



October News 2023



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Fall Festival

Volume: 68

Brentwood Academy News



Monday October 9- Columbus Day School Closed

Monday October 16
Picture

We do not want to see your car towed. PLEASE park in the designated area ONLY. We are receiving complaints from neighbors when their spaces are occupied

Blue Bird of Vienna News



Monday
October 9 - Columbus Day
School Closed

Monday October 2
Picture Day

Tiny Tots Playroom News



Monday October 9- Columbus Day School Closed

Wednesday October 4
Picture day

Blue Bird of Alexandria News



Monday October 9- Columbus Day School Closed

Thursday, Friday October
5-6 Picture Days

Blue Bird Dayschool News



Monday October 9- Columbus Day School Closed

Tuesday October 3
Picture Day



“Be on the look-out” For scheduling conferences in November sign-up forms will be out at the end of October.

What does the Titanic have to do with it?

Out of the \$6.9 billion spent annually in the US alone, \$2.08 billion are spent on Halloween candy. How many sweet treats can you buy with that money? Roughly 600 million pounds – which equals about 6 Titanic ships.

Candy breakdown

The average American eats about 3.4 pounds of Halloween candy – the weight of a small chihuahua in a Halloween costume!

Let's talk about sugar

Trick-or-treating, aka dressing up and asking the neighbors for candy, can be a deliciously successful endeavor: Kids consume about 7000 calories on Halloween. (You would have to eat 66 bananas to reach 7000 calories.)

A big ol' pumpkin

The world's heaviest pumpkin grew in a Swiss garden: It weighed 2,096 pounds – as much as a small car.

Blue Bird of Alexandria II News



Monday October 9- Columbus Day School Closed

Thursday Friday October
10—13 Picture Day

Friday October 27 - End of
First Grading Period

“Flu season”

Virginia Department of Health encourages everyone to get the Flu-shot

Columbus Day



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HALLOWEEN



HALLOWEEN

Safety Tips

Costume Safety

Wear flame retardant costumes.
Make sure your Halloween costume is colorfast so the color doesn't run onto your other clothes if it rains.
Try on costumes before Halloween to allow time for altering.
Hem your costumes so you don't trip and fall.
Apply reflective tape to your Halloween costumes.
Avoid cumbersome masks. Use make-up instead.
Use only hypoallergenic and non-toxic makeup.
Wear comfortable, practical shoes.
Double tie your shoelaces so you don't trip.
Keep your costume and wig away from candles.
Don't carry fake swords, guns, knives or similar accessories that look authentic. Make sure they're flexible and cannot harm anyone.

Trick-or-Treating Tips

Plan your route ahead of time.
Trick or treat in familiar neighborhoods.
Carry a flashlight with fresh batteries after dark.
Take along money for a phone call.
Wear identification that's easy to read.
Always trick or treat in groups, accompanied by an adult.
Follow a curfew and take a watch with a backlight.
Stay on the sidewalks and out of the streets. Cross only at intersections and designated crosswalks.
Walk. No running.
Don't trample through flower beds and gardens.
Watch out for open flames in jack-o-Lanterns.
Walk with your head up and be aware of your surroundings.
Only visit well lit houses. Don't stop at dark houses.
Don't enter any houses unless you know the people.
Carry a spare Halloween bag, in case yours breaks or you fill your original one.
Don't approach unfamiliar pets and animals.
Don't cut across yards and stay out of backyards.
Follow traffic signals and don't jaywalk.
Always watch for cars backing up or turning.
Review the "stop, drop and roll" procedure in case your costume catches on fire.
Never accept rides from strangers.
Respect other people and their property.
Be polite and say "thank you".
Don't eat any candy until it's inspected for tampering under bright lights.
Avoid candy that has loose wrappings, is unwrapped, has puncture holes, or is homemade.
Small children should not be allowed hard candy they may choke on.
Report any suspicious or criminal activity to an adult or the police.



October 1, 1908

Henry Ford's Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time.

October 3, 1863 -

President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation designating the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

October 4, 1957 -

The Space Age began as the Russians launched the first satellite into orbit. Sputnik I weighed just 184 lbs. and transmitted a beeping radio signal for 21 days. The remarkable accomplishment by Soviet Russia sent a shockwave through the American political leadership resulting in U.S. efforts to be the first on the moon.

October 8, 1871 -

The Great Fire of Chicago erupted. According to legend, it started when Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over a lantern in her barn on DeKoven Street. Over 300 persons were killed and 90,000 were left homeless as the fire leveled 3.5 square miles, destroying 17,450 buildings. Financial losses totaled over \$200 million.

Contrary to popular belief, most educated Europeans in Columbus' day understood that the world was round, but they did not yet know that the Pacific Ocean existed. As a result, Columbus and his contemporaries assumed that only the Atlantic lay between Europe and the riches of the East Indies.

Once upon a time

Believe it or not, the birthplace of Halloween is not a sugar factory: The holiday has been around for about 6000 years and it is believed to have originated around 4000 B.C. in Ireland.

Dead or alive

Halloween has its origins in the ancient Celtic festival of "Samhain" – the celebration of the end of harvest season. Back then, the Gaels believed that on October 31, the boundaries between the worlds of the living and the dead got a little blurry and the dead would come back to life and wreak havoc among the living. One way to scare the dead? Wear costumes and masks.

Columbus Day

Columbus Day is a U.S. holiday that commemorates the landing of Christopher Columbus in the New World on October 12, 1492. It was unofficially celebrated in a number of cities and states as early as the 18th century but did not become a federal holiday until the 1937. For many, the holiday is a way of both honoring Columbus' achievements and celebrating Italian-American heritage.

Origins of Columbus Day

A U.S. national holiday since 1937, Columbus Day commemorates the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the New World on October 12, 1492. The Italian-born explorer had set sail two months earlier, backed by the Spanish monarchs King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. He intended to chart a western sea route to China, India and the fabled gold and spice islands of Asia; instead, he landed in the Bahamas, becoming the first European to explore the Americas since the Vikings set up colonies in Greenland and Newfoundland during the 10th century.

Later that month, Columbus sighted Cuba and believed it was mainland China; in December the expedition found Hispaniola, which he thought might be Japan. There, he established Spain's first colony in the Americas with 39 of his men. In March 1493, the explorer returned to Spain in triumph, bearing gold, spices and "Indian" captives. He crossed the Atlantic several more times before his death in 1506; by his third journey, he realized that he hadn't reached Asia but instead had stumbled upon a continent previously unknown to Europeans.

Columbus Day in the United States

The first Columbus Day celebration took place in 1792, when New York's Columbian Order—better known as Tammany Hall—held an event to commemorate the historic landing's 300th anniversary. Taking pride in Columbus' birthplace and faith, Italian and Catholic communities in various parts of the country began organizing annual religious ceremonies and parades in his honor. In 1892, President Benjamin Harrison issued a proclamation encouraging Americans to mark the 400th anniversary of Columbus' voyage with patriotic festivities, writing, "On that day let the people, so far as possible, cease from toil and devote themselves to such exercises as may best express honor to the discoverer and their appreciation of the great achievements of the four completed centuries of American life."

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed Columbus Day a national holiday, largely as a result of intense lobbying by the Knights of Columbus, an influential Catholic fraternal benefits organization. Originally observed every October 12, it was fixed to the second Monday in October in 1971.



Halloween Superstitions

Halloween has always been a holiday filled with mystery, magic and superstition. It began as a Celtic end-of-summer festival during which people felt especially close to deceased relatives and friends. For these friendly spirits, they set places at the dinner table, left treats on doorsteps and along the side of the road and lit candles to help loved ones find their way back to the spirit world. Today's Halloween ghosts are often depicted as more fearsome and malevolent, and our customs and superstitions are scarier too. We avoid crossing paths with black cats, afraid that they might bring us bad luck. This idea has its roots in the Middle Ages, when many people believed that witches avoided detection by turning themselves into cats. We try not to walk under ladders for the same reason. This superstition may have come from the ancient Egyptians, who believed that triangles were sacred; it also may have something to do with the fact that walking under a leaning ladder tends to be fairly unsafe. And around Halloween, especially, we try to avoid breaking mirrors, stepping on cracks in the road or spilling salt.



But what about the Halloween traditions and beliefs that today's trick-or-treaters have forgotten all about? Many of these obsolete rituals focused on the future instead of the past and the living instead of the dead. In particular, many had to do with helping young women identify their future husbands and reassuring them that they would someday—with luck, by next Halloween—be married. In 18th-century Ireland, a matchmaking cook might bury a ring in her mashed potatoes on Halloween night, hoping to bring true love to the diner who found it. In Scotland, fortune-tellers recommended that an eligible young woman name a hazelnut for each of her suitors and then toss the nuts into the fireplace. The nut that burned to ashes rather than popping or exploding, the story went, represented the girl's future husband. (In some versions of this legend, confusingly, the opposite was true: The nut that burned away symbolized a love that would not last.) Another tale had it that if a young woman ate a sugary concoction made out of walnuts, hazelnuts and nutmeg before bed on Halloween night she would dream about her future husband. Young women tossed apple-peels over their shoulders, hoping that the peels would fall on the floor in the shape of their future husbands' initials; tried to learn about their futures by peering at egg yolks floating in a bowl of water; and stood in front of mirrors in darkened rooms, holding candles and looking over their shoulders for their husbands' faces. Other rituals were more competitive. At some Halloween parties, the first guest to find a burr on a chestnut-hunt would be the first to marry; at others, the first successful apple-bobber would be the first down the aisle.

Of course, whether we're asking for romantic advice or trying to avoid seven years of bad luck, each one of these Halloween superstitions relies on the good will of the very same "spirits" whose presence the early Celts felt so keenly.