



OCTOBER

NEWSLETTER



THE BUZZ NEWSLETTER CLUB

"WHAT'S THE NEWS TODAY, VESPIDAE?"



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GOALS AFTER GOALS

by Sumana Nori

Curious about how our school's soccer team has been performing recently? Look no further than Sumana Nori's piece about the team's progress and hardships in the current season, along with their goals for the future!



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by Miss Hoffman

Congratulations, students! By this time, you should have become more familiar with your school and classrooms. However, there are still details and information associated with each of the following locations that can benefit you during your stay with us these next years together.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

ART OF LATIN AMERICA: SKULLS AND SUNS

by Raymond McSorley

With Hispanic Heritage Month having just passed by, take a look at Raymond McSorley's art piece, as well as his take on the significance of skulls and suns in Latin American art.



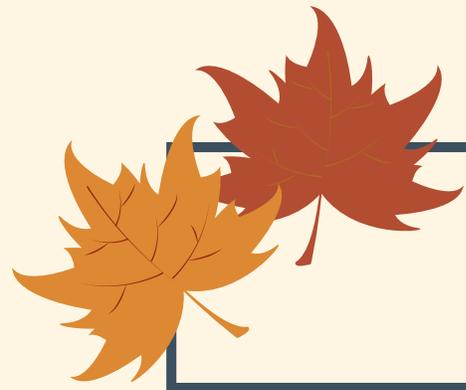


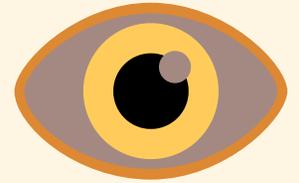
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Check out Himasri Konatham's breathtaking art piece: A Glimpse of Nature!



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by Akshara Koneru

With a week-long break coming up, we all are going to binge watch at least one TV show for boredom's sake. Read Akshara Koneru's review of "Over the Garden Wall," because you just might find your new favorite show!



STUDENT-INTEREST

"NEMESIS": A MYSTERY FOR THE AGES

by Rishi Somani

Are you up for a reading a book with a twist around every corner? A book where you'll never see what's coming next? Check out this review of "Nemesis" by Rishi Somani, in which he recommends a book that's just right for you.



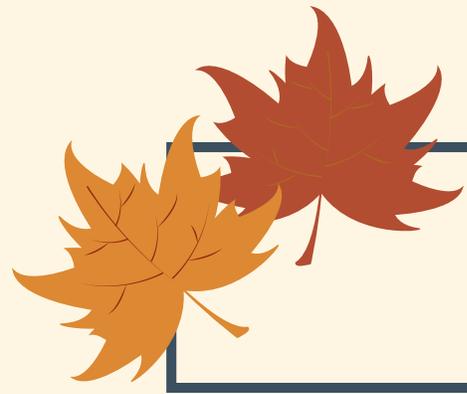


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by Rishi Mittal

Ever wondered what the background is behind the beloved holiday so many of us celebrate every year? Read Rishi Mittal's article, The History of Halloween, to find out about Halloween's controversial past!



WORLD NEWS

LIZ TRUSS RESIGNS

by Andrew Moodey

Recently, there has been a great deal of political turmoil in the United Kingdom. Read Andrew Moodey's article about the political environment in the country if you are interested in learning about what's happening!



THE FATHER OF PALEOGENOMICS

by Zaid Mohammed

The Nobel Prize is the most coveted award in many different fields, and the prize for physiology and medicine was recently awarded to Svante Pääbo. Read Zaid Mohammed's article for an idea of Pääbo's world-famous discovery.



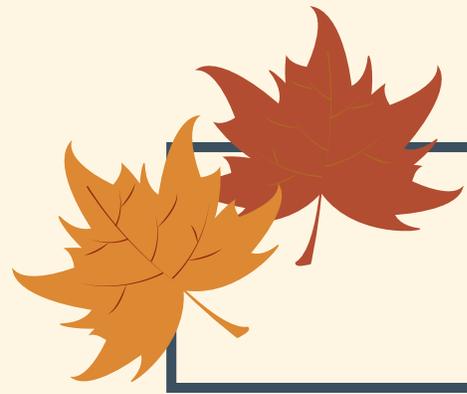
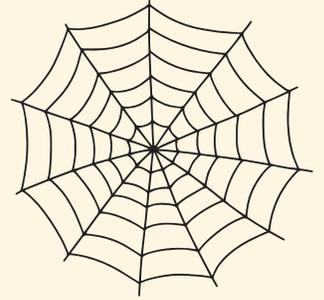


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HALLOWEEN CROSSWORD PUZZLE

PUZZLE

Want to test your knowledge on the holiday of Halloween? Attempt the ultimate crossword puzzle, and claim your title as a Halloween connoisseur!



Goals After Goals

By Sumana Nori

Some dream about goals. The Woodbridge Academy Soccer Team, on the other hand, works for them! Starting from the end of summer vacation, many WA students dedicate their time to work on their soccer skills and the team's dynamic as a whole. Yearly, members with all levels of experience and skills put in their best efforts—and students from the 2022-2023 soccer team are no different! But how effective are these efforts?

Currently, the varsity team fought to a record of 5-11 and a division record of 4-11. This year's season had started off phenomenally with a 5-0 win against Perth Amboy Magnet School, setting a tone with **Anshul Voleti** scoring wonderfully. Woodbridge Academy made sure to clean up business again against Perth Amboy with another 5-1 win. However, the highlights of this season have to be the Edison Academy games. Playing at home in a freezing tundra, Woodbridge would make a comeback, down 2-1, to win it 3-2. **Mukesh Kandra** made sure to make every save count stopping 9 attempts and **Andrew Sorgan**, set-piece specialist, put 2 in the back of the net off free kicks and penalties. Our Woodbridge team would also win a thriller against Edison Academy 2-1 with a stunning strike by Mahir Dhoka in overtime and Sahil Khan making 8 phenomenal saves. Yet, a season with highs was marred by a series of lows.



The 2021-2022 team had marked the second-greatest record in Woodbridge Academy soccer history. The bar was set high with a lot for the hopeful future, but the team expressed their disappointment, feeling as if this season's efforts are good, but not the best. Senior player **Nithya Suresh** echoes these concerns: "The team has been lacking coordination. There are many talented players this year, but combining those talents has been the issue."



While doubt and determination are not unheard of, Woodbridge Academy would win a great game in the GMCs against South Amboy. Down 3-1 at halftime, they completed the comeback to take the team to overtime and eventually the penalties. There, Mukesh Kandra, Mahir Dhoka, and Sujal Dhoka would glide the ball into the net, with Sahil Khan asserting his dominance. It stands as a wonderful game that builds hope for the future.

Mukesh Kandra remarked afterward, "I feel we had a lot of inexperienced players this year, but they are talented and have the ability to shine. We also had a lot of amazing seniors that left the team last year, leaving us with a big footprint to fill, so I hope we get the chance to succeed them in the year to come." With the same aspirations for the next soccer season, Bhavesh Manne notes, "Personally, the way I see it, we underperformed a lot. I believe it all starts at the individual level. I want to be better. However, we all have potential. We have skills that we must put together both mentally and physically. The main goal is to win the division, and I know we can do it next year." With optimistic mindsets, the players set high goals for the upcoming year, and vow to actually score them!



Did You Know?

By Miss Hoffman

Congratulations, students! By this time, you should have become more familiar with your school and classrooms.

However, there are still details and information associated with each of the following locations that can benefit you during your stay with us these next years together.

1.) The School Building

Did you know that if you ever need to reach the front office by phone, the offices are open from 8:00 AM-4:30 PM? If you ever need to return to school for a forgotten or lost item, just go to the front entrance, ring the doorbell, and someone will let you inside. After 4:30 PM though, all bets are off; school personnel does not have permission to let you back inside, nor will be available to assist you.

2.) Lunch

Did you know that it is expected of you to throw out your food and clean up your messes? If you don't do that, tables can become sticky, attract bugs, and result in furniture damage. What is even worse is that you are ruining the chances of a happy lunch experience for those that eat after you.

If you do not demonstrate basic cleanliness skills, you are inadvertently showing your teachers that you are slovenly and, well, negligent. Now is a good time to correct such misunderstandings; please be responsible and clean up.

3.) Guidance Office

Did you know that you can request meetings with your guidance counselor on Genesis? Always make sure to check if there is time for you to visit before popping in to see Ms. Elko, Ms. Rise, Ms. DiMarco, or Ms. Miranda. They can help explain how Genesis works, what a transcript is, and overall, how the grading system works. Above all else though, when you're stressed or upset, they can help you when you need it most and require privacy.

4.) Attendance Office

Did you know our head of attendance, Ms. Antoniello, can assist you in an easier fashion if your parent or guardian emails her concerning an absence beforehand? Doctor's notes and other documents that can be used as proof are most helpful and prevent confusion. Your location during school hours is our priority in the name of your safety!

5.) Media Center

Did you know that our Media Center not only has a beautiful collection of fiction and nonfiction books but a myriad of useful websites that can assist you in class or for a research project? If you visit the Media Center's department website, you will be able to find an abundance of college-level free information. Don't hesitate to ask our Media Center Specialist, Ms. Hintelmann, for assistance and book recommendations! She even has a Media Center Google Classroom you can sign up for that provides you with all the information, passwords, and recommendations you need.

6.) Clubs

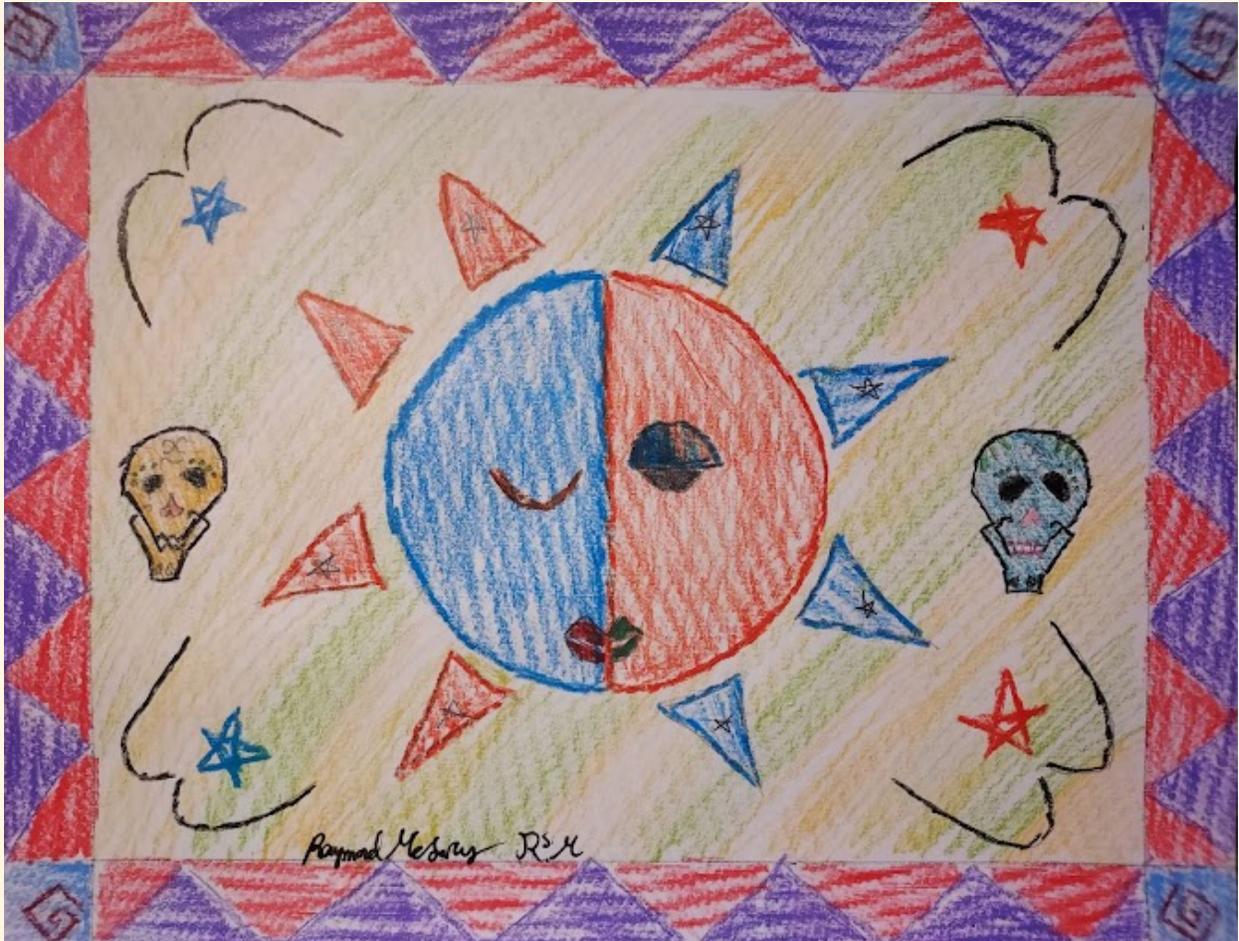
Are you interested in joining a club this year? While the deadline for applications has passed for many of the clubs, there are still a few accepting applications. There are many clubs that you should consider joining next year as well if they pique your interest.

For example, the Red Cross Club accepts new Sophomores and Juniors every year, and they raise funds for the American Red Cross while raising awareness about many disasters afflicting people. Model UN provides the chance to practice your public speaking skills, as well as sharpen your awareness of real-world dilemmas.

Check our school website under the "Clubs" webpage to see which ones are official under our school's policy.

Art of Latin America: Skulls and Suns

By Raymond McSorley



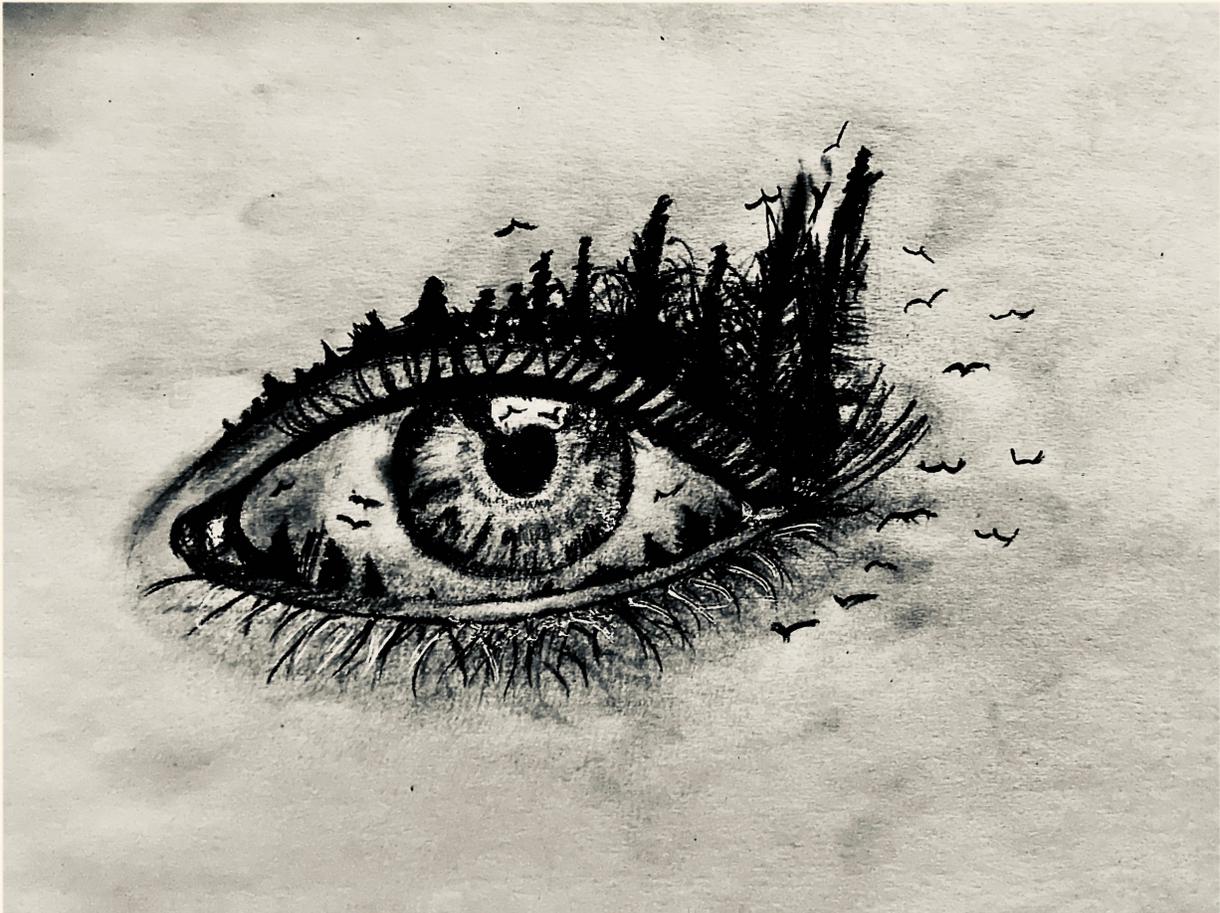
Hispanic art has been around for centuries, and its cultural intonations have been ever-present. The people of Latin America created these paintings to represent themselves, others, and the culture they all shared. Some famous painters, such as Frida Kahlo, have been known as the greatest painters of their time, and are widely regarded as artistic geniuses today. Hispanic Heritage Month, which occurs during September and October, celebrates the art, well-being, and health of Hispanic people and the feelings surrounding them. This national holiday symbolizes a special and important time for Latin Americans to rejoice and have large feasts with each other to celebrate their roots.

The skull element, shown in the art piece, originated from the Aztecs who colonized Mexico back in the 1400s (until they were infiltrated by the Europeans). The Aztecs sought to create art with what materials they had, and skulls became one of the most prominent designs during this time - especially in rock carving. In addition, the Aztecs used to create masks, using skulls as a template, for the people of that region to wear. The skull conveyed a valuable meaning- it signified death, but also resurrection. Throughout this period, it became a popular design on garments, eventually being incorporated into hieroglyphs.

The sun element, shown in the art piece, also originated from the Aztecs who created this design to symbolize the renewal and flourishing of life. It also represents the weather of Spring, a period for refreshment and nourishment. These positive values can also be seen today, in Mexican tortillas, for example. The round shape encapsulates the essence of the sun, and like the sun, the tortilla nourishes the body by providing energy. Since the sun is everlasting and cannot be shut down by its counterpart, the moon, it also represents strong, eternal energy. Today, it is not only represented in art like this, but also in bracelets, garments, pottery, and other representations of Hispanic culture.

A Glimpse of Nature

By Himasri Konatham



Over the Garden Wall: a Fall Must-Watch

By Akshara Koneru

If you're looking for a new comfort show as autumn rolls around, look no further! *Over the Garden Wall*, praised as a cartoon masterpiece, is the perfect show for this time of year. Its beautiful soundtrack, nostalgic animation, and fantastical settings are for fans of Halloween and animated media. Read more for a spoiler-free review of this show!

We begin the series with an introduction to brothers Greg and Wirt, the comforting duo of unhinged and anxious, who find themselves in the Unknown: the supernatural forest and the heart of the many settings seen throughout the show. The Unknown brings about a memorable cast of characters, including the frog of many names, witches and spirits of all kinds, the inscrutable woodsman, delusional millionaires, the brothers' partner in travel Beatrice the bluebird, and, of course, the mysterious "Beast" that haunts the forest and manifests itself throughout Greg and Wirt's many adventures.



Image via Hulu



Image via Cartoon Brew

Although the show deceives you with its lively animation and colorful palette, it relays themes far beyond its seemingly younger intended audience. Each episode brings you in with what seems to be a simple plot in a new setting and cast of characters, but reveals twists and turns that display the show's ability to capture detail and maturity in a medium as old as time. We see our beloved characters struggle with hope, family, death, and even grapple with reality. As the episodes progress, we are slowly exposed to the truths behind the story that bring us to the final episode, where fantasy and reality intertwine to tell the real story of Greg and Wirt.

For lovers of history (costume, historical, and otherwise), the show brings us to settings that span several centuries and reference various tales and histories, with a new world every episode. For lovers of literature, it makes use of symbols and ideas that allude to famous works and writings of the past with a level of nuance unexpected for something of its nature. And for everyone else, the show's homey visuals and lovable characters make it a must watch for this fall.

“Nemesis”: A Mystery for the Ages

By Rishi Somani

Brendan Reichs' "Nemesis" is a compelling thriller about a boy and girl who become entangled in a government plot in the remote Idaho town of Fire Lake. Since she was eight years old, Min Wilder, the main character, has been killed on each of her even-numbered birthdays. Without mistake, a man always approaches her and murders her while wearing shiny leather shoes and reflective eyewear. However, she always wakes up in the morning in the same spot in the woods, without a scratch or a tear in her clothes. Noah wants nothing more than to fit in with the crowd across the valley. But he can't. He also has these same visions of murder and death, despite his best efforts to mask them. The two disturbed kids learn that some people have been lying to them their entire lives as the world around them starts to spiral into panic and devastation due to the WASP-127 asteroid that is predicted to strike Earth in a doomsday-like event.

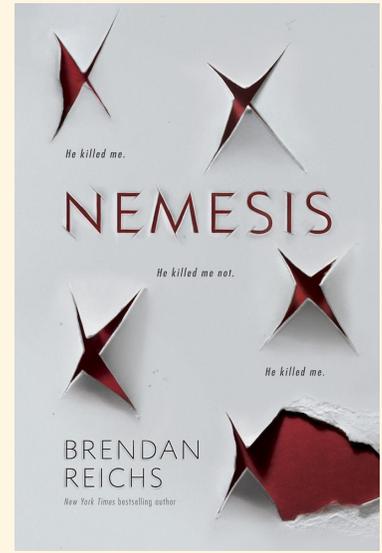


Image via Goodreads



Image via Stocklib

This book will interest fans of science fiction. The novel intricacy grows as it progresses, and the conclusion, which provides the answers the youngsters are seeking, is mind-blowing! I made an abundance of incorrect predictions about what would happen during this book, and the end was honestly shocking. I found myself turning the pages quickly, analyzing each carefully planned memory of birthday killings. The book maintains a quick pace and a tight hold on the reader, while also containing a level of grace and style. All chapters are written in the first person and shift between flashbacks and the current plot. While Min's tale kept me genuinely engaged, I began to like this novel much more once Noah's perspective began. He shares many of Min's experiences, and the plot requires you to make so many connections once his side of the story begins.

The second and third books in Reichs' trilogy, Genesis and Chrysalis conclude this book, which has a satisfying ending but with room for a cliff-hanger, and the Project Nemesis Trilogy. Overall, this story is a quite captivating, and it won't let you down with the surprise in store for the end.

The History of Halloween

By Rishi Mittal

“Trick-or-treat!” This infamous phrase bombards homes all across the United States on one night every year, instilling not only a sugar-high, but also joy in all children. Halloween, occurring on the 31st of October, consists of a myriad of traditions. From carving pumpkins and putting candles inside of them to make jack-o’-lanterns, to attending haunted houses and getting quite a scare from frightening costumes, Halloween is truly a top-tier holiday. But nothing beats the practice of trick-or-treating: millions of children going to houses all around their neighborhood, receiving candies and chocolates galore that make their parents regret going to the dentist the next time. However, where did these traditions originate from? In fact, where did the entire holiday of Halloween come from?



Image via Parade.com

The first-ever iteration of Halloween began around 2,000 years ago, beginning as the festival of Samhain that was celebrated by the Celtic people in Western Europe. On this day, the Celts believed that the veil separating the living and the dead was as thin as it could be, allowing spirits to pass over and interact with the living. Supplies were gathered for the winter and a large feast would be organized by slaughtering herds of cattle. At this celebration, spirits were able to come on over and take part in the festivities. However, inhuman spirits would also visit during the party, giving rise to the scary costumes and designs that are used for Halloween today. Many grudge-holding spirits also came, which is why the living put ashes on their face to disguise themselves, eventually transforming into the modern-day practice of wearing masks.

Later on, the Roman Empire began its takeover and had claimed the Celtic land for themselves. This conquest came with many efforts to Christianize the current traditions of the Celts, so Samhain was instead renamed to All-Hallows Eve (since it occurred before the pre-existing All Saints' Day). This new amalgamated holiday consisted of two important parts: Feralia and Pomona. Feralia was dedicated to the appreciation and remembrance of the passing of relatives. Pomona, on the other hand, was to honor the goddess of fruit, whose symbol was the apple. This eventually gave rise to the Halloween tradition of bobbing for apples. All-Hallows Eve, in reality, was an effort to cover up the cultural identity of an imperialized society, but its traditions still live on in present-day Halloween.



Image via theancienthome.com

Eventually, Halloween traveled to America, but its popularity was limited since Protestants were heavily against it. It mainly existed in the South, where many different cultures and perspectives meshed together to create an entirely new version of Halloween, one unique to America. To celebrate, for example, "play parties" were held where there would be huge feasts for everyone to come and enjoy. These brought the community together, since everyone participated in dancing and singing. They also engaged in storytelling at bonfires, sharing ghost stories and even pulling childish pranks on their community. A more global effect of Halloween was produced a couple centuries later, when immigrants started coming to the United States, since it was a chance for bonding between different communities.

Halloween is one of the most celebrated holidays in the entire United States, but its history is definitely one of the most unexpected, yet interesting to learn about.

Liz Truss Resigns

By Andrew Moodey

On Thursday, October 20th, in the United Kingdom, Liz Truss resigned from the position of prime minister. After a tumultuous 45 days in office, the shortest-reigning prime minister stepped down amid the grand controversy surrounding her rule. The politician from the Conservative Party officially stepped down on Thursday.

“Given the situation, I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected by the Conservative Party,” said Truss.



Image via politico.eu

Liz Truss was first elected by the Tories to act as the prime minister in succession to Boris Johnson, who had recently stepped down from office, and spearheaded the former Conservative British government. She wanted to unleash the economy and solve some of the problems that the United Kingdom was facing at the moment, like the failing economy.

Truss' resignation was the culmination of several factors. The main point of controversy revolved around her financial plan. With the support of Kwasi Kwarteng, her chancellor of the Exchequer, which is the British position that controls taxes, finance ministry and executive decisions, and public spending, an economic format was put forth in which the richest in Britain would get tax cuts, removed a limit on banker's bonuses, and canceled the formerly planned corporate-tax hike. Not only did the left-wing parties strongly oppose the proposal, but the middle classes protested as inflation and mortgage costs rose and the financial markets buckled. In response to the public uproar in response to the economy and tax cuts, Kwarteng was fired by Truss, who was replaced by Jeremy Hunt. Hunt unwound and undermined any remaining political progress that Truss had in a short TV interview. The Bank of England and the Chancellor of the Exchequer intervened and the taxation policy was eventually scrapped, but while active it dropped the value of the pound sterling (currency of the United Kingdom) to the lowest it's been in 37 years. With her reputation scalded and political standing shattered, Truss was forced to step down.

The public outrage has been one of the major reasons for which Truss resigned. In fact, only 1 in 10 voters of a certain survey said they would support Truss. The taxation plan mentioned above was the most invigorating for critics of the right, but it was also compiled upon Liz Truss' promises of growth, strength in Britain's economy, and the economic resentment of Brexit. This caused major dissent, especially as the world's entire economy and stability began to generally decline due to the products of the Russo-Ukrainian war and COVID-19. Many of those who have been eaten by inflation and other economic problems in the U.K. found the tax cuts on the rich unfavorable, with some news publishers like The Atlantic calling the plan an attempt to turn Britain into a "libertarian paradise." With the public view of the once popular and powerful Conservative Party wounded, the tipping balance of power between the Tories and the Labour Party will be fueled in the future of British politics.

Successors for the position are currently being decided upon by the Conservative Parliament and the Party members. The Conservative Party became frustrated with Truss' failure. Rishi Sunak, a popular candidate among the public sphere, and former prime minister Boris Johnson were both discussed by the Tories to be the most likely alternatives to Truss. Sunak is a politician with a generally neutral reputation, with 43% of Brits seeing him favorably and 44% unfavorably. Though this is a decrease from his early popularity, his approval ratings were still up from recently. He remains as one of Britain's most popular senior politicians, in contrast to his close colleagues. Brits agree that Sunak could improve the economy of the U.K., whereas they trust Johnson with the defense. Otherwise, they are seen as rather equal rivals for the position of PM. Some recent events, decisions, and acts are associated with Sunak's popularity- the furlough and energy loan schemes generally associated negatively with his connections to the economy (34% approval) Increases in National Insurance (25% approval) and the removal of the 20 pound universal credit uplift are also closely tied to Sunak. Though he scored negatively on the cost of living crisis, he still has a reputation that serves to fill an important niche that was fragmented by Truss.



Image via politico.eu

Liz Truss had come to admit that she made a number of problems during her tenure. The markets did face a lot of failure, but there has been hope for improvement and a gradual but slow return to stability since the cuts have been discarded. In her place former minister Grant Shapps was appointed to lead the Home Office. Even though he made some endorsements of Truss, he still recognized the difficult period the government and economy had just been through. With a new prime minister being decided upon in Parliament, it is intriguing to think about how the future of British politics will be affected by the shortest rule of a prime minister in United Kingdom history.

Rishi Sunak, who lost to Truss this summer, won the election to lead the Tories unopposed and is now Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

The Father of Paleogenomics

By Zaid Mohammed

On October 3rd, 2022, it was announced that Svante Pääbo would become the 2022 laureate for the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine. But who is Svante Pääbo, exactly? Why did he deserve an award so historically renowned?

Pääbo was born in Stockholm, Sweden on April 20, 1955. His father, Sune Bergström, had also won a Nobel prize in medicine in 1982 for his research on a hormone known as prostaglandin. Just like his father, Pääbo was nothing short of intelligent. In college, Pääbo studied Egyptology, Russian, Scientific History, and Medical Sciences. He then went on to complete his Ph.D. degree at the University of Uppsala in Sweden. Pääbo worked as a researcher and a professor in different countries (such as the United States and Switzerland) before becoming a director at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany.



Image via nhregister.com

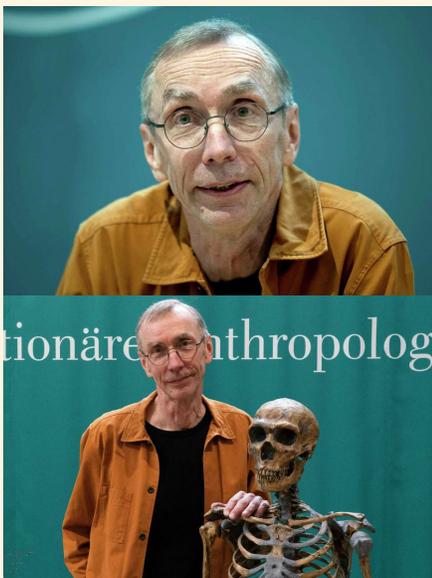


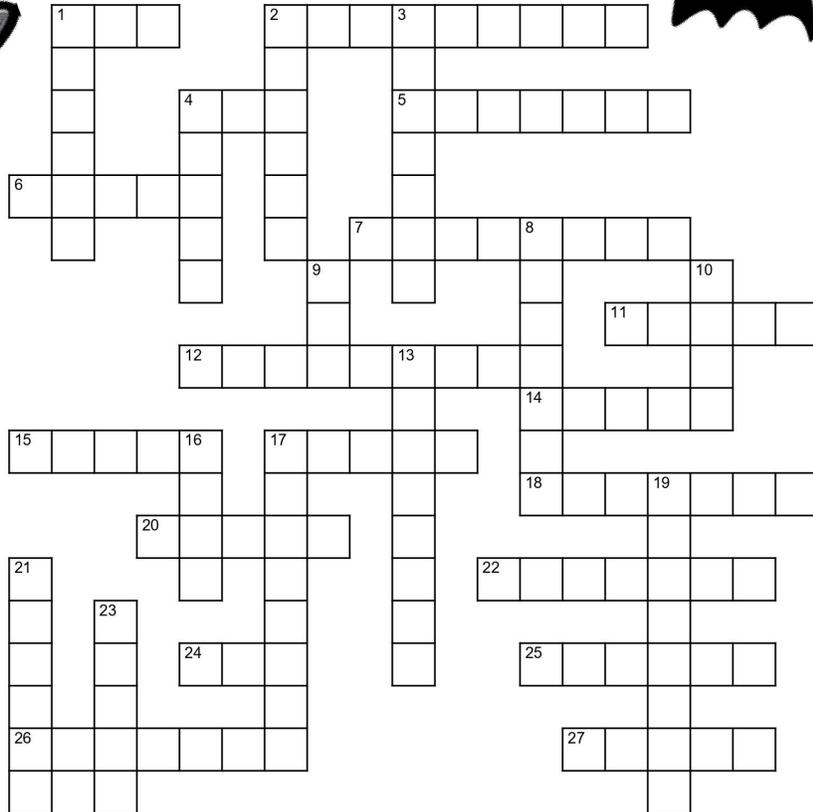
Image via nhregister.com

In 2006, Pääbo did what many scientists at the time believed to be impossible. He found a way to extract DNA from ancient bones and compare them to current human DNA. The DNA was fragmented, but it led to an achievement no one in anthropology could have anticipated. This process went on until 2010 when Pääbo and his team successfully sequenced the Neanderthal genome, finding that Neanderthals had interbred with humans. Pääbo had paved the way for an entirely new branch of evolutionary anthropology. He had created the field of paleogenomics - the use of biotechnology to recover and sequence proteins and DNA from ancient organisms. In 2012, he went on to find correlations between the fingers of another ancient ancestor known as the Denisovans, who lived in Asia, and human fingers.

Halloween Crossword Puzzle



Halloween



Across

1. He swallowed the canary.
2. Playground for ghosts.
4. What a spider spins.
5. Frankenstein has one.
6. When ghosts come out to play.
7. Scare.
11. What the pot might call the kettle.
12. October 31st.
14. ____ or treat.
15. Witch transportation.
17. Frightening.
18. The Count.
20. A skeleton is just a bunch of these.
22. Disguise.
24. Lives in the belfry.
25. Incey wincey is one of these.
26. Main ingredient in a popular pie.
27. ____ stories.

Down

1. Where a vampire sleeps.
2. Evil or mischievous creature.
3. He hates garlic.
4. Samantha for example.
8. ____ house.

9. Whooo? Whooo?
10. Mr. O'Lantern.
13. Comes out on full moon nights.
16. Might be full, half, or new.
17. A boney sort of fellow.
19. Fire burn, and ____ bubble.
21. When something makes our skin crawl, it's this.
23. Found in Egypt.



YOUR VOICE!



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