

Halloween's Origins and the Myths that Follow

Genessa Lee

Every year on October 31st, children and adults go around from door to door asking for sweet treats. This tradition is called Halloween. The subject that no one ever questions, is where did Halloween come from and what myths follow this scary season.

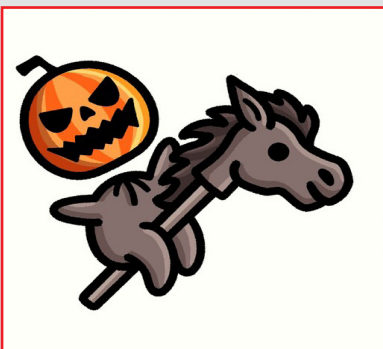
About 2,000 years ago, a group of people called the Celtic (KEL-tik) or the Celts (KELTS), were Indo-European people who lived in Europe and Anatolia celebrated a tradition. This was the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). At this festival, the Celtic people lit fires and dressed in costumes. The purpose of this was to scare off ghosts. Eventually, this tradition carried on to become a holiday in the 9th century called Hallows Eve now referred to as Halloween. But what myths follow this holiday that makes it so scary?

A very common myth that you may know is the Headless Horseman. If you're familiar with this myth, then you may be surprised if I were to tell you that it's about a German soldier. The myth goes back to 1776, during the Battle of The White Plains, in the time frame of the Revolutionary war. A German soldier, due to cannon fire, was decapitated (a little gruesome) around the Halloween season. He was buried in the town of Sleepy Hollow where every year it is said that he rises from the dead, wearing

a pumpkin on his head, and riding a black horse. He returns to avenge his death and reclaim his lost head. This story brings up one very scary element of Halloween which is that the dead are never really dead but will haunt the living forever.

Another story that adds to the concept of Halloween is "The Salem Witch Trials of 1692". This story, which is true, started with a man named Reverend Samuel Parris of Salem Village. His daughter and niece were terribly ill and he called in a doctor when their sickness started getting worse. The result of the doctor's analysis was that these girls were cursed by a witch. This started the year of 1692 where men and women were being accused of witchcraft. Many men and women who were so-called "witches" died. They were hung to death or left in prison to die. That same year, the witch trials did end but, the concept of witches never left, and now are included into the story of Halloween.

This short article brings up Halloween's concepts and ideas which come from everywhere. We can look at myths that have been created and the time periods in the past to find bits of Halloween culture. One thing we can conclude is that Halloween is a complex holiday with many scary details.



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Bake Sale

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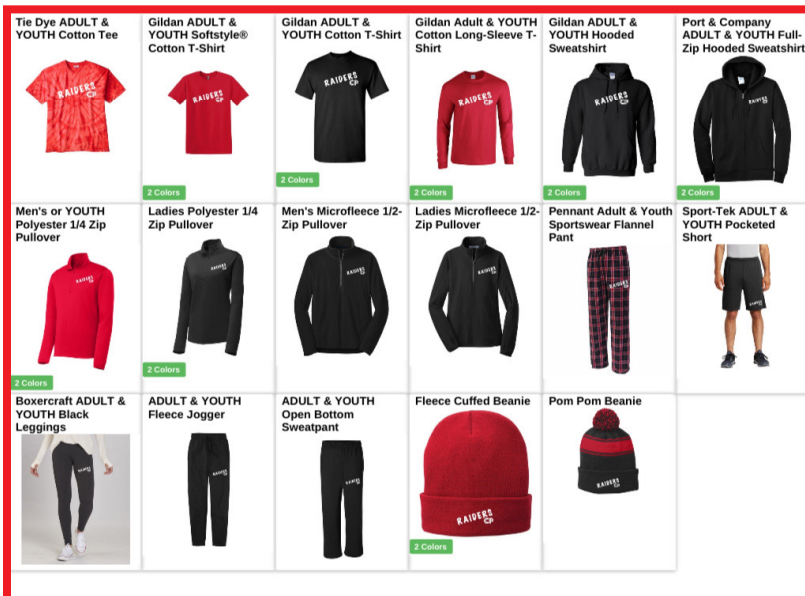
The student council bake sale was a hit! All the student council members brought in sweet treats for people to buy in honor of breast cancer awareness. When the sale first opened there was a mob of people buying sweet treats. The student council members are very excited for the next bake sale and hope that it is a HIT once again!



Raider Wear Sale

Ava Pimentel

DID YOU BUY!? There was a Raiders Wear Sale for Cliffside Park Raiders. There were a variety of options to choose from: Hoodies, pajama pants, t-shirts, hats, etc. ran by Ms. Spoleti. These funds will help with fun activities in the future for our middle school. Support your school by wearing RAIDER WEAR!

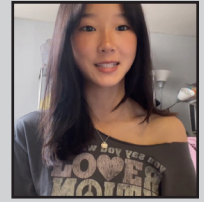


Student Council Officers of 2024/2025

Ava Pimentel

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Vice President:

EMMA NDREU



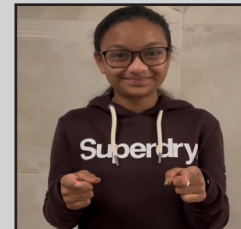
Treasury:

ALDRIN BRAHAJ



Secretary:

TANISHA MODI



Cinnamon Apple Crisp

Kayla Mbelepe

What is apple crisp?

Typically, crisps have a thick layer of fresh fruit on the bottom and a crumble topping made of butter. Apple crisp, unlike apple pie, has no crust, allowing the apple flavor to be the main attraction, mingled with a little hint of buttery, oat flavor from the crisp topping.

Apple crisp, is made with just a few ingredients. It is tasty as pie, but much easier to put together.

When you want to use up a lot of fresh or frozen fruit, crisp is one of the easiest sweets to make. There won't be many ingredients needed, most of which you likely already have. Don't worry, inexperienced bakers—we've broken down the simple procedures in the recipe. We've got you covered and you'll have crisp in a matter of hours.

Steps:

1. Peel and slice your apples.
2. Combine the fruit with all the apple layer ingredients. Place in a pan.
3. Combine all the topping ingredients. Sprinkle over the apples.
4. Bake. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F for 45 minutes.
5. Top with ice cream and EAT.

Ingredients:

For the apple part

- 6 large apples (3 granny smith, 3 sweeter variety)
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
- 3/4 teaspoon salt

For the crisp topping

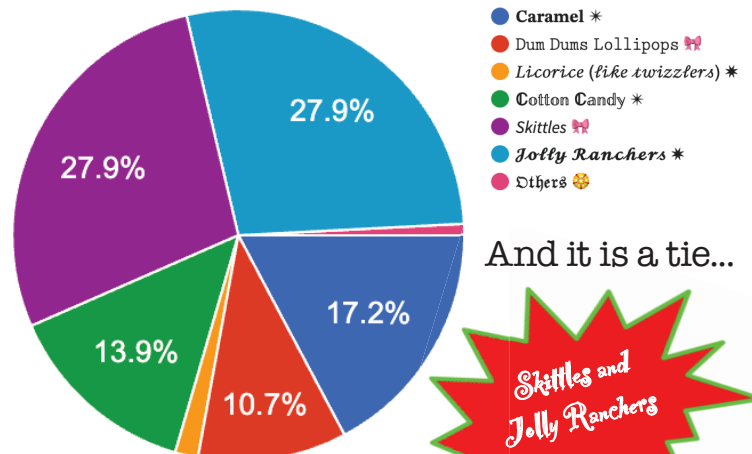
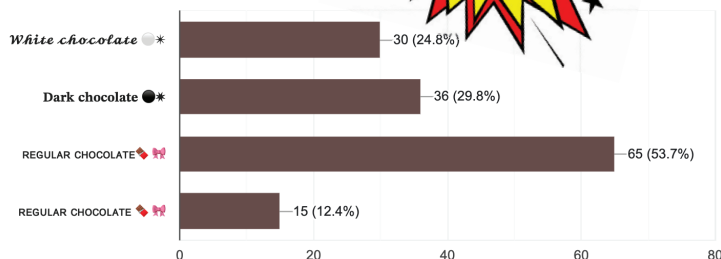
- 3/4 cup butter, cut into cubes
- 1 1/3 cup old fashioned oats
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon



What's Your Favorite Candy?

Sarah Lee

And the winner is...



And it is a tie...



Top 5 Halloween Movies

Jayda'a Abuali

Halloween is a great time. People love to sit home and watch movies with a big bowl of popcorn. Movies are a great way to spend time with family and friends if you don't want to go Trick or Treating. Movies have different genres. You can watch horror, romantic, comedy, drama, adventure, action, historical fiction movies, and more. You can search for your favorite movie and then watch it. Movies are a great way to have something in common with your friends. There are so many Halloween movies.

One of the greatest movies is "Halloweentown". This movie is family friendly. It premiered on Disney Channel in 1998. Debbie Reynolds is the star of the movie. Reynolds played Aggie Cromwell. Aggie was the grandmother of Marine Piper. The actor who played Marine was Kimberly J. Brown. Aggie was a witch and her granddaughter soon learned to be one too. Marine learns she is a witch on her 13th birthday. The main message of the movie is don't care about what other people think of you.

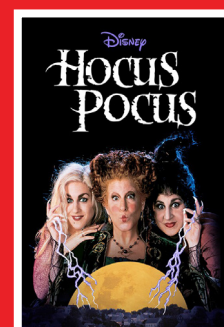
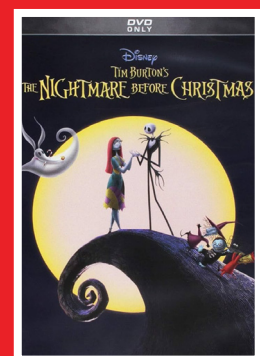
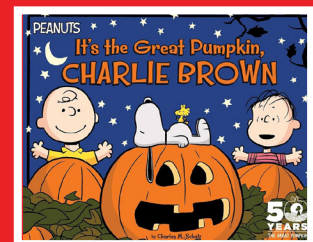
Another great movie is "The Witches". This movie is family friendly and a fantasy type. "The Witches" was released on February 16, 1990. The star of the show is Anjelica Huston who played Grand High Witch. Jasen Fisher played Luke Eveshim. Luke was staying in a hotel with his grandma, Helga Eveshim, when he discovered that the Grand High Witch was planning to turn all kids into mice. When the witches find out that he knows they test the formula out on him. The actor that played Helga Eveshim is Mai Zetterling. Now his grandma and the hotel manager, Mr. R.J. III must help Luke fight back the witches. The actor who played Mr. R.J. III is Rowan Atkinson.

"It's a Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown". This movie is family friendly. It's only a 25 minute movie. TV rates G and is animated. Linus waits in a pumpkin patch for the Great Pumpkin to come. The movie was produced in 1966. "It's a Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" can't be any more Halloween-y.

Another to add to the watch list is "The Nightmare Before Christmas". This movie is Halloween-y and Christmas-y at the same time. It is a tale told through stop motion animation and song. Filmed in 1993. This movie has something for everyone to enjoy. "The Nightmare Before Christmas" is still family friendly, with a TV rating of PG. This movie is about 1 hour and 16 minutes long. The main character is Jack Skellington. The voice of Jack Skellington is Danny Elfman and Chris Sarandon.

Last but not least, the movie that should be in your list of movies to watch is "Hocus Pocus". This movie is a family friendly comedy released in 1993. The director of this movie is Kenny Ortega. The TV rating is PG. For the most part the main character is Bette Midler who played Winifred Sanderson. In the beginning of the story there was a teenager named Max Dennison (Omri Katz) who just moved to Salem. Max, his little sister Dani (Thora Birch) and Allison (Vinessa Shaw) were exploring an abandoned house. According to Allison, Max frees the witches.

Halloween is a great time to watch movies. You can watch "Halloweentown", "The Witches", "It's a Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown", "The Nightmare Before Christmas", and "Hocus Pocus". These five amazing movies are fun and family friendly to watch. I hope you enjoy watching them.



Keys to Success

Erkin Yunus



Success as a teenager can mean a lot of different things, but I believe it mainly comes down to setting goals and working hard to achieve them. One important way to succeed is by focusing on your studies. If we pay attention in class, do our homework, and ask questions when we don't understand something, we can build a strong foundation for our future. Good grades can open doors for high school programs and even scholarships later on. Plus, being organized and managing our time well helps us balance schoolwork with extracurricular activities and time with friends. This is what I believe helps teens be successful for the most part.

Another key to success is building good relationships with others. Making friends and getting along with classmates and teachers can really help us. When we support and encourage each other, it creates a positive environment where everyone can thrive. Joining clubs or volunteering is a great way to meet new people and learn important skills. These connections can make school more enjoyable and help us grow. By focusing on our goals and building a supportive community, we can create a bright future together. With these statements we can achieve greatness as teens.

How do you feel about coming back to school?

Rhoseimy Castro

And the winner is...



- Nervous!
- Excited!
- Indifferent!
- Sad!

