRIAN TEAM

**WRITTEN BY:
ELLA CLAIRE SMIGIEL (6TH)**

English Equestrian team
The English team will have our very first SCISA HORSE SHOW in October! And we are very excited to show this year and have some fun!



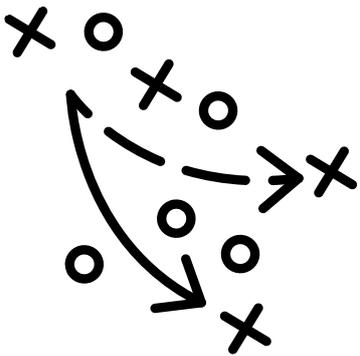
MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL

WRITTEN BY: LIAM GRANGER AND WADE WYLIE (6TH)

Coach Ed, also known as the Head Coach, is very encouraging and inspiring.

Location: If you want to watch all the Middle School Falcons' practice, come to the baseball field!

How We Practice: First, we start off with a warm-up. Then, we do board drills to warm up our pads. Next, we get water and go to our tacking groups; after all of that, we get more water, and then we do offense vs defense. After that, we do sprints, then we break it down, and practice is over!



POUNDRING THE PAVEMENT: NOBLE PERFORMANCES AT HEATHWOOD HALL HIGHLANDERS INVITATIONALS 2025

WRITTEN BY: ANNA KATE STUBBS (6TH)

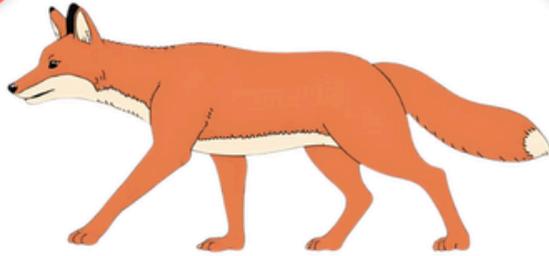
Hey Falcons, our Ben Lippen Cross Country team has done an awesome job this running season so far. The week of Sep.6th they ran their third race of the season at the Heathwood Hall Highlanders Invitionals and CRUSHED IT! Here are some more details:

- Boys Varsity placed **8th**, and the top three finishers for Ben Lippen were:
Will Forester- **16:55**
Liam Thompson -**17:10**
Jonathan Rios -**17:13**
- Girls Varsity placed **20th**, and the top three finishers for Ben Lippen were:
Mallori Craft- **20:41**
Grace Jordan - **21:59**
Sarah Franc Pittard -**22:05**
- JV Boys placed **13th**, and the top three finishers for Ben Lippen were:
Maximus Farr- **20:12**
John Mark Putnam- **20:59**
Campbell Boyce- **21:56**
- JV Girls placed **15th**, and the top three finishers for Ben Lippen were:
Anna Kate Stubbs- **25:33**
Anna-Lee Faris- **26:42**
Joya Gay- **26:46**





ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

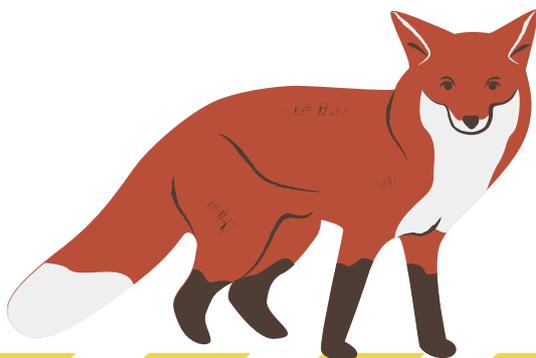


WRITTEN BY:
FINLEY JONES (5TH)

Red Fox

Have you ever seen a fox before?
If you have, they are majestic right?

Foxes are rare. You don't just find one on an every day basis, you have to look very close. Even then you don't see one very often. That's because they have very good camouflage. They also come in all sorts of different colors, including, red, grey, black, and white. Foxes live everywhere but Antarctica. Foxes also make all kinds of different sounds including, barking, growling, a odd little "gekker" noise and a "squee" noise. They eat fruit, berries, insects, rodents, rabbits, and birds. They are rare because they are quiet and swift. They go silently through the woods. The female foxes actively find food for their babies. Baby foxes normally eat small mammals and birds. When foxes are 6 to 7 months they go off and live by themselves. When it is time for foxes to mate, red foxes mate for life. So if you ever see a fox, then think of all these amazing facts about foxes!



RECIPES

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

CREATED BY LUCAS GLEATON (5TH)

Ingredients

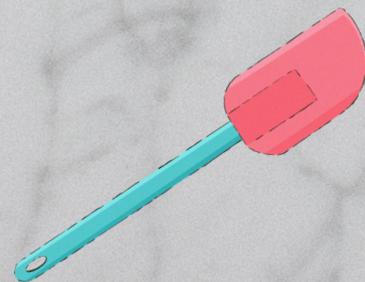
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup medium-grind cornmeal
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup cane sugar
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons baking powder
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoons sea salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup coconut oil, hardened and cut into small pieces
- 2 tablespoons lemon zest
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 eggs, beaten
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup almond milk, more for brushing
- Coarse sugar, for sprinkling, optional



1. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, cornmeal, sugar, baking powder, and salt.
2. Using your hands, work the coconut oil in until the mixture resembles coarse sand. Add the lemon zest, lemon juice, eggs, and milk and mix until just combined. The dough will be more moist and pliable than traditional biscuit dough.
3. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured piece of parchment paper and pat into a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-thick rectangle. Fold the dough into thirds and pat or roll again until 1-inch thick. Freeze for 20 minutes.
4. Preheat the oven to 400°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
5. Remove the dough from the freezer and use a $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch round biscuit cutter to cut out 3 to 4 biscuits. Re-roll the scraps as necessary to cut out 8 1-inch thick biscuits. Place the biscuits on the baking sheet.
6. If desired, brush the tops of the biscuits with a little almond milk and sprinkle with coarse sugar.
7. Bake 16 to 18 minutes or until golden brown around the edges.
8. Assemble the strawberry shortcakes with the biscuits, strawberries, cream, and mint, if desired.



Time
TO
BAKE



WORD OF GOD SPEAK: STUDENTS SHARING SCRIPTURE



“JOY”

**WRITTEN BY: LIZA MEADE CEASE (5TH) AND
VIRGINIA MILNE (5TH)**

What brings you joy? Some middle schoolers say worshipping, seeing your pets, making someone laugh, friends, family, break with friends, animals, and having fun in class, and even singing in the shower bring them JOY!

Nehemiah 8:10 says, “And do not be grieved, for the JOY of the Lord is your strength.”

Sometimes there is no joy on certain days, but the JOY of the Lord is our strength. So, when we are going through trials of pain, trust in the Lord. He is good and “He’s where the JOY’S at!”



ARTS AND CRAFTS

WRITTEN BY: AVA GRACE PEAKE (5TH)

STEP 1

GET ALL OF THE LEAVES YOU NEED.

STEP 2

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE RED, ORANGE, YELLOW, AND BROWN PAINT. YOU WILL ALSO NEED A BROWN MARKER.

STEP 5

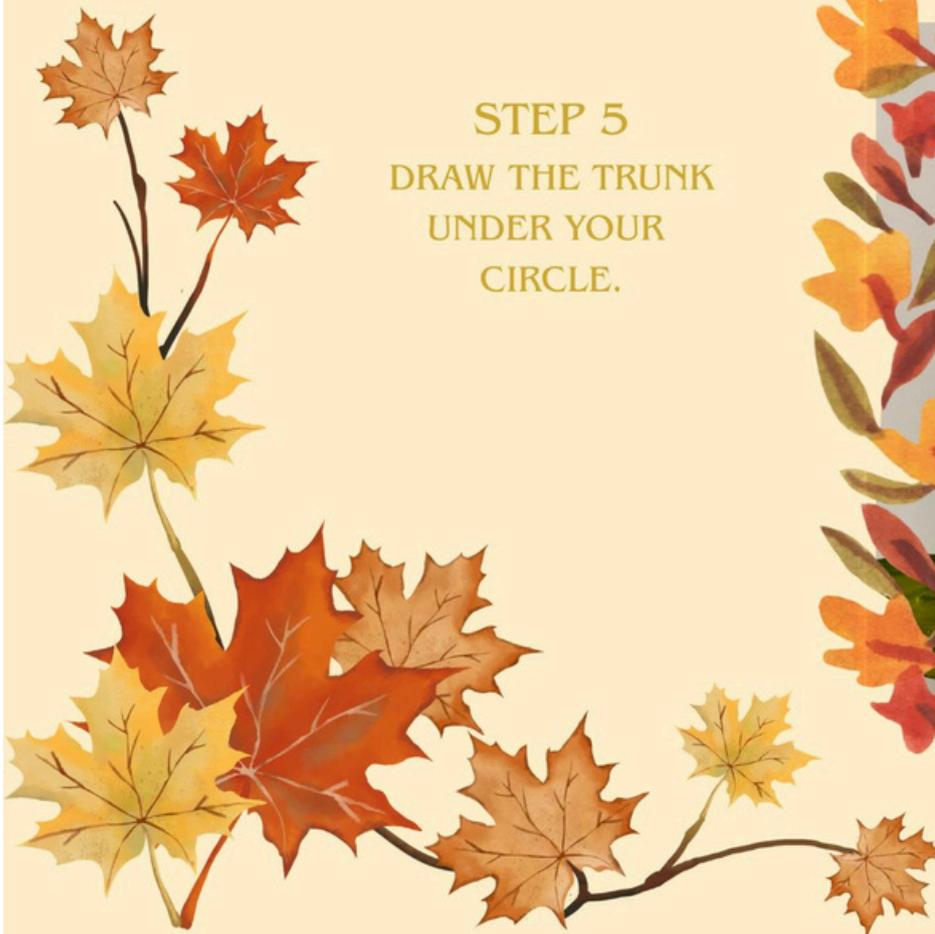
DRAW THE TRUNK UNDER YOUR CIRCLE.

STEP 3

DIP THE LEAF IN YELLOW PAINT AND DAB IN A CIRCLE.

STEP 4

MAKE SURE YOU DO YELLOW FIRST, ORANGE SECOND, RED THEN BROWN.





teacher of the month

**WRITTEN BY:
LUCAS GLEATON (5TH)**



*Mr. Tim Wheeler
6th Grade Science*

Mr. Wheeler went to Salisbury University in Maryland and graduated from there with a degree in business. He also graduated from CIU with a master's degree in education, focusing on curriculum and instruction. He enjoys biking, hiking, swimming, and surfing. His family is a military family, so they spent time in Texas, South Korea, New York, Maryland, Hawaii, and now South Carolina. He has homeschooled his older children, and when his youngest daughter was in 3K at the Northeast campus, he decided to start subbing at Ben Lippen. Four years ago, he became a permanent sixth-grade teacher at the Monticello Road campus. He has only taught sixth grade so far. He loves teaching science and learning about the ways that God made the world.



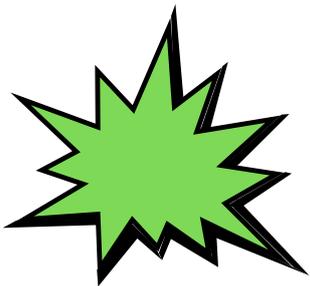
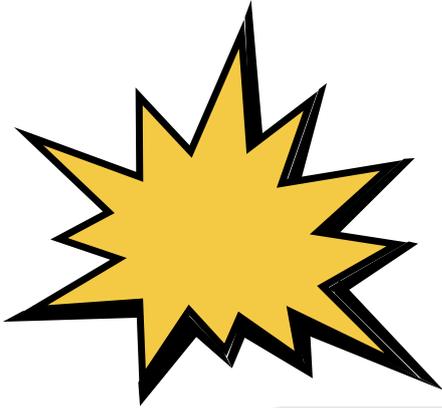
COMICS!

CREATED BY:
IAN JOHNSON (7TH)



COMICS!

CREATED BY:
JULIET SPRING (6TH)



By: Katy Noonan (8th) and
Matthias Scruggs (7th)

MINECRAFT MOD OF THE MONTH

This month's Minecraft mod is called "Matt's Random Ideas," created by Matthias Scruggs.
(Doooo00p)

This work-in-progress MCreator mod adds quirky items and features such as sausages, a sausage cannon, a cooked pig, a custom dimension called Some?, portals, special tools like the Iten fishing rod and Portal Sword, and more.



Download the mod:

www.curseforge.com/minecraft/mc-mods/mattstuff



Matt's Random Ideas

FUN FACTS

BEN LIPPEN MIDDLE SCHOOL EDITION

CREATED BY:
LIZA MEADE CEASE (5TH)

The longest word in the English language is 189,819 letters!

Ketchup used to be a medicine!



Snails can have up to 14,000 teeth!

There are tiny hairs on green beans that are used to trap bugs! Gross!

Boys have fewer taste buds than girls.

A jar of nutella is sold every 2.5 seconds!



Cows have best friends!



Fruit loops are all the same flavor despite the color

SHORT STORY

“The Wanderer”

CREATED BY: ALANNA DIAL (5TH)



“The Wanderer”

Once upon a time, there was a girl called Saffire. She was an extraordinary person and a curious one. You see her here and then she is gone. This story begins at her house.

“Saffire!!! Wake up now!”

“Ok, I’m up! What do you need, Noah?”

“I'm scared! Mama said that a storm was coming tonight! So can I sleep with you tonight?” Noah Asked.

“Of course, always.”

“Thanks, Saffy. Ahhhhhhhh!!! What was that?”

“I don't know,” Saffire said, “but let's check it out.”

“Mama, Mama, are you there? Ahhh!! Ma, what happened to you?!” asked Noah.

“I I d-dont k-know...maybe she will be right back...” Saffire explained, but could not hide the worry in her own voice.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Diy by Doodle

**CREATED BY:
HARPER ROBINSON (6TH)**

Hello again! And welcome back to another year of
DIY By Doodle!

(Hopefully) You guys definitely missed me, right? Nice, this month, I consider it fall. So, we're making a fall craft that's specifically designed for your room!

How to make a fall-themed door nameplate

Supplies:

- A loooooooooong sheet of paper (just tape like, 4 pieces of paper together or more)
- Fall colored markers (red, orange, brown, etc.)
- Stencils (not required but optional)
- Tape
- Your Creativity!

Steps:

- Tape all pieces of paper together if you haven't already
- Use the markers to write your name in a very unique and you-like way
- Then, draw leaves, pumpkins, and even ghosts if you want!
- Tape it to your door at any angle you like
- Then boom!

That's it for this month!
Thanks for reading, and have a happy fall!



NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

CREATED BY: VIRGINIA MILNE (5TH)



These are some fun, national holidays we can look forward to in the month of October! Have fun with them and enjoy!

BEN LIPPEN INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS

2025 **OCTOBER** 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1 international coffee day	2	3 national buddy day	4	5 national get funky day	6
7 national taco day	8	9	10 national angel food cake day	11	12 national farmers day	13
14 national dessert day	15	16 global cat day	17	18 national chocolate cupcake day	19	20 suspenders day!
21	22 national nut day	23	24 national food day	25 national hug a sheep day	26 national pumpkin day	27
28	29 national cat day	30		1	2	3



Advice Column

WRITTEN BY: ANNA KATE STUBBS (6TH)

THE A+ OF INVOLVEMENT: MAKING SCHOOL YOURS

Hey Falcons, today I'm going to share some advice on ways to be more involved at Ben Lippen Middle School:

- Signing up for a Ben Lippen sport is one great way to grow closer to new people and closer to Christ with Ben Lippens amazing athletic staff
- Participating in a Fine Arts program is yet another way to be involved. A great current example is Ben Lippens Alice in Wonderland play
- Ben Lippen has many clubs to join, including the Robotics Club, the Chess Club, and the Crochet Club.
- Ever noticed positive notes in the bathroom or around your classrooms? That is the work of our secret Kindness Club!
- If you feel none of this is for you, go talk to a middle school teacher or leader like Mrs. Peake or Mrs. Chick for guidance about starting your own club or how to find the right club for you!

I hope you find your perfect Ben Lippen community!

If you have any advice you would like to see in the Falcon Forum, contact

annastubbs@benlippen.me or
Rachel.Peake@benlippen.me



STAFF EDITORS: MRS. RACHEL PEAKE ~ RACHEL.PEAKE@BENLIPPEN.COM

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EDITOR: MADDIE POLLOCK AND OUR FALCON FORUM STAFF
FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO THIS PROJECT!