



October News 2025



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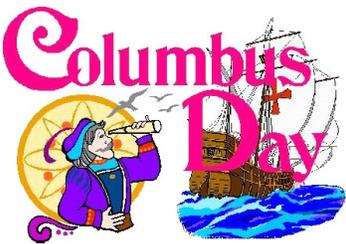
Fall Festival

Volume: 68

Brentwood Academy News



Monday October 13- Columbus Day School Closed



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 13- Columbus Day School Closed

Tiny Tots Playroom News



Monday October 13- Columbus Day School Closed

Blue Bird of Alexandria News



Monday October 13- Columbus Day School Closed



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.

Blue Bird Dayschool News



Monday October 13- Columbus Day School Closed

10 Things You May Not Know About Christopher Columbus

1. Columbus didn't set out to prove the earth was round.
2. Columbus was likely not the first European to cross the Atlantic Ocean.
3. Three countries refused to back Columbus' voyage.
4. Nina and Pinta were not the actual names of two of Columbus' three ships.
5. The Santa Maria wrecked on Columbus' historic voyage.
6. Columbus made four voyages to the New World.
7. Columbus returned to Spain in chains in 1500.
8. A lunar eclipse may have saved Columbus.
9. Even in death, Columbus continued to cross the Atlantic.
10. Heirs of Columbus and the Spanish monarchy were in litigation until 1790.

Blue Bird of Alexandria II News



Monday October 13- Columbus Day School Closed



Friday October 24 - End of First Grading Period

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

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Lincoln proclaims official Thanksgiving holiday

October 3 1863, expressing gratitude for a pivotal Union Army victory at Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln announces that the nation will celebrate an official Thanksgiving holiday on November 26, 1863.

The speech, which was actually written by Secretary of State William Seward, declared that the fourth Thursday of every November thereafter would be considered an official U.S. holiday of Thanksgiving. This announcement harkened back to when George Washington was in his first term as the first president in 1789 and the young American nation had only a few years earlier emerged from the American Revolution. At that time, George Washington called for an official celebratory "day of public thanksgiving and prayer." While Congress overwhelmingly agreed to Washington's suggestion, the holiday did not yet become an annual event. Thomas Jefferson, the third president, felt that public demonstrations of piety to a higher power, like that celebrated at Thanksgiving, were inappropriate in a nation based in part on the separation of church and state. Subsequent presidents agreed with him. In fact, no official Thanksgiving proclamation was issued by any president between 1815 and the day Lincoln took the opportunity to thank the Union Army and God for a shift in the country's fortunes on this day in 1863.

The fourth Thursday of November remained the annual day of Thanksgiving from 1863 until 1939. Then, at the tail-end of the Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, hoping to boost the economy by providing shoppers and merchants a few extra days to conduct business between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, moved Thanksgiving to November's third Thursday. In 1941, however, Roosevelt bowed to Congress' insistence that the fourth Thursday of November be re-set permanently, without alteration, as the official

Halloween History & Origin

Halloween is the one of the oldest holidays still celebrated today.

It's one of the most popular holidays, second only to Christmas. While millions of people celebrate Halloween without knowing its origins and myths, the history and facts of Halloween make the holiday more fascinating. Some people view Halloween as a time for fun, putting on costumes, trick-or-treating, and having theme parties. Others view it as a time of superstitions, ghosts, goblins and evil spirits that should be avoided at all costs. As the Christian debate goes on, celebrating Halloween is a preference that is not always viewed as participating in an evil holiday. Halloween is often celebrated with no reference to pagan rituals or the occult.

Halloween History

Halloween is on October 31st, the last day of the Celtic calendar. It was originally a pagan holiday, honoring the dead. Halloween was referred to as All Hallows Eve and dates back to over 2000 years ago.

All Hallows Eve is the evening before All Saints Day, which was created by Christians to convert pagans, and is celebrated on November 1st. The Catholic church honored saints on this designated day.

Origins

While there are many versions of the origins and old customs of Halloween, some remain consistent by all accounts. Different cultures view Halloween somewhat differently but traditional Halloween practices remain the same.

Halloween culture can be traced back to the Druids, a Celtic culture in Ireland, Britain and Northern Europe. Roots lay in the feast of Samhain, which was annually on October 31st to honor the dead.

Samhain signifies "summers end" or November. Samhain was a harvest festival with huge sacred bonfires, marking the end of the Celtic year and beginning of a new one. Many of the practices involved in this celebration were fed on superstition.



Did you know? 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.

“Flu season“

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

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR TRICK OR TREATING

Trick or Treating should be one of the great adventures of Halloween for kids! they can get dressed in scary costumes and go door to door, begging "Tricks or Treats!" from neighbors or at the local mall. It should be a fun time, without trouble and pain, so following some easy tips can keep your child safe every Halloween. Children should go out during daylight hours only unless accompanied by a responsible adult.

Plan a safe route so parents know where their older kids will be at all times.

Set a time for their return home. Make

sure that your child is old enough and responsible enough to go out by themselves.

Let your children know not to cut through back alleys and fields.

Make sure they know to stay in populated places and don't go off the beaten track.

Stay in well lighted areas.

Stop only at familiar houses in your own neighborhood unless they are accompanied by an adult.

Small children should never be allowed to go out alone on Halloween.

Make sure an older sibling or adult is with them.

Instruct your children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you.

Instruct your child to never go into the home of a stranger or get into their car.

Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars.

Let them know that they should stay together as a group if going out to Trick or Treat without an adult.



First shots of the Texas Revolution fired in the Battle of Gonzales

October 2 1835, the growing tensions between Mexico and Texas erupt into violence when Mexican soldiers attempt to disarm the people of Gonzales, sparking the Texan war for independence.

Texas—or Tejas as the Mexicans called it—had technically been a part of the Spanish empire since the 17th century. However, even as late as the 1820s, there were only about 3,000 Spanish-Mexican settlers in Texas, and Mexico City's hold on the territory was tenuous at best. After winning its own independence from Spain in 1821, Mexico welcomed large numbers of Anglo-American immigrants into Texas in the hopes they would become loyal Mexican citizens and keep the territory from falling into the hands of the United States. During the next decade men like Stephen Austin brought more than 25,000 people to Texas, most of them Americans. But while these emigrants legally became Mexican citizens, they continued to speak English, formed their own schools, and had closer trading ties to the United States than to Mexico.

In 1835, the president of Mexico, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, overthrew the constitution and appointed himself dictator. Recognizing that the "American" Texans were likely to use his rise to power as an excuse to secede, Santa Anna ordered the Mexican military to begin disarming the Texans whenever possible. This proved more difficult than expected, and on October 2, 1835, Mexican soldiers attempting to take a small cannon from the village of Gonzales encountered stiff resistance from a hastily assembled militia of Texans. After a brief fight, the Mexicans retreated and the Texans kept their cannon.

The determined Texans would continue to battle Santa Ana and his army for another year and a half before winning their independence and establishing the Republic of Texas.

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