

Kindergarten Life

See pg 2



Motocross

See pg 4



Small School, Big Stories

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History of Halloween - pg 2

Life with Hearing Aides - pg 3

Student Spotlight: Reece Coyle- pg 3

Halloween in Brimfield: Etiquette and Events

By: Beau Grunow and Kaeden Schatsiek

2021 will be a great Halloween for the people of Brimfield and everyone who visits. Mrs. Holly Johnson, a clerk working at the Brimfield Village, has some ground rules for trick or treating.

The first rule is that there are no specific times to be out trick or treating. Although there aren't specific times, Mrs. Johnson fully recommends that you don't stay out too late and stay within your own boundaries set by your parents.

The next big rule is that you do not go to any doors without their lights on. This means if you are walking house to house and there is a door with their front lights off, don't go knocking or ringing the doorbell. There is always a reason the lights are off.

The most important rule is to be respectful to others and their property. By this, we are telling you to say thank you to whoever hands you the candy. Also, do not damage any property while you are walking around. Don't throw any candy from your bag at houses, and don't ever hurt others on your walk.



Things to do in Brimfield for

Halloween:

Union Church

They will host a Trunk or Treat. It will be on October 23rd from 4:00-6:00 pm. There, you will be able to have something to eat. While not required, make sure you dress up in your awesome Halloween costumes.

Brimfield High School

Student Council also has some events planned. In the last week of October, both schools will have dress-up days. All teachers at the high school will have a door decorating contest. Then, once they are done decorating, the fellow staff members (non-teachers) will vote on their favorite decoration. The winning teacher gets a big bag of Halloween candy. Lastly, the High School will have a pumpkin carving contest. Each student that enters the competition will carve their own pumpkins at home then submit them into the contest. In order to win the students and staff will

vote on their favorite pumpkin and the winner will get a cash prize.

Brimfield Public Library

The staff at the library will first host a Zombie Escape Room for ages 8 and up. The days possible to do this are October 25th through the 30th. You can sign up for it on their website at

<https://www.brimfieldlibrary.org/>. Just in case you aren't an Escape Room type of person, the library will also have a Halloween Reading Challenge. Look at their website to find more information about the challenge. The last *spooky* events at the public library are two 3D design projects. The first one is on October 21st and it's a Ghost Glowing design where either you can 3D print a ghost and put your engineering skills to the test. The second one is a Creepy Creation 3D Design project. Here you can 3D print a Halloween monster.

E-Free Church

Trick or Treaters are welcome between 6:00-8:00 on Halloween. Come and enjoy candy and friends. They only ask that all costumes are family-friendly.

The Best Halloween Candy

By Whitney Smith

The best Halloween candy is Twix. That's my opinion and I firmly believe it. Twix is the best candy due to the crunch and tasty caramel that is in the center. Many people love the combo of silky chocolate and caramel that simply melts in your mouth when you take a bite. Unlike most candy bars, Twix has a cookie inside of it making it pair perfectly with the caramel. Unlike Reeses, you can take the wrapper off and enjoy it right away and not have to worry about 2 more pieces of paper lying around. Twix also does not have peanuts in it, which might be helpful to those who have a peanut allergy or don't like peanut butter. Twix also carries a variety of different varieties and types of bars, such as cookies and creme, dark chocolate, and white chocolate, also having 4 bars in a pack, fun bite sizes, and many more. During Halloween, the Twix candy is an American favorite and has been for years. However, my fellow classmates disagree. According to a survey that the 8th grade took, the most liked candy is Reeses, in second place in Twix, and in 3rd place is Snickers.

The History of Halloween

By Brittany McGowan and Noah Malone

Halloween is right around the corner and decorations are going up to prepare for the holiday. As you put on your costumes, grab your candy bag, and head for the door you may wonder why. Why do we carve pumpkins, why do we dress up, and why is Halloween a holiday in the first place?

“Halloween’s origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain” (History.com). These people celebrated their New Year on November 1. These people are also the reason why we dress up. They would light bonfires and dress in costumes.

Although it is the more popular topic, dressing up is not the only thing we do for Halloween. We also gut and carve pumpkins.

“The practice of decorating jack-o'-lanterns originated in Ireland, where large turnips and potatoes served as early canvases. In fact, the name, jack-o'-lantern, comes from an Irish folktale about a man named Stingy Jack” (History.com).

Halloween isn’t much different now than it was in the past. Our reading specialist, Mrs. Walker told us some things about what Halloween was like in her childhood.

Mrs. Walker said, “We still had Halloween parties and got candy for school parties,” Although it may seem like a long time ago, Halloween isn’t all that different now. Halloween traditions also haven’t changed much. It has always been dressing up and giving out candy.

“I can’t think of a lot of differences between my childhood and children today.

“Going out as a kid was very fun. My friends and I, we would walk around our small town,” Mrs. Walker stated. This is similar to what still happens today.

Costumes are also really cool during Halloween, much like they have been in the past.

“I love seeing all the different costumes and what they come up with and for some kids, it’s their favorite holiday,” said Mrs. Walker.

Lots of costumes can be so cool and creative. Lots of people might even still make their costumes today. Mrs. Walker said, “I always think it’s fun to see what people choose. Especially when they make their own it’s pretty cool.”

Halloween has been the same holiday for many generations now. It hasn’t changed too much, and it certainly is not boring. We still have a lot of fun with it. People still dress up, get candy, and have fun!



Every Day is a New Adventure in Kindergarten

By Finn Kuhn

Kindergarten is the beginning of learning and school. When a young student walks into a classroom for the first time it’s an introduction to topics like math and history and a continuation of learning things about English and science. Every day is a new discovery for them. Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Sneeringer gets to see this all the time.

Mrs. Sneeringer has worked with many different age groups over the years, from 4th to 2nd, but kindergarten seems to be her favorite. She was inspired to become a teacher in the same grade.

“When I was in kindergarten we had these blow up balloons, one for every



single letter of the alphabet, and my teacher hung them up from the lights in the classroom, and that was the first thing that made me think, hey, it might be kind of nice to be a teacher,” stated Mrs. Sneeringer.

Most people start kindergarten when they’re 5-6, and at that age, almost

everything is still new and fresh. Every day in class is a new adventure to be had. Mrs. Sneeringer puts it like this,

“Every day for them is kind of like a vacation day. You know when you go on vacation and everything is so cool and new? That’s kindergarten.”

Keeping little kids engaged while teaching something new is a very important part of the job. Having fun while keeping kids on task is a tough thing to balance. It’s easier to do this with quick and frequent changes in what you’re doing.

Continued pg 4

Life with Hearing Aides

By Sawyer Drury



One in eight people in the United States (or 30 million) aged 12 years or older has hearing loss in both ears. One student out of many at Brimfield Grade School has hearing loss in both ears. It is me! I have severe to profound hearing loss in my left ear and moderate to severe in my right ear. I can hear just a little bit without my hearing aids but people will have to talk louder than normal.

My hearing loss is called Mondini Syndrome, it's a biological hearing loss in both ears, it's also a condition where the cochlea is incomplete. I wear hearing aids in both ears so I can hear. I was born with this syndrome and will have it for the rest of my life.

My parents did not know about my hearing loss, so I was tested later in my childhood at age three. They finally got my ears tested because Teagan Drury, my sister, started pronouncing words and sounds better than I did. A

sound I still cannot pronounce correctly every now and then is the sound sssssss, the letter S.

No ancestors of mine have had hearing loss, my parents are still trying to find out how I happened to be one out of a million people to get it, especially if it's not in my genes. My parents and I always think about why my left ear is worse than my right, which is mostly unknown and wondered about amongst people.

I am an eighth-grader at Brimfield Grade School, come visit me anytime! I am a huge influencer and encourage people not to be afraid of their disability but to use it as a strength no one else has. Therefore I've participated in many events for hearing loss. Such as the Walk 4 Hearing, it's the only nationwide event bringing attention to hearing loss and promoting the importance of hearing health.

I think that my hearing aids are beneficial in some situations. Such as sleeping, I have no idea how people can sleep with quiet tiny noises at night, I love sleeping in complete silence. In some ways there are disadvantages. Like swimming, when I swim I long to hear what it sounds like underwater, but with my hearing loss, I sadly can't.

I sometimes can't hear others fully, when I can't hear others I will always ask. Don't just repeat the sentence but reword it so I can understand it better.

I also use a Roger Pen so I can hear my teachers better without any background noise. With my hearing aids, I can hear EVERYTHING. The roger pen is a wireless microphone that enables people with hearing loss to hear and understand more speech in loud noise and over distance.

I encourage people not to be afraid of who they are, I want them to show their true personality as a person, and to NEVER be ashamed of their disabilities.

MY aids are not an excuse, they are MY story.

Girls Basketball Season Off to a Rocky Start

By Brody Kenney

The junior high basketball girls team has had a positive COVID case that could affect the rest of the basketball season.

"All of the players that are not positive can return back to practicing and school. The coaches do not have to quarantine," Mr. Sunderland the Athletic Director of Brimfield Grade School says.

The girls were already off to a rough start without COVID. They started out the season with their first game before having their first practice because the softball girls won the state championship and were not able to practice until their softball season was over.

Girls had to cancel games due to COVID cases. "The time off from games shouldn't affect the postseason", said Mr. Sunderland.

Due to the time off of games, the girls will practice in the gym. Then, they should be able to finish their season normally once all quarantined players are able to return.

"The conference games will be made up but the non-conference games will not. They will miss 4 games and 2 of them are conference games so those 2 will be made up and the other 2 will not," Mr. Sunderland says.

The girl's basketball team will be back on track with their season with only a month and a half left of the season due to missing a couple of weeks of the girl's basketball team season.

With COVID positive cases going around, make sure to keep your mask up and stay safe.

Student Spotlight: Reece Coyle

By Sean Crowe

Reece Coyle, in Mrs. Jones' third-grade classroom, shows others hard work, kindness, and inspiration at Brimfield Grade School. Her kind heart is always shown in and outside the classroom no matter what.

"She is very kind," teacher Mrs. Jones said.

Being good in class also means you have to do the right thing and Mrs. Jones always finds her on task in class and is never unfocused.

"She's always doing the right thing," said Mrs. Jones.

Along with her doing the right thing she also inspires other classmates to do the right thing in class. Everything she does spreads positivity around the classroom and even as an example of Brimfield Grade School.

"She inspires others by showing positive attitude every day," said Mrs. Jones

Reece is an example of a hardworking student. She always pays attention in class and gives great effort on her homework.

"She's a very hardworking student," said Mrs. Jones.

Reece's teachers are proud of her hard work and her inspiration to other students in the classroom. She should keep this up throughout the rest of her life and she'll be successful.





Kindergarten continued

"We can't do anything for too long at this age." Says Mrs. Sneeringer.

Both former student Ashlyn Vaughn and current student Logan Brauch agree that kindergarten was and is an enjoyable grade and place to be.

Ashlyn says that the teachers made it what it was. "The teachers made it a fun time."

The other way around is also true. Mrs. Sneeringer says that the students make teaching fun, from the random comments to how sweet they are.

Kindergarten isn't just for fun though. A lot of developmental milestones are reached during it. According to scholastic.com, "Kindergarten provides your child with an opportunity to learn and practice the essential social, emotional, problem-solving, and study skills that he will use throughout his schooling."

The foundation of things like the development of self-esteem and working well with others is built during this time. The environment also allows for curiosity to flourish.

Overall, Kindergarten is an important step in the development of kids. We owe a lot to teachers who make it all possible.

Motocross: Not for the Weak

By Wesley Koller

Motocross, the most physically demanding sport. It's a pretty expensive sport but it's worth it. Most people play common sports like baseball, basketball, football, etc. but motocross is a one-of-a-kind sport worth trying out, it's thrilling and exciting. You'll never regret the experience.

There are many different surfaces and tracks to ride on from sand to rocky terrain. Dirt is the most common riding ground. Weather conditions don't matter, it can be raining or sunny. The most common track is the large motocross track, it can be anything from 60 foot jumps to multiple 10-foot jumps. There are also some other tracks for different types of riders, but most motocross riders will be going to a "regular" race track.

The teams consist of 1 man and a bike. The bike can cost up to \$3,000 dollars or more if it's a high-quality bike.

There are also different types of races. Most common is races on a track. Other races called Hare Scrambles are longer races that can last from 1 to 3 hours of riding time, these take place anywhere from track to the woods. You all start standing with your bike on a stand and the alarm goes off and you all run to your bike, get on, start it, and race.

During regular races, the rider gets into a line with other riders at a starting gate and the gate drops



and everyone goes. Motocross races can be any length from one lap to 100 laps. The number of laps will usually depend on the

type of race track. Some tracks have big hills and long straightaways, making the track longer and harder to ride on.

There are also some short and flat tracks, but they're boring for spectators and riders alike. Usually, the races last an hour or two depending on how many laps there are in a race.

It's pretty easy to distinguish between the people because they all have different color gear on. Everyone is wearing a helmet, jersey, and tall thick boots to protect their feet and ankles from getting hurt. Riders also have to wear a certain kind of riding jersey, it's a breathable material so the rider can be cooled throughout the race.

There aren't many rules in motocross, but keep your line on the track so you don't get into any crashes with other riders

Along with how many laps there are in a race, it will also depend on what kind of bike the rider has, the more expensive the bike is the better it will perform unless you buy a used bike and put other aftermarket parts on it to make it faster and better controlled.

Motocross also involves four-wheelers, or quads. You have to have experience to ride a bike and a quad but quads tend to be a bit easier. They have similar tracks, since quads are wider than bikes, woods riding trails have to be a bit wider for four-wheelers to fit between the trees. Bikes have an advantage in the woods because they can maneuver around anything while quads have a limited amount of riding space.

Both bikes and quads are fun, if you have the chance, definitely try out motocross. Or if you don't like racing with other people, just ride in your backyard.

