



# October News 2026



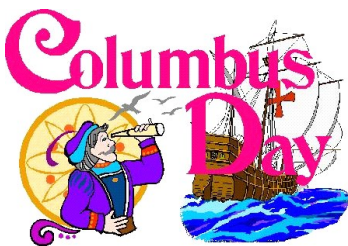
October 2026

Volume: 68

## Brentwood Academy News



Monday October 12- 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 Alexandria News



Monday October 12- 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 of Vienna News



Monday October 12- Columbus Day **School Closed**

## Tiny Tots Playroom News



Monday October 12- Columbus Day **School Closed**

## Blue Bird Dayschool News



Monday October 12- Columbus Day **School Closed**

## Things You May Not Know About Halloween

### 1. Nearly one-quarter of Americans say Halloween is their favorite holiday

Is spooky season your favorite time of year? You're far from alone. According to a 2021 YouGov poll, 23% of Americans say Halloween is their favorite holiday. More women than men say this (26% vs. 19%).

### 2. A pumpkin is actually a fruit, not a vegetable

While most people might guess that those autumnal orange gourds are vegetables, pumpkins are actually considered fruit! It's technically a fruit because anything that starts from a single flower — as a pumpkin does — is classified botanically as a "simple fruit."

## Blue Bird of Alexandria II News



Monday October 12- Columbus Day **School Closed**

Friday October 30 - 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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SAFE

HALLOWEEN



On **October 24, 1861**, workers of the **Western Union Telegraph Company** link the eastern and western telegraph networks of the nation at Salt Lake City, Utah, completing a transcontinental line that for the first time allows instantaneous communication between Washington, D.C., and San Francisco. Stephen J. Field, chief justice of California, sent the first transcontinental telegram to President Abraham Lincoln, predicting that the new communication link would help ensure the loyalty of the western states to the Union during the Civil War.

The push to create a transcontinental telegraph line had begun only a little more than year before when Congress authorized a subsidy of \$40,000 a year to any company building a telegraph line that would join the eastern and western networks. The Western Union Telegraph Company, as its name suggests, took up the challenge, and the company immediately began work on the critical link that would span the territory between the western edge of Missouri and Salt Lake City.

The obstacles to building the line over the isolated western plains and mountains were huge. Wire and glass insulators had to be shipped by sea to San Francisco and carried eastward by horse-drawn wagons over the Sierra Nevada. Supplying the thousands of telegraph poles needed was an equally daunting challenge in the largely treeless Plains country, and these too had to be shipped from the western mountains.

In the summer of 1861, a party of Sioux warriors cut part of the line that had been completed and took a long section of wire for making bracelets. Later, however, some of the Sioux wearing the telegraph-wire bracelets became sick, and a Sioux medicine man convinced them that the great spirit of the “talking wire” had avenged its desecration. Thereafter, the Sioux left the line alone, and the Western Union was able to connect the East and West Coasts of the nation much earlier than anyone had expected and a full eight years before the transcontinental railroad would be completed.

**On October 20, 1803**, the U.S. Senate approves a treaty with France providing for the purchase of the **territory of Louisiana**, which would double the size of the United States.

At the end of 18th century, the Spanish technically owned Louisiana, the huge region west of the Mississippi that had once been claimed by France and named for its monarch, King Louis XIV. Despite Spanish ownership (to say nothing of Native Americans who had inhabited the area for generations), American settlers in search of new land were already threatening to overrun the territory by the early 19th century. Recognizing it could not effectively maintain control of the region, Spain ceded Louisiana back to France in 1801, sparking intense anxieties in Washington, D.C. Under the leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte, France had become the most powerful nation in Europe, and unlike Spain, it had the military power and the ambition to establish a strong colony in Louisiana and keep out the Americans.



Realizing that it was essential that the U.S. at least maintain control of the mouth of the all-important Mississippi River, early in 1803 President Thomas Jefferson sent James Monroe to join the French foreign minister, Robert Livingston, in France to see if Napoleon might be persuaded to sell New Orleans and West Florida to the U.S. By that spring, the European situation had changed radically. Napoleon, who had previously envisioned creating a mighty new French empire in America, was now facing war with Great Britain. Rather than risk the strong possibility that Great Britain would quickly capture Louisiana and leave France with nothing, Napoleon decided to raise money for his war and simultaneously deny his enemy plum territory by offering to sell the entire territory to the U.S. for a mere \$15 million. Flabbergasted, Monroe and Livingston decided that they couldn't pass up such a golden opportunity, and they wisely overstepped the powers delegated to them and accepted Napoleon's offer.

Despite his misgivings about the constitutionality of the purchase (the Constitution made no provision for the addition of territory by treaty), Jefferson finally agreed to send the treaty to the U.S. Senate for ratification, noting privately, “The less we say about constitutional difficulties the better.” Despite his concerns, the treaty was ratified and the Louisiana Purchase now ranks as the greatest achievement of Jefferson's presidency.

**“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.



**The Statue of Liberty**, a gift of friendship from the people of France to the people of the United States, is dedicated in New York Harbor by President Grover Cleveland.

Originally known as “Liberty Enlightening the World,” the statue was proposed by the French abolitionist Edouard de Laboulaye to commemorate the Franco-American alliance during the American Revolution. Designed by French sculptor Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi, the 151-foot statue was the form of a woman with an uplifted arm holding a torch. Its framework of gigantic steel supports was designed by Eugene-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc and Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, the latter famous for his design of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

In February 1877, Congress approved the use of a site on New York Bedloe’s Island, which was suggested by Bartholdi. In May 1884, the statue was completed in France, and three months later the Americans laid the corner-



stone for its pedestal in New York Harbor. In June 1885, the dismantled Statue of Liberty arrived in the New World, enclosed in more than 200 packing cases. Its copper sheets were reassembled, and the last rivet of the monument was fitted on **October 28, 1886**, during a dedication presided over by President Cleveland and attended by numerous French and American dignitaries.

In 1903, a bronze plaque mounted inside the pedestal's lower level was inscribed with “The New Colossus,” a sonnet by American poet Emma Lazarus that welcomed immigrants to the United States with the declaration, “Give me your tired, your poor, / Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, / The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. / Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me. / I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

In 1892, Ellis Island, adjacent to Bedloe’s Island, opened as the chief entry station for immigrants to the United States, and for the next 32 years more than 12 million immigrants were welcomed into New York harbor by the sight of “Lady Liberty.” In 1924, the Statue of Liberty was made a national monument, and in 1956 Bedloe’s Island was renamed Liberty Island. The statue underwent a major restoration in the 1980s.