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Edited By Alana Durham & Mackenzie Gibb

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Amusement Parks After Dark

By Mackenzie Gibb

<u>Hersheypark After Dark</u>

Location: Hersheypark, Hershey, PA

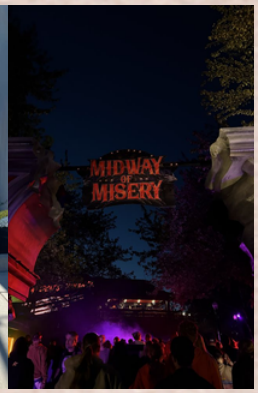
When: Sep 12 - Nov 1

Tickets: $39.99-$56.99

Events: 5 immersive scare zones, roller coasters, daytime trick-or-treat trail for families, slider showcase & photo op







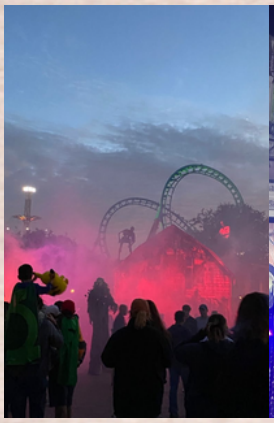
<u>Six Flags Fright Fest</u>

Location: Jackson, New Jersey

When: Sep 18 - Nov 1

Tickets: $45.00-$80.00

Events: 9 haunted houses & mazes, 5 scare zones, live entertainment, & rollercoasters







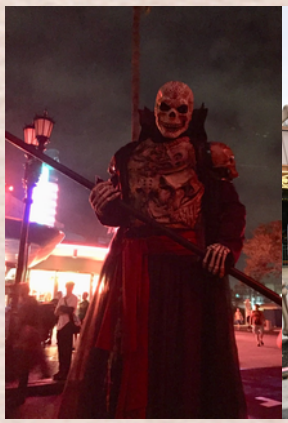
<u>Dorney Park Halloween Haunt</u>

Location: Allentown, PA

When: Sep 18 - Oct 31

Tickets: $49.00-$64.00

Events: 6 haunted houses & mazes, 5 immersive scare zones, live entertainment, & rollercoasters







A Taste of Fall

The Best Treats to Bake This Season

By Alana Durham

There is just something special about baking in the fall that makes everything feel more cozy and warm. Once the weather starts getting chillier and the leaves start changing colors, it feels like the perfect time to turn on the oven and make something warm and delicious. Coming home to the smell of something baking makes any day feel a little better.

Fall baking is also a great way to spend time with family and friends, especially on a weekend when there isn't much to do outside. Whether you're making a dessert for Thanksgiving, preparing something for Halloween, baking on a weekend, or simply just trying out a new recipe, there are plenty of options to choose from. You don't need to be an expert baker to bake something delicious. Some of the most popular fall recipes you'll find are actually the ones that are the simplest to make!

Here are some popular treats to bake this fall season:

- Apple pie
- Pumpkin muffins
- Apple crisp
- Cinnamon rolls
- Pumpkin cookies
- Apple cinnamon cake
- Pumpkin pie
- Key lime pie
- Apple cider donuts
- Caramel apple skillet cookie
- Pumpkin spice crème brûlée
- Apple cider cookies
- Apple bread pudding
- Pumpkin coffee bread
- Pear crisp
- Sweet potato pie
- Pumpkin cheesecake



A Taste of Fall

The Best Treats to Bake This Season

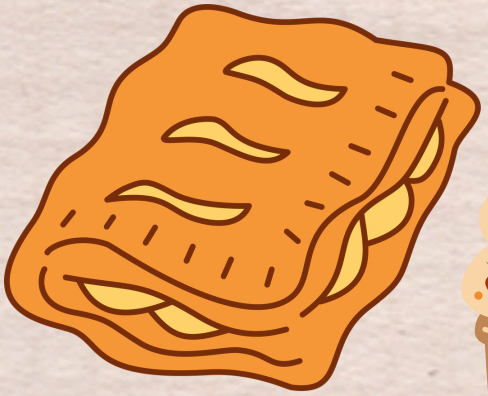
By Alana Durham



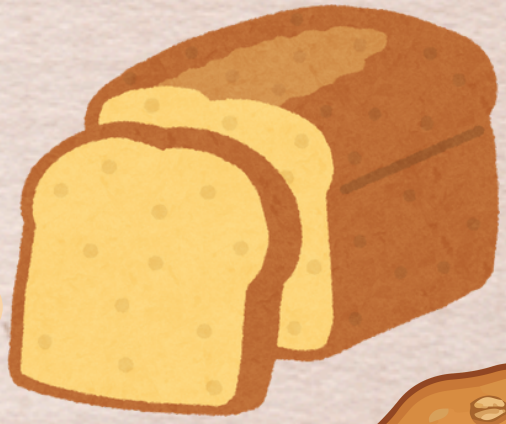


- Caramel apple sheet cake
- Apple crumble
- Pumpkin spice cupcakes
- Pecan pie
- Snickerdoodle cookie
- Pumpkin churros
- Pumpkin chocolate chip cookies
- Apple turnovers
- Pumpkin spice latte quick bread
- White chocolate chai pumpkin snickerdoodles
- Cream cheese swirled cinnamon pumpkin butter bread
- Oatmeal raisin cookies
- Pumpkin banana bread

One of the best things about fall baking is that there isn't really a wrong choice. Whether you prefer pumpkin, apples, chocolate, or cinnamon, there is something for everyone. So the next time you have a free afternoon, turn on the oven, find a recipe, and make your kitchen smell like fall.









Dressed to Scare

Popular Costumes of 2026

By Elina Abosheriah

Halloween is a time of candy, decorations and, of course, costumes. Dressing in Halloween costumes started around 2,000 years ago during the ancient Celtic times. The people, in the festival of Samhain, wore animal heads, hides, and masks. However, as time passed, so did the costumes. Granted, the Celts wore costumes to ward off evil. Now, Halloween costumes are an opportunity to express your interests, match with your friends or significant other, and go trick-or-treating.

But what Halloween costumes are in style this year, and well, what aren't? Fashion has changed drastically over the years. From corsets to baggy jeans, these are just some of the many varieties of clothes that are currently trending. For the 2026 Halloween, the trending costumes are:

1 Superheroes

Superheroes have been a hit for Halloween costumes. This year the most popular ones being Spider-man, Supergirl, Deadpool, and a classic Batman. From the new releases Spider-man: Brand New Day and Supergirl, many people are taking inspiration. Other superheroes that not many people are doing but are still fairly popular are Wolverine and Captain America. If superheroes aren't your thing we still have many more options to go through.

2 New Screen Hits

When a new movie comes out, it's always the first thing that comes to mind for a Halloween costume. Or that's just what a lot of people think of. Because new hits like Obsession, Backrooms, The Odyssey, Project Hail Mary and Toy Story 5 are just a few of the new movies that have come out in 2026. Characters like Nikki, Penelope, and Woody are gaining in popularity as Halloween costume choices. The numbers are rising and so are your options.

Dressed to Scare

Popular Costumes of 2026

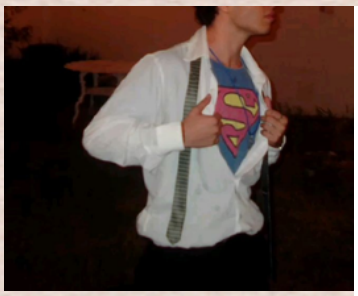
By Elina Abosheriah

3 Pop icons

Taylor Swift, Michael Jackson, Dolly Parton, Olivia Rodrigo, and more are just a few of the many pop artists that people are starting to dress as. You could go as Micheal Jackson in his hit song "Thriller" or as Dolly Parton to commemorate her passing. You could also go as Pitbull, but you'd have to be okay with being bald on Halloween.

4 Traditional Monsters

If all else fails, the next best thing is a classic monster. Vampires, zombies, mummies, werewolves and ghosts are all costumes that have been popular for years. Sure, they're basic, but with everyone wanting to avoid being basic, you'll stick out. However, if you want a more niche selection, you could go as a banshee, ogre, minotaur, or kraken.















Fall Activities

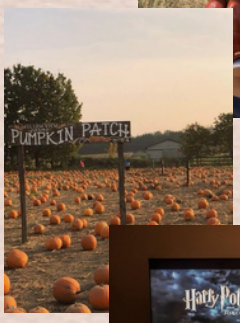
By Patrick Evans

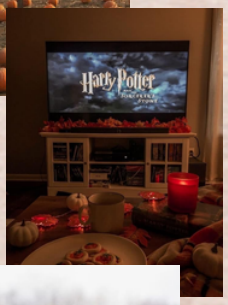
The air smells like pumpkin spice, the leaves are crunchy, and the weather is just right for the perfect comfortable pair of sweats. Where music somehow gets better during this season, and daily walks around town become better than scrolling on a cellphone. There are so many fun activities to partake in during the season of fall, which is why fall is considered one of the best seasons.

First, apple and pumpkin picking are two amazing activities to do during fall. The air is crisp, and apple cider donuts (and apple cider itself) are everywhere. You can go and try to find pumpkins with friends or family. However, trying to find the "perfect" pumpkin is rather difficult because it will most likely be rotten on one side. However, that's what makes it more enjoyable!

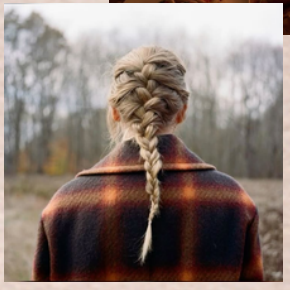
Later throughout the season, Halloween comes around! Halloween just elevates all the vibes that fall already gives off and makes it so much better. Scary movies, dressing up as scary or funny characters with friends and family, or trick-or-treating makes everything more fun.







However, on late nights, it is the perfect time to get in your coziest pajamas or sweatshirt and pants and curl up on the couch or in bed and binge watch a T.V. show or have a movie marathon. Being cozy while the leaves are falling and the air temperature is just right is the exact concept of pure perfection for all fall-related activities. Music is also another amazing way to chill during the fall season! Some of my favorite suggestions would be Petal, written by Ariana Grande and released July 31st of this year. A few others that I haven't listened to much of but would highly suggest are: Noah Kahan's Stick Season, and Folklore or Evermore by Taylor Swift.



These activities allow you to clear your mind and truly soak in the amazingness of fall, and these aren't even all of them! There are so many fun and exciting activities to partake in during the fall season!

Fall Dunkin Review

By Donovan McNamee

Fall. The one time of year that Dunkin's fall menu comes out. The one time of the year you see influencers trying and reviewing fall-themed menu items. Dunkin has many items available to purchase, such as the pumpkin spice latte, which is available in two different varieties: hot and iced. Dunkin doesn't just offer iced coffees, though. They also sell many different flavors of refreshers, such as the strawberry dragonfruit refresher, pink pineapple refresher, and mango pineapple refresher. They even have new refreshers that are available for a limited time during the fall season, such as the berry clementine refresher, which you can choose to have with green tea or lemonade.

The Dunkin fall menu doesn't just offer drinks. Alongside them, they offer many delicious pastries specifically for the fall season. These items include pumpkin muffins, pumpkin-glazed munchkins, and pumpkin-glazed donuts. Imagine it's a cold, chilly fall day, and you're craving an iced coffee, but it's too cold... Dunkin has very delicious hot versions of pumpkin drinks too! If you're craving a pumpkin-flavored sweet treat, Dunkin has it in the form of a donut, munchkin, or muffin. All of the drinks and food items at Dunkin are always delicious and rated ten out of ten. Dunkin is the place to go if you want to try a pumpkin latte, dunkalatte, or pumpkin chai. (If you are on a diet, it's okay to have a sweet treat once in a while too!) Along with your drink, you can also enjoy a sweet little pumpkin pastry. Having a snack alongside a pumpkin coffee, whether iced or hot, will always make your day ten times better.





Fall Sports

By Serena Ennis

Fall sports are a big part of the high school experience. Fall is when football season begins, sparking Friday Night Lights excitement and encouraging school spirit. There is also girls' and boys' soccer, an action-packed sport that brings people together and is a big part of our school. There is cross country, a sport for both guys and girls that helps them build their endurance and includes running distances ranging from a mile to up to three. There is also girls' tennis, an exciting sport that includes lots of movement and coordination. There is girls' volleyball, where your team works to bump, set, and spike the ball over the net!

You don't have to play a sport to get the experience; all you have to do is watch. Show your school spirit by going to watch our teams play. Look out for senior nights to appreciate the upperclassmen!

Here are some pictures of football and soccer taken by former student Aviv Reshef. The photos from football, girls' soccer, and volleyball were taken by Arlene Lynch. *Go bulldogs!*

Fall Sports

Photo Credits to Aviv Reshef













Fall Sports

Photo Credits to Arlene Lynch















From Korea to the World

By Luciana Gomez

"B-T, uh, from everywhere to Korea," a lyric from "Body to Body", captures the sociocultural impact that BTS has had across the globe. BTS, also known as Bangtan Sonyeondan (Bulletproof Boy Scouts), debuted with their single "No More Dream" on June 13, 2013. Throughout these thirteen years, they have grown as a group and as individuals on multiple levels. Along with them, their fanbase, known as ARMY, has grown as well. This can be seen in the fact that all 41 North American, European, and UK stadium dates are officially sold out. The ARIRANG World Tour has sold approximately 2.3 million tickets, and during its span, the group will perform at some locations for the first time, many of them in South America. Their influence has reached all across the world, showing how music can break language barriers and connect with all different cultures and backgrounds. It is truly breathtaking to see how people that speak different languages and have different cultural values can come together to sing the same songs.

A moment during their concerts which demonstrates their cultural impact is during the song "Body to Body", as the audience sings "Arirang". This song is considered to be Korea's most famous traditional folk song. It symbolizes Korean cultural identity through the representation of the emotions, struggles, and resilience of people across generations. It has multiple variations, but in the traditional song, the Arirang Pass is mentioned. The pass has developed to not only represent a single location, but the actual action of overcoming obstacles and holding on to hope. Seeing how people all around the world can connect to this song, shows how the emotion behind the melodies and lyrics that BTS craft, can cause a ripple effect. Other songs in their album reflect on deeper themes, like "Normal", which discusses society and how the normalization of certain things can lead to a person losing their own identity. What we may call "ordinary," can cause many people to become numb to their true feelings. Complex themes are also found in other albums such as, Love Yourself: Answer. In the song "The Truth Untold" the narrator lives in a lonely, thorn-filled garden and uses a mask to hide themself out of fear of rejection.

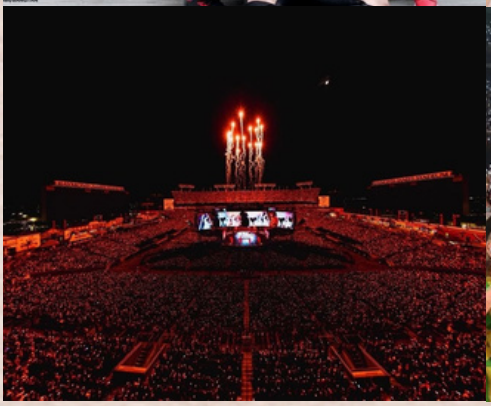
From Korea to the World

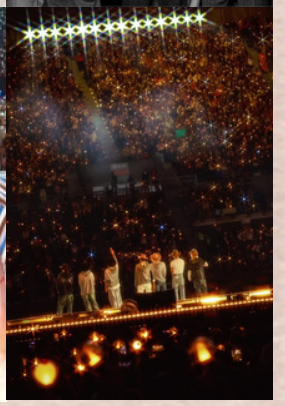
By Luciana Gomez

Other songs like “Magic Shop”, relay the message that comfort and strength can always be found in people you love. ARMY sees this as a song between them and BTS, as it represents the comfort they have found in their music and shows the love and appreciation BTS has for them. It is the emotional nature of these songs that creates an impact large enough that so many people find themselves connected to the music and the group.

On May 6, 2026, around 50,000 people were present at the Palacio Nacional of Mexico City when BTS was visiting the landmark. Regardless of race, gender, or age, people were willing to come and witness what some called a “historic event”, which is sure to be only one of the many to come, as BTS continues to have an impact across the places they visit worldwide. One can only wonder how much these seven boys from Korea will accomplish and how many more hearts they will heal.





The Comeback of Sarah J. Maas

By Luciana Gomez

980 days have passed since Sarah J. Maas last published a book. 2,058 days have passed since she last published a book from the ACOTAR series. 5,174 days have passed since she published her first book. (as of October 6, 2026) In this span of years, we have seen her skills as an author and storyteller grow immensely. As we have gotten to know these characters, we have seen our experiences, thoughts, and fears reflected within them. Our connection to and love for these characters have only grown over time and we anxiously await their return. However, the wait is finally over! As always, complex world-building, character development, and plot twists can be expected for the next ACOTAR book.

A Court of Splintered Harmony will be released on October 27, 2026 and Bloomsbury currently lists the book with 352 pages. Some things about the book have a similar structure to previous ACOTAR books, such as the title. It follows the same pattern of starting off with "A Court of" followed by two words. In this case the two words that follow, along with the synopsis, reveal that this new book will be filled with betrayals and the need for reconstruction. The main villain of this book, and possibly the next two books, is Koschei. Potential points of view have not been stated explicitly by the author, but many of the fans have wondered if they might be of Nesta, Gwyn, or Emerie. This train of thought comes from the fact that the new story line is called "The Valkyrie Cycle" and because Nesta played such an important role in *A House of Flame and Shadow*. The next two books are thought to continue *The Valkyrie Cycle*, as Maas has stated that all three books follow one story. They were meant to be one book, but because of length and printing issues, they have been broken down into three separate novels.

The next book is *A Court of Forgotten Melody* and it will be published on January 12, 2027. In these novels, we may see connections between the Maasverse, so reading TOG and CC is recommended if you want to understand all of the Easter Eggs. I personally recommend reading CC at least, since it is rich in connections to the Night Court.

The Comeback of Sarah J. Maas

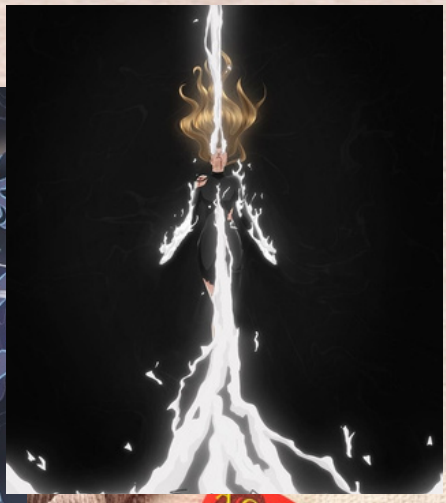
By Luciana Gomez

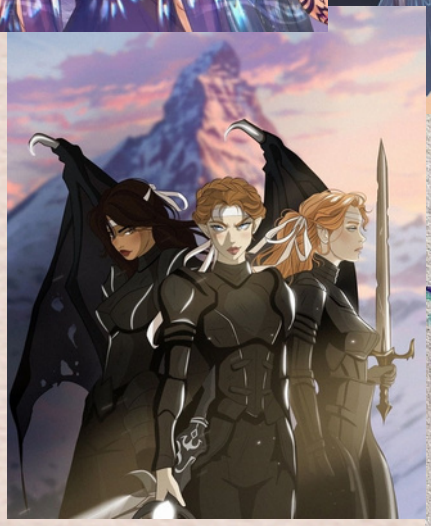
If you want to read TOG before *A Court of Forgotten Melody* comes out, there are multiple fan guides explaining what specific order to read them in. There are also podcasts that deep-dive and analyze the connections between the Massverse and overall character development or foreshadowing within the books. One popular podcast is Fantasy Fangirls. They discuss everything from how long it would take a dragon to fly between two points to analyzing character choices.

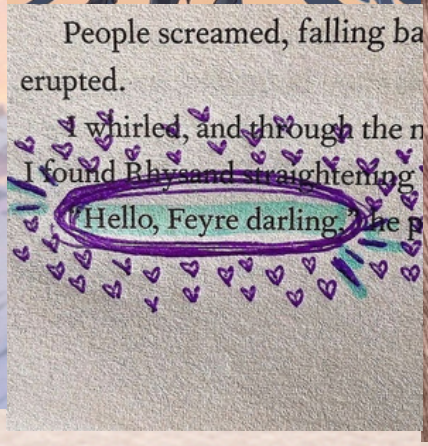
There are many ways to prepare for this upcoming release, but the main point is to have fun while reading. Whether you have been reading fantasy for years or have recently found yourself interested in magic and fae, the excitement surrounding this book is palpable. As we all count down the days until this highly anticipated release, the magic within Prythian is waiting to unfold.













The Hall of Candy

By Elina Abosheriah

Candy is the most important part of Halloween. But which is the best? There are gummies, chocolates, and hard candies. Many different varieties to choose from. But what does JDHS think is the best candy? By taking a poll we found that the ranking from 1 to 10 is:

1 *Reese's Peanut Butter Cups*
It's a given that these chocolaty and decadent cups have been ranked number one by the student body. A rich chocolate coating covers the creamy peanut butter that lays inside.

2 *Twix*
Caramel. Chocolate. Crunchy Cookie. What's not to love about the classic Twix bar. Even better when you get it in a king size!

3 *Snickers*
Biting into a Snickers bar is like a reward. So many flavors and textures explode in your mouth with only one bite.

4 *KitKat*
Plain old crunchy cookie layers and chocolate. A simple yet delicious treat.

5 *Skittles*
Small bite-sized pieces of fruity goodness. After a whole bunch of chocolate, a bag of Skittles can reset your taste buds.

6 *Gushers*
This hexagonal jewel is a waterfall of flavor. A gummy shell with a juicy, fruity, and tangy liquid filled center.

7 *Jolly Ranchers*
A hard fruity candy that kids, even teenagers, go crazy for. Many different flavors that have a hint of sour.

The Hall of Candy

By Elina Abosheriah

8 *Nerds*

Tiny, tangy, bite sized candies. Though they aren't everyone's first pick they are very much appreciated.

9 *Butterfinger*

Crispy, crunchy, peanut butter-flavored toffee center that is covered in a velvety chocolate coating. Butterfingers are unrated but something no one can pass up.

10 *M&Ms*

Colorful, button shaped chocolate goodness. They certainly live up to their slogan, "Melts in your mouth, not in your hand".



Homecoming Dance & Game Anticipation

By Serena Ennis

As we enter October, JDHS is getting ready for the big Homecoming game on the 16th and the Homecoming dance on the 17th. The homecoming game will be at home against Highland Park HS at 7pm on the 16th and we're expecting to take it home. The theme for the game will be pink out so be sure to come dressed in school spirit. You can cheer up in the student section or stand closer to the action. Either way, you'll be able to cheer on the Bulldogs and watch our amazing cheer team. There will be a pep rally beforehand to recognize all of our teams and their hard work. Interclass games will be coming shortly after that so make sure to have your class t-shirts to show your Bulldog pride.

Shortly thereafter, there will be the Homecoming dance. Prepare for a night of music, food, candy, and fun. It's on Saturday October 17th from 7-10pm. We'll be rolling out the red carpet for our Hollywood theme so come on down! This is a great way to show school spirit and raise money for important events, like prom, in the future. Homecoming is an amazing and important high school experience. There will be voting for Prince, Princess, King and Queen, and senior superlatives. This is a great opportunity to hang out and dance with your friends! There's a lot of fun, upcoming activities for Dayton and you wouldn't want to miss out!



How Student-Athletes Balance Sports & Academics



By Brianna Arias



Being a student athlete is more than just showing up to practice and competing. Student athletes have to balance schoolwork, sports, friends, family, and sometimes even jobs or clubs. With so much going on, learning how to manage time can make a huge difference.

One of the biggest challenges for student athletes is finding time to get school work done. After spending the entire school day in class, athletes often have to go straight to practice, games, or meets. By the time they get home, they may still have homework and studying to do. This can lead to late nights, especially when there is a test the next day. Time management is one of the biggest ways to make this easier. Students can use study halls, free periods, weekends, or even small breaks throughout the day to get assignments started. Getting some work done before practice means there is less to worry about later.

This year, students also have another opportunity to use their time wisely. Since practices cannot begin until 3:15 p.m, students have the time between 2:31 and 3:15 to do other things. They can attend club meetings, work on homework, meet with tutors, or get extra help from a teacher before heading to practice. For athletes involved in multiple activities, this can be helpful. Instead of having to choose between a club and sports, students may be able to attend a club meeting before practice. Students who are struggling in a class can also use the time to get tutoring rather than waiting until after practice when they are already tired.

Of course, balancing everything is not always easy. There will be weeks when there are multiple tests, important games, and a lot of homework all at once. Sometimes athletes have to prioritize what needs to be done first and accept that not every day will go perfectly. Being a student athlete can be busy, but it also teaches students skills that go beyond the classroom. Learning how to stay organized, manage time, work with others, and handle pressure can help students both in school and in the future.

Is the Encore Worth the Applause?

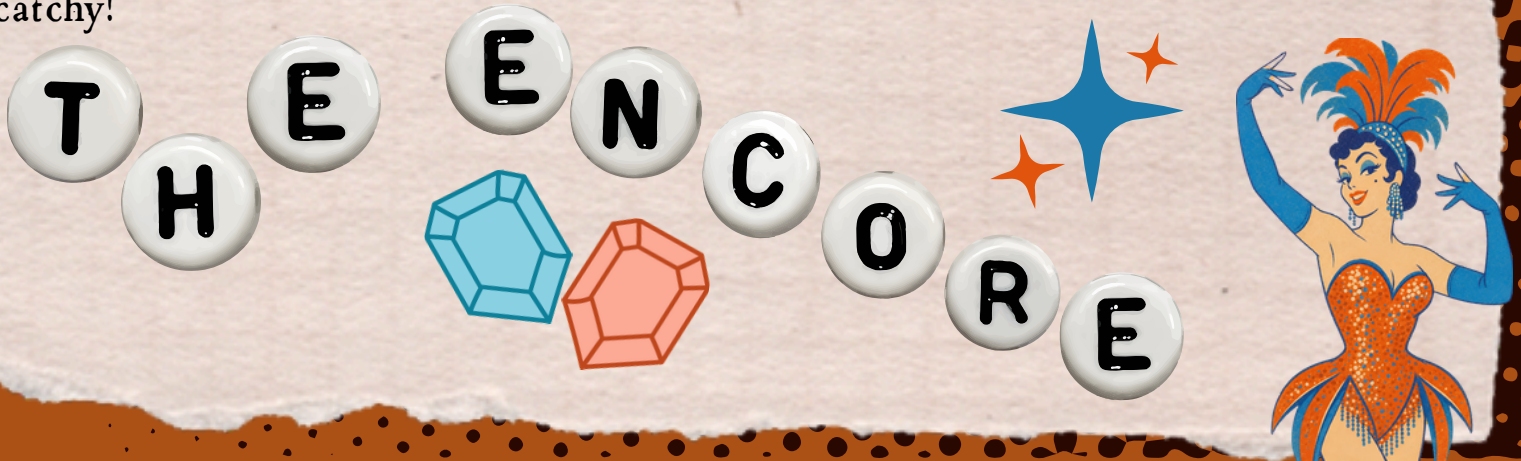
A Review of Taylor Swift's TLOAS:TE

By Mackenzie Gibb

Despite saying that The Life of a Showgirl wouldn't have a deluxe, Taylor Swift surprised everybody with The Life of a Showgirl: The Encore, a four-track deluxe of her most recent album, giving Swifties more to love, dissect, and, of course, theorize about!

The first of the four new songs is "Patient Zero." The term patient zero refers to the first person to be infected in an outbreak, and Swift uses this term in her song that compares this phenomenon to an ex-boyfriend, describing herself as the first person "infected" by him and offering support to the girl that comes after her. Many fans believe this song is about Joe Alwyn, providing yet another insight to their 6-year-long relationship, whilst others theorize it may reference Joe Jonas, especially due to Swift's close friendship with Jonas's ex-wife Sophie Turner. Personally, I love this song, and I think it's incredibly relatable not only in relationships but in friendships as well, and it's definitely my favorite out of the four new tracks!

The second track, "Cleveland!" is a very upbeat, high tempo song, and definitely a topic of conversation lately! Some love it, some hate it. This song is about Swift's husband, Travis Kelce, and essentially tells her critics that what they say about her doesn't bother her, as she's found the love of her life, and that's all she needs. Some fans have criticized the song for not being up to Swift's usual level of lyricism, but I think that's part of its charm. My favorite part of the song is when she says "You only need to find one person in this entire world who doesn't find you completely insufferable, and I have an important announcement to make–I found mine!" It's simply fun, and very catchy!



Is the Encore Worth the Applause?

A Review of Taylor Swift's TLOAS:TE

By Mackenzie Gibb

Next up is "Pink Clouding." The term pink clouding refers to a period of intense optimism that someone recovering from an addiction can experience in the early days of their recovery. Swift uses this as a metaphor for being caught up in a temporary high, and promising love and loyalty without knowing if those feelings would last. In the opening lines, Swift writes, "neither of us knew at the time / that I was a liar." In this song she apologizes to an ex for leading them on. Fans theorize this song might be dedicated to Tom Hiddleston, whom Swift dated in 2016, but regardless of who inspired it, "Pink Clouding" is relatable to many, and very upbeat despite the vulnerability in its message.

The fourth and final track on *The Life of a Showgirl: The Encore* is "Babylon," a song fans theorize is about Matty Healy, who Swift had an on-and-off relationship with for about a decade. "Babylon" tells the story of somebody leaving their small town in pursuit of wealth and success, only to realize what was lost on the way. The chorus, "You never knew that it was Babylon / 'til it was gone," reinforcing the idea that you don't always know how good you have it until you lose it. Some fans also believe this song continues the story of Betty and James, two characters from Swift's 2020 album *Folklore*. With its catchy sound and detailed storytelling, it's another great song that I enjoy listening to a lot.



Most Popular Thriller Authors/Books

By Luciana Gomez

Sometimes the best possible way to get into the mood for the spooky season is by picking the perfect book to match the vibe. If you are looking to dive into another thriller book, or maybe this is your first time trying something like this out, here is a great list to start you off.

Some of the most popular thriller authors are:

- Agatha Christie –The queen of mystery

(She is known for classical murder mysteries, clever clues, and very unexpected twists. Christie will make you feel like you are the detective on case trying to find the culprit.)

Popular titles include: *And Then There Were None*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, and *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*

- Stephen King – master of psychological horror

(He is known for combining suspense, horror, and psychological fear. His books often explore the way that behavior changes when people are placed in terrifying situations.)

Popular titles include: *The Shining*, *Misery*, and *It*.

- Freida McFadden – queen of psychological thrillers

(She is known for fast-paced stories, often told by unreliable narrators who keep plenty of secrets. Her books come down to having you questioning who you can really trust, can you even trust yourself?)

Popular titles include: *Never Lie*, *The Housemaid*, and *The Teacher*.

Other titles that are not by the authors above include:

- *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn
- *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaedelis
- *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins

Most Popular Thriller Authors/Books

By Luciana Gomez

From the titles mentioned previously and personal experiences I would recommend starting off with *The Silent Patient*. In this book, a woman is accused of murdering her husband, but when she suddenly stops speaking, one determined therapist becomes obsessed with uncovering the truth—and the shocking reason behind her silence. I hope you can find a book that captures your attention and fills this season with some thrill. Happy reading!









Previewing *Puffs!*

By Patrick Evans

Coming to Halsey Hall Auditorium on November 19-21st, JDHS presents their next upcoming drama, *Puffs*! *Puffs* is a Harry Potter-esque comedy, based on the Hufflepuff house! It is a play that "never goes more than a minute without a laugh"(Nerdist).

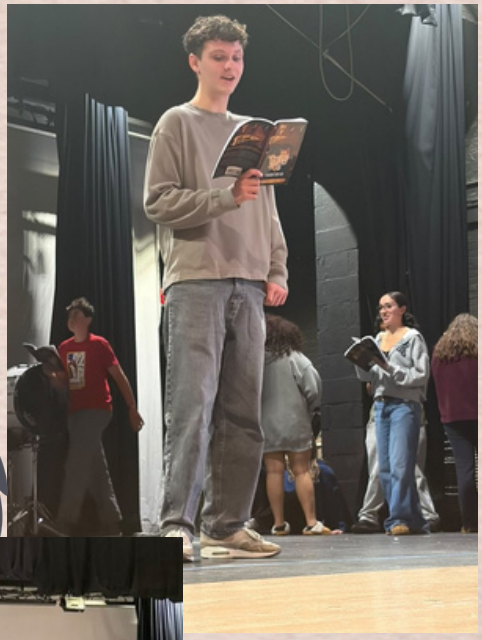
I talked to one of the cast members, Anna Jaramillo, who is playing Harry P. in *Puffs*. She states, "she loves to get to know the cast and it is an amazing experience" and "it allows [her] to meet new people and create long lasting friendships with them as well."

The setting of the drama takes place in the 1990s, during the time of the Harry Potter story. The characters are Wayne Hopkins, Oliver Rivers, Megan Jones, the Narrator, Leanne, Ernie Mac, Hannah, J. Finch Fletchley, Sally Perks, Susie Bones, Cedric.

Come see the show on November 19-21 to witness the untold story of the Hufflepuffs!









Should There Be a Cutoff Age for Trick-or-Treating?

By Alana Durham

As Halloween gets closer, there is always a debate about whether teenagers are too old to go trick-or-treating. Some people think there should be a certain age when you have to stop, but honestly, I don't think there should be a cutoff age at all.

Halloween is for everyone, and if a teenager still wants to dress up and go trick-or-treating with their friends, there shouldn't be a problem with that. Halloween only comes once a year, so why not enjoy it while you can? Going out with friends, dressing up, and getting candy can still be fun even when you're older. For a lot of people, it can also be a fun tradition that they look forward to every year.

As long as older kids are being respectful and not causing problems, their age shouldn't really matter. If they are being polite to the people giving out candy in the neighborhood and following the same rules as everyone else, I don't see why they should be told they can't participate. Getting older doesn't mean you have to stop having fun or going trick-or-treating on Halloween.

So, should there be a cutoff age for trick-or-treating? I don't think so. If you're having fun, being respectful, and enjoying Halloween, you shouldn't have to worry about being "too old." There's no age limit to having fun, and Halloween should be enjoyed by anyone who wants to celebrate it. After all, it only occurs one night a year, so be sure to make the most of it!





The Story Behind Halloween



By Luciana Gomez

When looking at the holiday that many people cherish for its abundant candy and parties, one might wonder where this tradition came from and how much it has changed since those times. The origins of Halloween can be traced back to an ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts lived in Central Western Europe about 3,000 years ago and this festival marked the new year, the beginning of the winter. It was believed that the threshold between the living and dead world was weakest the night before the festival, which happened to be October 31st. Sacred bonfires were lit on this night to make sacrifices to the deities and pray for protection during the winter. It was thought that on this night many ghosts came back to the world and people, to avoid being recognized by the spirits, would wear masks and costumes.

Trick-or-treating has a similar sentiment to the All Soul's Day parades in England, during this event poor families/citizens would beg for pastries (called soul-cakes) from better off people. In return, they were expected to pray for the protection of those families and eventually this tradition was taken on by kids. In the 1970s there were rumors of poisoned Halloween candy, which turned out to be true in the case of Ronald O'Bryan. He was thirty years old and had an eight year old son. He gave his son (and other trick-or-treaters) candy laced with potassium cyanide in hopes of ensuring life insurance money. O'Bryan was convicted of murder and dubbed "The Candyman". On Halloween of 1933, there was a great amount of violence and vandalism that broke out, so much so that it was called "Black Halloween". This led to authority figures to redirect the nature of the holiday and it began to be targeted to a younger audience. This was especially seen in the 1950s because of the baby boom, as there was a large number of kids that would be able to participate in tamer versions of Halloween celebrations.

Some forgotten but interesting traditions of this holiday focus on the future instead of the past, more specifically it focused on the possibility for marriage. Traditions included: hiding a ring in mashed potatoes to see who would be the next couple down the aisle, throwing hazelnuts into the fire to see which love would truly last, and drinking a mixture of nutmeg and hazelnut to dream of one's future spouse.

The Story Behind Halloween

By Luciana Gomez

Seeing how much events can change over time and, in turn, cause new traditions to form is truly astonishing. The Celtic festival that celebrated the start of winter and communication with long-gone spirits eventually transformed into what we know today as Halloween. This transformation shows how much history is buried within the layers of our current society.











Top 10 Scary Movies to Watch This Season

By Alana Durham

If you're looking for a movie that will actually scare you this Halloween, there are plenty of horror movies to choose from. Some are creepy and suspenseful, while others are the kind that make you want to sleep with the lights on. Here are the top 10 scariest movies to watch this Halloween season, ranked from scariest to least scary.

1. Hereditary - 9.5/10
This psychological horror movie gets more disturbing as it goes on. The story is dark and unpredictable, making it one of the more intense movies on this list.

2. Sinister - 9/10
A writer discovers disturbing recordings while researching a story. As he looks further into them, things become much more frightening than he expected.

3. The Conjuring - 9/10
A family starts experiencing strange paranormal activity in their new home. The creepy old house and unexpected scares make it a classic horror movie.

4. The Exorcist - 9/10
This classic horror movie follows a family dealing with a frightening supernatural entity. Even though it was released years ago, it is still known for being extremely scary.

5. The Nun - 8.5/10
Set in a monastery in Romania, *The Nun* follows a priest and a young nun investigating a strange supernatural presence. The dark setting and mysterious events make the movie especially creepy.

6. Insidious - 8.5/10
A family discovers that something supernatural may be connected to their son. The movie keeps you guessing, building up to jumpscares & suspense.

Top 10 Scary Movies to Watch This Season

By Alana Durham

7 Smile - 8.5/10
After witnessing a patient commit a violent, disturbing, smiling suicide, a woman begins experiencing strange events and finds herself in the midst of a demonic curse. As things get progressively worse, it becomes harder to tell what is real and what isn't.

8 IT - 8/10
A group of kids comes face-to-face with Pennywise, a terrifying creature that takes the form of their fears. Between the creepy clown and the strange events occurring in the town, there are plenty of reasons to be scared.

9 The Ring - 8/10
A mysterious videotape is connected to a terrifying curse. The mystery surrounding the tape slowly unfolds and keeps the movie feeling unsettling.

10 Scream - 7.5/10
A group of teenagers is targeted by a masked killer. Along with the horror, there is a mystery that keeps you guessing about who the killer actually is.

If you don't normally watch scary movies, I would suggest that you start watching *Scream* first. However, if you want something that will actually scare you, try one of the movies rated 9 or higher like *Hereditary*, *The Conjuring*, or even *The Nun*. Whether you prefer psychological horror, supernatural movies, or classic slashers, there is something on this list for every type of horror movie fan. So this fall, be sure to grab some friends, pick a movie, and see how far you can make it through the list without getting too scared!



Why School Spirit Actually Matters

By Brianna Arias

Let's be honest, waking up at 5am, sitting through six classes, and pretending to understand what's happening in first period isn't exactly the highlight of anyone's day. One thing that can make school a lot more fun is school spirit.

School spirit is more than just wearing Dayton colors and yelling at a football game like the score depends on you. It's about showing up, supporting your classmates, and actually being involved in what's happening around school. Whether it's a football or soccer game, pep rally, spirit week, or school dance, these are the moments that bring everyone together. Even if you don't care about sports, you can still go to a game with your friends and have a good time.

School spirit also gives students something to look forward to besides the weekend. Spirit days give everyone an excuse to dress differently, pep rallies give students a reason to be way louder than we normally are, and school dances somehow convince everyone to take 200 pictures in the span of 5 minutes or less. At the end of the day, school spirit is about making memories and supporting the people you go to school with. We're all going to have plenty of homework, tests, and early mornings, so why not make the time in between a little more fun?

So wear the Dayton colors, go to games, participate in spirit week, cheer for your friends, and maybe try to have some school spirit. Your grades may not remember it, but you definitely will.









Be safe this Halloween! Look after yourselves, and have fun!



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