

OCTOBER,
2025

The Word at West

Byron Center West Middle School

AUTUMN
EDITION

**"IT'S JUST MY FAVORITE TIME OF THE YEAR.
THE WHOLE WORLD CHANGES COLOR."
- LORELAI GILMORE**

FALL POEM BY AMELIA FIFELSKI

I STEP OUTSIDE AND FEEL THE COOL BREEZE
AND I MAKE SURE TO NOTICE ALL THE LEAVES,
LEAVES THAT ARE HANGING WILL EVENTUALLY COME
DOWN
LEAVES THAT WILL TURN FROM GREEN TO BROWN.
AS I'M STANDING HERE ON A CHILLY AUTUMN DAY
I TUG ON MY SCARF THAT KEEPS ME WARM
EVENTUALLY, I BEGIN TO BRAINSTORM,
I LOOK AT THE WAY THE TREES ALL SWAY
I TAKE A SIP OF MY COFFEE, TAKING IN A
DEEP BREATH
AS I BREATHE IN THE CRISP AIR
I REALIZE NOTHING CAN COMPARE
BUT BEFORE WE KNOW IT, WINTER WILL BE HERE
AND I KNOW FOR ME IT WILL BRING MUCH DREAR,
BUT FOR NOW, WE SHOULD ALL ENJOY FALL
I KNOW THIS YEAR IT WILL PLEASE US ALL.



CARING COFFEE

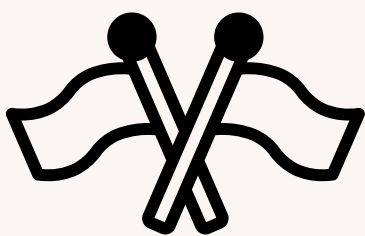
BY TEAGAN O'KEEFE

EVERY FRIDAY, DURING THE 1ST AND 2ND HOURS, OUR LINKS CLASS STEPS INTO THE CLASSROOM AND TRANSFORMS INTO A BARISTA TEAM. EACH STUDENT PLUS A LINK IS ASSIGNED A JOB. THAT JOB IS EITHER TO PUMP SYRUP, BREW COFFEE, OR SEAL THE CUP WITH A LID. WE MAKE A COFFEE FOR ANY TEACHER/STAFF MEMBER WHO ORDERS A COFFEE. THIS ACTIVITY SHOWS INCLUSION WITH OUR LINKS PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOL, BUT ALSO GIVES THE STUDENTS AND LINKS A FUN TASK TO DO ON FRIDAYS. USUALLY, THE LINKS WOULD HELP THE STUDENTS WITH MORNING WORK AND GETTING THEMSELVES READY FOR THE DAY, BUT ON FRIDAYS, WE MAKE A HOT, DELICIOUS DRINK WITH A CARING HAND AND A LOVELY MINDSET. MAKING THE LINKS LATTES GIVES NOT ONLY OUR STUDENTS A WAY TO HAVE FUN AND DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT, BUT ALSO HELPS GIVE THE LINKS A WAY TO INTERACT WITH NEW STUDENTS THEY WOULDN'T USUALLY WORK WITH. EVERY FRIDAY, THE STAFF MEMBERS LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING A KNOCK ON THEIR DOOR AND A WARM SMILE FROM THE STUDENT DELIVERING THE COFFEE. LINKS LATTES HELP OUR LINKS PROGRAM SHOW INCLUSION WITH THE SCHOOL AND GIVE THE TEACHERS A SWEET, EXCITING WAY TO START THEIR DAY.



**STUDENTS AND MR. VYDARENY
SHOWING THEIR BULLDOG PRIDE**

SPORTS



BY AMELIA FIFELSKI & MELISSA PORTO
OCTOBER 1, 2025

In a game of The Byron Center Bulldogs vs The Hudsonville Eagles, Byron Center 8th Grade Black crushed the Eagles with an ending score of 21-10, but all the sets had a huge point difference with Byron Center in the lead. The Eagles quickly used up all of their timeouts in the first set. Their coach seemed pretty nervous about how the game was going. I can see why. The Bulldogs had a lead of at least three points for almost the whole game. A player on Byron Center's team, Sammy McClellan, made 14 good serves in a row before the Eagles could get a strong pass back. In an interview with Alyssa Sakomba, she said, "Don't give up even if you make a mistake, because everyone makes mistakes." So if you feel like quitting your sport just because you make a mistake, just think about how everyone makes them, even players. So even though the other team lost, that does not mean they should stop playing. Even if your team loses, that does not mean you are bad at the sport. So, make sure to keep going, even when it gets hard.

What's so good about color guard, and why should you join?
by Hartleigh Peterson

Color guard is usually made fun of and not seen for its full potential, but in reality, color guard is one of the best ways to make friends, learn to be more social, and challenge yourself. Color guard is an activity that takes up two days out of the week for practice, with Tuesday practices going from 6-9 with the full band. Then Thursdays or Mondays are just the color guard, which also goes from 6-9pm. If you are afraid of the commitment you will have to take while taking on the challenge of color guard, Kayelyn Schneider, somebody who is currently in color guard, has told me that, sure, it might take up a lot of time, but it comes with an amazing experience too. So even if you are afraid of it, don't be because everybody will make you feel included. Some people who will make sure you are Kayelyn Schneider, Norah Bolman, and Adeline Pruitt, who are the current 8th graders taking on that challenge.



8TH GRADE ORANGE VOLLEYBALL TEAM



CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS AT THE FINISH LINE

BOOK REVIEW

BY DEEKSHA RAMESH

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE ULTIMATE SUMMER BOOK TO ESCAPE THE COLDER WEATHER, *THE SUMMER I TURNED PRETTY*, WRITTEN BY JENNY HAN, IS AN AMAZING BOOK. IT'S A BEACHY BOOK FILLED WITH FAMILY DRAMA. THE STORY IS ABOUT BELLY, WHO SPENDS ALL OF HER SUMMERS AT COUSINS BEACH WITH THE SAME PEOPLE, BUT THIS YEAR FEELS DIFFERENT. WITH BOTH CONRAD AND JEREMIAH CATCHING HER ATTENTION, SHE HAS TO DEAL WITH FRIENDSHIP, LOVE, AND GROWING UP.



Fall Word Search

BY AMELIA FIFELSKI

AFGYUIHIPUMPKINHIFOPDYHUNIKF
HIUSEFAU OHBRTSD EWINOMDKUAI
SOLHUUGBGSTDOTUBSHKGRYU LIO
APOUGTUDSBIHGSTLHUIMNJI L L
RYOUGIYBFRIGHT CHINOGRFAWQ O
GUI OUFYGMHJJOJHIHDFCYPQWRYI
UGTYKUHGF TREW IKLJHGNMVT RDJ
UIUGT YHIGFYBGVLIHMNBKJHGYFO
BNEEWOLLAHOPJILIFS YGNMPJUHS
UKGDUNIHNONBG SUHFD TYRKLOJS
CUOOBIGIHYTKJHBIHG YTCATIHKMO
APPLEKJOIKUOIIINKH KHCTAPJILHU
BJJIUUUHOGFTRUCOSTUMEIJ HEJI
JIIIOBGFVCKMKNHUGJKO IOLJHAOH
BHUKHIHINSCAREJIUYTGGFGB VHO
YIFTRDET RDSTUKMHBHKJHKJJELJ
GGYIFVTRYFREJHBNVGF GYTRISIH

Word Bank

Fall Pumpkin Apple Cat Spooky Fright
Halloween Costume Leaves Chills Boo
Patch Scare

The Word at West

THE STORY OF HALLOWEEN

BY QUINN GALLOGLY

SINCE HALLOWEEN IS INGRAINED IN OUR CULTURE, MOST MAY NOT KNOW ITS ORIGINS. HALLOWEEN IS ORIGINALLY A CELTIC HOLIDAY CALLED SAMHAIN FESTIVAL, WHICH TOOK PLACE ON NOVEMBER 1ST AND ENDED AT MIDNIGHT ON NOVEMBER 2ND. AROUND THIS TIME, THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, WANTING TO MAKE CHRISTIANITY THE MAIN RELIGION OF THE WORLD, CAME TO IRELAND AND NAMED SAMHAIN ALL SAINTS' DAY, BUT LATER CHANGED IT TO ALL HALLS O'S DAY, CALLING THE DAY BEFORE, OCTOBER 31ST, ALL HALLS O'S EVE. DURING THE GREAT POTATO FAMINE OF 1845, MANY IRISH PEOPLE MOVED TO THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES, TAKING THEIR TRADITIONS WITH THEM. AMERICANS THOUGHT IT WAS THE DAY BEFORE, SO THEY STARTED DOING IT THEN. HALLOWEEN HASN'T CHANGED MUCH SINCE THEN, EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT NOW WE CRAVE PUMPKINS INSTEAD OF SQUASH. TO FIX THIS, THE CELTICS MADE THE STORY OF JACK THE STINGY. THE STORY GOES LIKE THIS: JACK WAS IN A PUB WHEN THE DEVIL WALKED IN. THEY CHATTED FOR A BIT, BUT WHEN IT WAS TIME TO PAY, JACK ASKED THE DEVIL TO TURN INTO A COIN TO PAY THE BARTENDER, AND HE DID SO, BUT JACK PUT HIM IN HIS POCKET WITH A CROSS, NOT LETTING HIM ESCAPE. WHEN JACK DIED, NEITHER GOD NOR THE DEVIL WANTED HIM, SO HE WAS FORCED TO WALK THE LAND WITH A PUMPKIN AND A LANTERN, HENCE THE NAME JACK O' LANTERN. COSTUMES WERE ALWAYS A HUGE PART OF HALLOWEEN, EVEN BACK IN THE BEGINNING, BUT WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW IS THAT IT WAS TO WARD OFF EVIL SPIRITS LIKE THE TUATHA DE DANANN. THEY WOULD HAVE BONFIRES AND EAT TREATS AND CAKES (NOT LIKE A BIRTHDAY CAKE). NOWADAYS, THE COSTUMES WE HAVE ARE BASED ON FICTIONAL CHARACTERS, AND WE GET CANDY INSTEAD OF CAKES. (CREDITS:

[HTTPS://BLOGS.LOC.GOV/HEADLINESANDHEROES/2021/10/THE-ORIGINS-OF-HALLOWEEN-TRADITION&](https://blogs.loc.gov/headlinesandheroes/2021/10/the-origins-of-halloween-tradition/)
[HTTPS://WWW.SAINTSANDSCHOLARS.COM/BLOG/STINGYJACK\)](https://www.saintsand scholars.com/blog/stingyjack)

15 HALLOWEEN JOKES

BY ANDREW NIELSEN, INSPIRED BY AND BORROWED FROM KAIT HANSON ON TODAY.COM

1. WHY DID THE GHOST QUIT HIS JOB? THEY KEPT MAKING HIM WORK THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT.
2. WHAT DO YOU CALL A MONSTER WHO LIKES TO DANCE? A BOOGIE MAN
3. WHY DID THE SKELETON QUIT HIS JOB? HIS HEART WASN'T IN IT.
4. WHY DID THE SKELETON GO TO THE BUTCHER? HE WAS LOOKING FOR SPARE RIBS.
5. WHY DON'T MUMMIES GOSSIP? THEY DON'T WANT TO GET A BAD WRAP.
6. WHY ARE MUMMIES ALWAYS STRESSED OUT? THEY CAN'T UNWIND.
7. WHY DON'T VAMPIRES PLAY BASEBALL? THEIR BATS KEEP FLYING AWAY.
8. WHY DID THE INVISIBLE MAN QUIT HIS JOB? HE COULDN'T SEE HIMSELF DOING IT.
9. WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO SPEAK TO A GIANT MUMMY? USE BIG WORDS.
10. WHAT'S A BLACK CAT'S FAVORITE SONG? "THREE BLIND MICE."
11. WHY DIDN'T THE SCARECROW EAT DINNER? HE WAS ALREADY STUFFED.
12. WHO WON THE SKELETON 5K? NO BODY.
13. WHY DID THE WEREWOLF EAT A BAG OF COINS? HE THOUGHT THE CHANGE WOULD DO HIM GOOD.
14. WHY DON'T SKELETONS SKYDIVE? THEY DON'T HAVE THE GUTS.
15. DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE INVISIBLE MAN WHO WENT TO THE DOCTOR? HE'S STILL WAITING TO BE SEEN.

TEACHER INTERVIEWS

BY MAANVIKA HEBBUR & DEEKSHA RAMESH

MRS TROMP
FAVORITE
COLOR: PURPLE
FOOD: BLACK OLIVES
CANDY: NERDS CLUSTERS
YEAR: 2025
HOLIDAY: FOURTH OF JULY
STUFF
PETS? YES, DOG NAMED FITZ
HOBBIES? LIKES TO RUN AND GARDEN
FAMILY: HUSBAND, JORDAN, 2 KIDS
YEARS YOU'VE TAUGHT? 16
WHAT DID YOU DO OVER THE SUMMER? WENT CAMPING AND BOUGHT A TRAILER

MR. VANDERPOL
FAVORITE
COLOR: BLUE
FOOD: EVERYTHING
CANDY: MILKY WAY
YEAR: 2025
HOLIDAY: CHRISTMAS
STUFF
PETS? YES, ONE CAT AND ONE DOG
HOBBIES? SPORTS AND READING
FAMILY: MARRIED TWO DAUGHTERS AND ONE SON
YEARS YOU'VE TAUGHT? 21

SPOOKY MATH QUESTIONS

BY BROOKLYN CRAMER

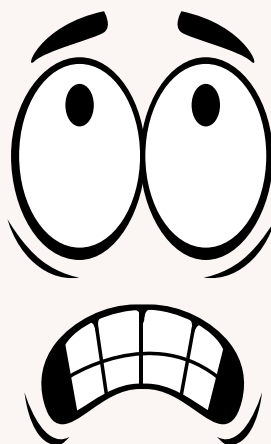
1] $7 \times 66(74 - 39 - 5) \times (7 \times 6 \div 8 - 96 + 9) \times 2$

2] $9 \times 9 \times 9 \times 6 \times 3 \times 8 \times 2 \times 7 \times 9 \times 9 \times 6 \div 2$

3] $7\% \times (5^6 - 9 \div 2 + 9) \div 1 \times 3$

4] $55555 \times 3 \times 2 \times 99 \div 100$

5] $5581 \div 4 \div 845366 + 550262542 \div 51442 - 3444 \div 6$



7TH GRADE ORCHESTRA

MATH ANSWERS

52101'32101[9 7'966628[4
4[329966 7 5[10123.10175
561'28282 3 13282 2997128352 0[99972-11

The Word at West

TEACHER QUESTIONNAIRE

BY MAXWELL NIELSEN

IT'S THE HOLIDAY SEASON. THE HOLIDAY OF HALLOWEEN, OF COURSE! AND, TO CELEBRATE THIS AMAZING HOLIDAY, I HAVE COMPILED A LIST OF QUESTIONS THAT WERE SENT OUT TO TEACHERS. ALSO IN THIS SPIRIT, SOME RESPONDED!

YOU SEE A HOUSE WITH A CANDY BUCKET ON THE PORCH. WHAT DO YOU DO?
TAKE ONE PIECE LIKE IT ASKS (93.3%)
TAKE THE WHOLE BUCKET (0%)
SKIP THE HOUSE-LOOKS LIKE BAD CANDY (0%)
TAKE TWO BECAUSE YOU ARE HUNGRY (7.7%)

THE FIRST QUESTION WAS RATHER SURPRISING, IN MY OPINION. NO ONE WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE WHOLE BUCKET? I UNDERSTAND THAT THAT IS A BAD THING AND NO ONE SHOULD DO IT, BUT STILL! I AM VERY SURPRISED AT HOW NICE YOU ALL WERE TO THIS PERSON. YOU WIN A GOLD STAR!

A HOUSE IS HANDING OUT KING-SIZED CANDY. WHAT DO YOU DO?
GO TO THE HOUSE ONCE (84.6%)
DON'T GO TO IT (0%)
GO TO IT MULTIPLE TIMES (15.4%)
RUSH THE HOUSE AND TAKE IT ALL(0%)

WOW, ANOTHER WAVE OF NICE PEOPLE! GOOD JOB TO YOU FOR NOT RUNNING THAT HOUSE DRY. (EVEN THOUGH YOU COULD HAVE HAD SO MUCH KING-SIZED CANDY!) AND TO THE 16.7 PERCENT OF PEOPLE WHO CHOSE TO GO TO IT MULTIPLE TIMES: I RESPECT THAT.

A PERSON IS HANDING OUT VEGGIES ON HALLOWEEN. WHAT DO YOU DO?
WALK AWAY FROM THE HOUSE (41.7%)
GET VEGGIES FROM THE HOUSE (38.5%)
EGG THE HOUSE! (0%)
TELL THE PERSON TO NOT HAND OUT VEGGIES (15.4%)

IF I EVER CAME ACROSS A PERSON LIKE THIS, I WOULD WALK AWAY IN DISAPPOINTMENT. AND 41.7% OF YOU AGREE. AND THE SMALL PORTION OF YOU WHO ARE WILLING TO CONFRONT THIS PERSON, BRAVO! YOU ARE KEEPING CRIME DOWN AROUND TOWN. AND YOU IN THE RED... WELL... LET'S JUST SAY I REALLY DON'T LIKE VEGGIES. ALRIGHT, LET'S MOVE ON.

WHAT IS THE BEST GUMMY CANDY?
NOW HERE'S AN ARGUABLE TOPIC: BEST GUMMY CANDY! MOST OF YOU CHOSE NERDS, GUMMY CLUSTERS (I WOULD TOO), AND COMING IN A CLOSE SECOND WAS GUMMY BEARS/WORMS/ETC. A SMALL PERCENT OF YOU PICKED TWIZZLERS, SKITTLES, AND SOUR PATCH KIDS. BUT NO LIFESAVERS!?! THEY'RE GOOD TOO!

WHAT IS THE BEST CHOCOLATE CANDY?
AND ANOTHER ARGUABLE TOPIC: BEST CHOCOLATE CANDY! VOTES FOR THE BEST CHOCOLATE WERE DOMINATED BY REESES. COMING IN SECOND ARE TWIX, MOUNDS, HERSHEY'S, AND A CHOCOLATE I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF CALLED TONY'S CHOCOLONELY, WHICH SOUNDS REALLY, REALLY GOOD.

WHAT ARE SOME COOL COSTUME IDEAS?
AND FINALLY, SOME COSTUME IDEAS SUGGESTED BY TEACHERS! THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM, SO I AM GOING TO INCLUDE 6 OR 7 OF THEM:

ENGLISH TEACHERS WEARING POLICE COSTUMES AND ARE THE GRAMMAR POLICE

"CAN I USE THE BATHROOM? MAY I USE THE BATHROOM? YOU HAVE THE RIGHT..."

A BURGER AND FRIES

MAN, WE FORGOT TO EAT DINNER! WAIT... WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME?

JARED GOFF

BLUE 42, BLUE 42, HUT HUT HIKE!

SLINKY FROM TOY STORY
SPROING SPROING...

A SANDWICH

HOPE YOU ARE HUNGRY! BUT NOT FOR A SANDWICH, RIGHT?

INFLATABLE DINOSAUR

ROAAAAAAR!

Brain teasers

BY DEREK COTE'

1. I am taken from a mine and shut up in a wooden case, from which I am never released. What am I?

- Answer: Pencil lead (often used for autumn-themed drawings).

2. I start with a "t," end with a "t," and have "t" in me. What am I?

- Answer: A teapot (often associated with warm drinks during autumn).



ART & STEM
GILMORE CAR MUSEUM FIELD TRIP



STUDENTS & TEACHERS PREPARING
FOR THE BOAT RACE



STUDENTS DRESSED UP FOR SPIRIT DAY



7TH GRADE FOOTBALL TEAM



7TH AND 8TH GRADE CHEER TEAM

[illegible]