

Lanyards Landing at MHS

by Jeffrey Pham

The beginning of the school year has brought much anticipation for all students for a multitude of reasons: clubs, sports, friends, or just school in general. However, a subject that has been a popular topic of interest for most students are the new lanyards that have been issued this year.

At the forefront of this initiative to introduce lanyards was, none other than, our own principal: Mr. Barden. The idea of lanyards is not new, several schools have already started using them themselves; however, Methuen High School only has begun handing out lanyards recently. When asked if there had been any influence from other schools who have experimented with their own system of lanyards in the past, Mr. Barden explained that he had consulted with a team of principals from other schools and that, “every principal is interested,” in their implementation.

The conversation about how schools can become safer and more organized has always existed for school administrators, faculty, parents, and students; issuing lanyards can be seen as a step towards this goal. From groups as high up as the administration level to even students who had participated in Generation Citizen, they all could agree on one thing: the current system of student ID cards were not sufficient. Students would be issued a card, but there was never any practical way to use them for their primary purpose, identifying students. Lanyards can be seen as a remedy to this problem. Unlike ID cards, lanyards make identifying students easier. Though lanyards won't be a perfect



Courtesy of Blue & White Staff

Students and staff pose with their new lanyards.

solution, it is a step forward towards a safer and more organized school. To students, the new lanyards may seem unnecessary, they are just a wearable form of the student IDs that not many students use anyway. Although that may seem like the case, the function that these new lanyards serve will prove invaluable to both teachers and students. For

new and substitute teachers, lanyards make identifying students easier. For teachers and school officials, it makes the job of keeping the school as safe as possible much easier to manage. Instead of needing to scan for any and all unfamiliar faces within the school, a simple lanyard tells who belongs in the school and who does not. *Continued on Page 2...*

What's Inside:

- Page 2**
New Foreign Language Department Head
- Page 4**
SADD Red Ribbon Week
- Page 6**
Best Buddies Costume Party
- Page 8**
Soccer Captain Focus
- Page 11**
No More Progress Reports
- Page 13**
Top Moves for Halloween
- Pages 14-15**
Games!

New Homecoming Dance Maintains Original Charm

by Bella Marcoaldi

If you missed the annual Methuen High homecoming dance held on October 12, here is a recap of all the fun things that happened. It was held in the cafeteria this year, and was decorated with streamers colored blue and white. There was a photo booth and a great DJ that played all the new hit songs. Almost everybody was dancing along to the upbeat music.

Why did fewer students attend this year's homecoming you may ask? Well, some changes were made to the dance that were

controversial. They raised the price of tickets and held it in the cafeteria instead of the gym. Some students made a decision to not attend because of this. But fewer people definitely did not stop everyone from having fun!

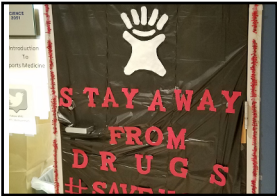
- The featured prom kings and queens of the classes were:
- Grade 9 - Jamie Slattery and Connor Mottram.
 - Grade 10 - Olivia Lunden and Joey Pinto.
 - Grade 11 - Savanna Bagnulo and Carlos Aguirre.

Unfortunately there were no

nominations for senior king and queen. Congratulations to everybody who was nominated!

The people who won prom king and queen walked down the main staircase together while everyone cheered and clapped for them. The queens got flowers and a crown, while the kings got a crown.

Overall, this year's homecoming was eventful, fun, and everyone who went enjoyed themselves. When you're with friends it's always a fun time!



Red Ribbon Week!



New Faces For Girls Soccer Team



Five Scary Movies For Halloween

Mrs. Enright: From the Classroom to an Office

by Emily Donovan

Methuen High School’s new Foreign Language Department Chair, Mrs. Enright, is thrilled to take charge. “I am so grateful for the support that my co-workers have given me! The other administrators and I work very well together,” said Mrs. Enright. She was recently promoted from teaching Spanish in a classroom to leading the entire Foreign Language Department as Department Chair.

Mrs. Enright started teaching at Methuen High School in September of 2012. After seven full years of teaching, she made the decision to apply for the vacant Department Head position.

At first, Mrs. Enright was skeptical about applying, saddened by the thought of losing her classroom full of students. Fortunately for Mrs. Enright, the 2019 school year came with lots of surprises. “When I was told that I would be taking over some of Mrs. Joy’s classes while she was on leave, I was thrilled! I am very thankful to be able to continue teaching.”

Along with supporting her fellow teachers, Mrs. Enright balances her daily class agenda with all of her new responsibilities. Her favorite part of the position is

supporting her students and giving influential feedback to both teachers and students in the Foreign Language Department.



The new Foreign Language department chair, Mrs. Enright.

Courtesy of Mrs. Enright

The change from teacher to administrator was bound to come with some challenges, but there have been none that all-time favorite Mrs

Enright can not handle. “The only real challenge is that now, instead of being responsible for a classroom of students, I am responsible for every student that is currently enrolled in a

of the teachers and administrators are super welcoming. Though I do miss having my own classroom, I guess my new office will do . . . but not until I make it more homey!”

The Wheaton College Undergraduate has always had a love for Spanish, and for teaching. While in college, Mrs. Enright studied abroad in Spain, where her passion for language grew stronger, influencing her to go to Harvard Graduate School to receive her Master’s Degree to teach Spanish. Aside from teaching, Mrs. Enright enjoys camping with her husband and their daughter in New Hampshire and Vermont and spending time with her 12-year-old dog.

Mrs. Enright continues to discover many surprises. “There are new challenges every day. I now know that I was wrong when I thought I would be sitting in a chair all day. I am constantly on my feet running around! I wouldn’t want it any other way,” said Mrs. Enright, Methuen High School’s newest foreign language legend!

foreign language class."

She added that, "Overall, the transition has been very pleasant. All

Lanyards Continued

by Jeffrey Pham

...Continued from Front Page

In the future, lanyards may become more than just an identification card that students wear. Mr. Barden has also expressed his interest in a concept that would allow the lanyards to be scan-able, as well as connected to individual Infinite Campus accounts. Doing so would allow students to scan into

school instead of teachers needing to take attendance.

If students go to extra help, clubs, or anywhere not listed on their schedule, they would be able to check in to said place or event, making it much easier for parents/guardians, teachers, and school officials to locate students -- for both practical reasons and in case of an emergency. Having lanyards that also could be scanned would mean making something as simple

as lunch lines more efficient too by eliminating the need for students to input their code every time they want to buy lunch.

Though these are only possibilities at the moment, future lanyards may be capable of these tasks and

more.

The largest potential problem that is anticipated to result from introducing the lanyards is that students will not wear them. Mr. Barden said that he does not want there to be standoffs, or as he calls them “grudge matches,” between students and teachers over lanyard usage, which would take away class time for students.

With concerns about public safety becoming more and more pertinent in society, Mr. Barden hopes that the lanyards will be a valuable asset to students. “We’re building security and preparing students for the workplace; every little thing we do in schools is about engagement now, and preparation down the road,” Mr. Barden said. By referencing the fact that many workplaces and public spaces are beginning to shift towards using lanyards for identification, he asserts that lanyards have many benefits.

While they may seem like

“We're building security and preparing for the workplace; every little thing we do in schools is about engagement now and preparation down the road.”

Mr. Barden

an inconvenience now, the lanyards are here to stay for the long term. “The lanyard is a small step that will hopefully help us down the road,” Mr. Barden says, “School climate is important to me and I want a school that's safe and where students have a say. If they make anyone in this school feel safer, then I'm all for it.”



Courtesy of Google Images

Every MHS student will now have their own lanyard for their school I.D.

Students Flourish in NECC Early College Program

By Sarah Carter

This year, Methuen High School has seen a surge in the number of students enrolled in the NECC Early College Program.

An option previously unknown to many students, the program is offered by Northern Essex Community College to rising high school juniors and seniors. Professors of the school come to Methuen High School during last period throughout the week to teach their respective courses. The opportunity provides students an avenue through which they may begin earning college credit early, while still being enrolled at Methuen High School. This year, the school has offered courses in English Composition, Introductory Sociology, and Public Speaking to qualifying students.

So, how do students apply for enrollment in the program? To begin the process of applying, students must first contact their own school counselors or the administrator chosen to coordinate with NECC on the program (this

year, counselor Martha Tatro was designated this responsibility). There is an agreement form that students must sign and submit in order to be considered. They must also register online for an NECC ID with which they will be able to schedule an appointment to take the ACCUPLACER placement exam at NECC’s Haverhill or Lawrence campuses.

The exam is compulsory for all students that are interested in the NECC Early College Program, and is used to assess students’ post-secondary preparedness for college-level coursework. The test may be completed in approximately three hours, and is comprised of arithmetic, college-level math, elementary algebra, reading comprehension, sentence formation, and essay writing. The scores students receive will then be reported to the Methuen High School guidance office.

Guidance counselors will confer with their students once more to finalize course selections for the NECC Early College Program. Each course offered spans half a semester and meets two to three times per week.

Despite this in-depth registration process, there are actually many benefits to being dual-enrolled at both NECC and MHS. By opting to take one or even all courses offered by NECC, students at

Methuen High are granted an opportunity to begin accruing college credits while still in high school. Through the Commonwealth Dual Enrollment Partnership (CDEP), the program enables students to earn credit for high school completion as well as their future college degrees. Courses are weighted on the AP scale and are available to students at Methuen High School for no charge.

The two courses offered to students this fall semester are English Composition I and Sociology-101. Both classes are characterized by discussion-based activities and are largely affected by how students work with others in a group. Students may be seen reading and dissecting pieces of literature, as well as employing essay writing strategies in English Composition, while they are also having conversations on current events and conducting social observations on cultures in Sociology-101.

The potential for academic growth here is what makes this opportunity like no other.

Aside from affording students this opportunity, the program also allows students to take courses at the college level in an educational setting they otherwise would not have had access to. By working with professors from NECC, students are able to experience a kind of simulated college class — professors assign the

and replete with content, providing students with a great opportunity to use their time in high school to their advantage.

Many students have been responding excitedly to their experience in the Early College Program so far. Lucille Cook, a junior who is enrolled in both English Composition and Sociology-101, said, “The classes are both unfamiliar and challenging, but they have allowed me to see what college may be like in the future.” Many other students like Lucille also express positive thoughts regarding their time in the Early College Program, such as junior Geryes Geha. He too explains that “Having my friends by my side throughout all of this makes taking classes at the college-level that much more doable.”

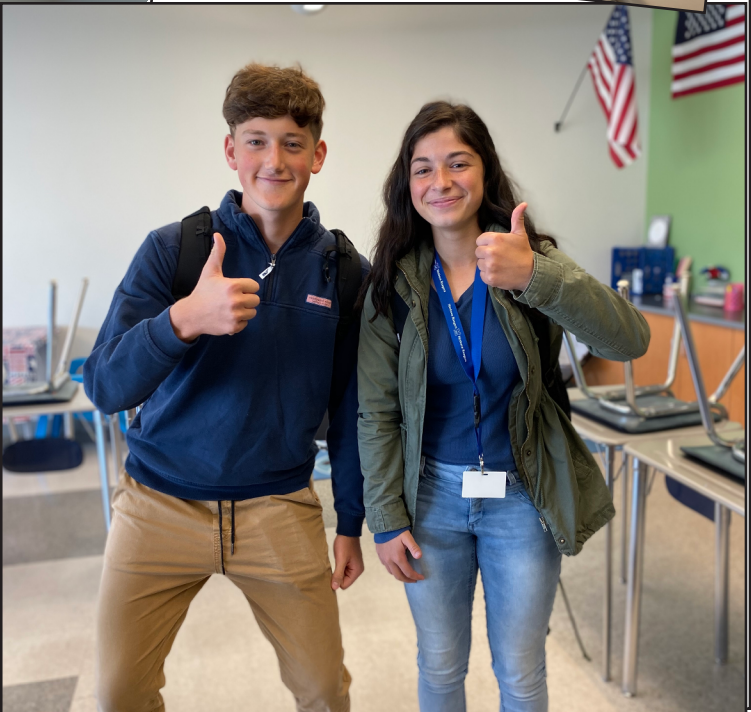
On the whole, the Early College Program offered by NECC at MHS seems to be a worthwhile opportunity worth considering.



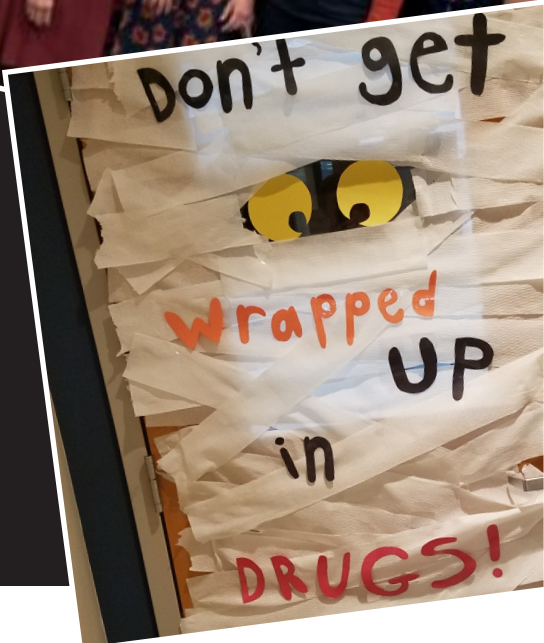
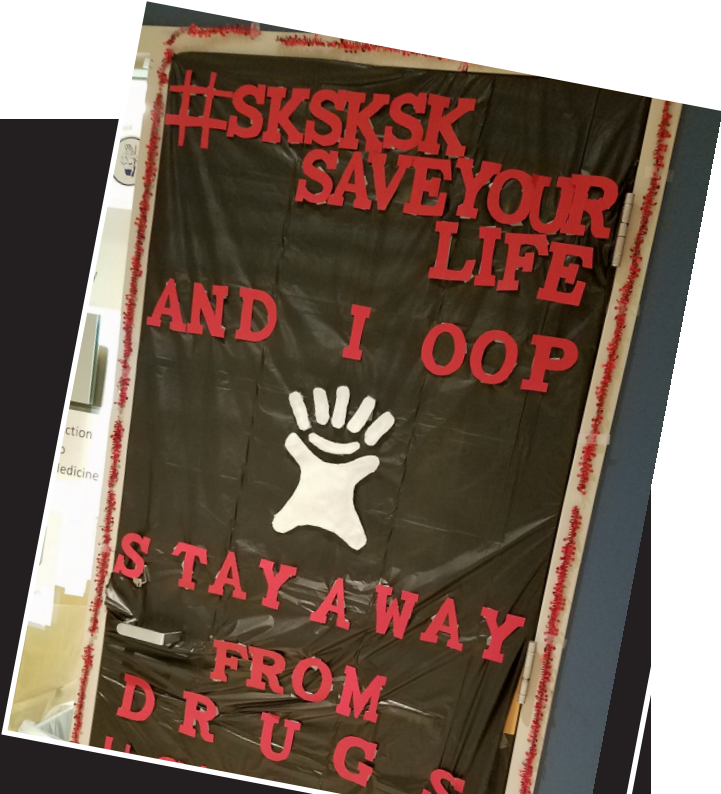
Courtesy of Sarah Carter and Google Images



same college-level expectations to students, but classes are held on MHS property. The classes are enriching



News & Feature



Red Ribbon Week Resonates With Students and Teachers

Red Ribbon Week made its return to Methuen High School this October, and once again, the week was very successful. Members of SADD (the organization committed to promoting substance abuse awareness) at Methuen High School were seen ornamenting classroom doors with lettering, drawings, and other materials, writing messages for all of the school to see. In addition to this, students at Methuen High displayed support for substance abuse awareness by wearing red to school on Wednesday, October 23. An impressive sum of students participated in doing this. In fact, many of the students -- beyond those involved in SADD -- were touched by the week's activities. They reflected on what Red Ribbon Week means to them in the statements below:

- ▶ "Red Ribbon Week means pledging to live drug-free and remembering family members who have lost their fight against drugs." - Ava Facella (Gr. 12)
- ▶ "To me, Red Ribbon Week is when we can all come together as a group and bring awareness to the drug problems we face in society." - Jillian McCoy (Gr. 12)
- ▶ "To me, is is about working together to commit to a healthy lifestyle as a group." - Arianna Savoia (Gr. 12)



Calling All Reporters!

The Blue & White is always looking for new students to help with writing, photography, editing, and design.

Stop by room **1051** after school on Wednesday for more info!

U.S. vs. Iran: Rising Tensions

by Salma Boulal

The conflicts between the United States and Iran have been going on for quite some time, but ever since President Donald Trump pulled out of the Iranian nuclear deal in 2018, matters have worsened.

As mentioned in an article on [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com), the Iranian nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is a deal made between the U.S., UK, France, China, Russia and Germany and Iran, restricting Iran's enrichment of uranium. President Trump's decision infuriated Iran and they have even threatened to exceed uranium enrichment levels made under the nuclear agreement.

According to [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com), Iran shot down a U.S. military drone on June 20, 2019 as a way to provoke the United States. Iran's Revolutionary Guard said that the drone had entered their country's territory. The Trump Administration disagreed with the statement and they are sure the drone only flew over international airspace. The head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, Hossein Salami, made sure to let the United States know that Iran is completely capable of countering "foreign aggression" and is totally prepared for war.

Where the U.S military drone was shot down was still unknown and the two nations continued to argue over the exact location. Both countries had their own timelines. Iran believed that the drone went from the United Arab



Courtesy of Google Images

Emirates in stealth mode to a body of water near Kouh-e Mobarak, where it was shot down. The United States insisted that the drone was nine nautical miles southwest of where Iran's Foreign Minister claimed the drone was located.

The result of the drone incident were more sanctions on Iran. President Trump mainly targeted Iran's leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his office who were then denied access to finances.

U.S. sanctions have taken a toll on Iran and it's economy, which is extremely dependent on oil exports. To express their hatred for the U.S. sanctions and to increase oil costs for

America and countries like Saudi Arabia, Iran turned to violence. Iran attacked the Abqaiq oil processing complex in Saudi Arabia in September of 2019, sparking even more complications with the U.S. According to [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com), as an effort to secure Saudi Arabia's oil facilities, President Trump has sent 3,000 additional troops to the area.

It seems as though the problems between the United States and Iran may never be solved and rumors of war are circulating.



A Dozen Candidates for October's Democratic Debate

By Chris Lannan

Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio was the center of the fourth democratic debate, and the sixth overall in the series. A dozen candidates took the stage, after reaching the multiple thresholds needed. Businessman Tom Steyer, who joined the race in July, was on stage for the first time.

First up was the issue of the impeachment. This was the first debate since the impeachment inquiry was launched against president Trump. Senator Elizabeth Warren started off with pitching the idea that impeachment is needed and must go forward before the primary election. Steyer claimed that he was the first candidate in the entire race to support impeaching Trump. Former Vice President, Joe Biden, had a different way of responding to the moderators. When moderator Anderson Cooper asked Biden if he made a mistake by getting his son involved with Ukraine, Biden replied fiercely.

Turning to the issue of economy, Senator Warren was challenged by Mayor Pete Buttigieg, who called her out on healthcare costs. This made for a blood-boiling debate moment, that was definitely a highlight of the night, and a big moment for Mayor Pete.

But, Warren was the first candidate to bring up a wealth tax, which all the others jumped on after. She proposed for any American after their fifty-millionth and first dollar, they would pay two cents for every dollar after that.

Turning to the issue of gun violence, Congressman Beto O'Rourke was asked to open up the discussion. "Were gonna make sure the priority is to keep every American safe," he said. "Every

single one of them is a weapon of war," O'Rourke stressed, referring to assault rifles. Senator Booker got personal for a minute talking about growing up in a neighborhood surrounded by guns. "There are millions of Americans where this is a daily nightmare."

After the small discussion on the opioid crisis, moderator, Erin Brunett tried to ask Senator Bernie Sanders about his recent heart attack. Sanders tried to dodge this one, but he couldn't get away from it. Bernie stated he was, "in good health indefinitely."

Finally was the issue of women's rights. This was a very controversial issue with a third of the candidates debating tonight being female. This was contentious and had candidate Kamala Harris jumping out of her shoes. "There are many options on Roe v. Wade," Senator. Warren said. "The people who are denied access to abortion are young women, and 14-year-old girls." To sum up, all the candidates support rights for a women to choose their own path.

So, who won the debate, and who lost? Mayor Buttigieg definitely had a stand-out moment as he pressed other candidates on their opinions and even got pressed himself. This was a really gutsy move for the mayor, but it paid off in the long run, considering he and Senator Harris are at a deadlock in the national poll.

Former Vice President Joe Biden had a strong night. The only problem was that he dodged most of the points the other candidates and the moderators brought up. O'Rourke was another standout. He brought many great points to the table, and continued to make advancements from the last debate.

Now, who was not on their A-game tonight? Candidate Julián Castro did not stand out much and had little to no key moments. But the real loser of the debate was Elizabeth Warren. It seemed like everyone on the stage wanted to pick a fight with her. Whether this helps or hurts her in the long run remains to be seen.

Triple E Virus

By Ariana Castiello

We never want winter to come, but this year, it's a different story.

Over the last few months, the major crisis in Methuen has been the Triple E virus. The case in this city was increased to critical condition, while Lawrence and Andover were raised to high conditions.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis, also known as Triple E or EEE, is a virus spread through female mosquitoes who have bitten an infected bird. The virus is spread to horses and humans, and in rare cases can be fatal. These mosquitoes can only travel a half a mile from the area they are in, therefore the spraying was most effective. Once the mosquitos have inserted its virus, it causes swelling in the brain, in 40% of cases, and can cause various symptoms such as high fever, chills, and aches, which last for around two weeks. Only one out of three people with an extremely severe case can die from it, while others won't experience any symptoms.

Methuen High students and coaches have had to adjust sports times and senior nights, and are nervous about going outside after dark. The Methuen High football team has had to reschedule their Friday games to Saturday games, and they were not the only athletes affected. Other sports team's games and practices have had to change their schedules and cancel any events occuring after 7:00pm (and later 6:00pm). The city has limited the trick or treating time to 4:30-6:00 this season.

According to Methuen Mayor Jajuga, "The City continued to encourage residents to follow steps to protect themselves from mosquito bites, including wearing long-sleeve clothing, applying insect repellent, and avoiding being outside from dusk until dawn."

The city has gone to the extent of sending trucks out through different

sections of Methuen, in which are the pesticide Anvil 10+10, which puts small droplets on the mosquito to kill them. The spraying happened periodically, starting in the summer, and in some areas was sprayed multiple times.

There have been 29 cases of EEE infection reported this year, and is most common in marshlands and swampy areas, usually happening between late spring to early fall, until the first frost. Although there have been many tests done on horses to prevent the virus, there still is no medicine to help humans prevent this from happening to them.

We must wait until the third harsh frost of the season, to find other solutions to this problem.



Courtesy of Google Images

A New Season, New Coach for Girls' Soccer

By Allison Kelly

Girls soccer has welcomed a new coach, Kayla Grover! She is a K-4 physical education teacher at the Timony. Coach Kayla is also the founder, owner, and head coach of the Atlantic Keeper Academy, which provides goalkeeper training for boys and girls ages 9 and up.

Girls soccer has also welcomed three new captains, juniors Stephanie Tardugno and Kaitlyn Wrisley, and senior captain Sam Matarazzo, alongside returning captain, senior Emily Donovan. I interviewed Kaityln and asked her how she felt being a first time captain, she responded saying, “I look up to Emily and Sam as role models.” When asked how she felt being co-captains with a different group of girls, emily said, “Last year my co captains and I worked great



Methuen Girls Soccer Captains Stephanie Tardugno, Sam Matarazzo, Emily Donovan, and Kaitlyn Wrisley

together and that continued this year as well. We all balance each other out and know which role is

ours.” This season for soccer has been different from the previous years

with only two teams: junior varsity and varsity. Cuts were made during tryouts to differentiate who made varsity and jv. “We were unfortunately low on numbers this year, and making three teams may have been hard to do. So making a few cuts helps with not having so many people on each team,” said Stephanie Tardugno. She hopes that next season there will be enough girls to form three teams again.

During the summer the girls worked hard in preparing for the season, with captains practices ran by the captains and strength and conditioning ran by Catano Performances five days a week. “It helped us create such a better bond and we improved a lot on footwork during the summer,” said Sam Matarazzo.

All four of them are excited for the season and are working towards their goal of going to states!

Chatting With The Varsity Volleyball Girls

By Salma Boulal

Q: Why did you start playing volleyball?

A: Meghan Levesque: I think for the three of us we all just wanted to have fun and try a new sport.

Rachel Batista: Yeah, in middle school, I really liked playing volleyball in gym class and I had fun with it.

Rossely Nunez: I feel like it was an easier option because it’s not one of those sports that kids grew up playing since they were little. You can just kind of start learning with everyone else freshman year.

Q: How long have you been playing volleyball?

A:Levesque : For four years.

Nunez: For four years.

Batista : Since freshman year.

Q: How is the season going so far?

A:Levesque : I think it’s going good. For anyone who did not know, we have had 16 away games so far because the gym was being redone. Our next four games are all at home, thank god. I think we have had some close games that we have pulled through on and we are really working hard this season.

Nunez: It’s going good. It’s been



Methuen girls volleyball players Rossely Nunez, Meghan Levesque, and Rachel Batista.

rough but I think we are all pushing through it.

Q: How do you motivate yourself to do better?

A: Rachel Batista : Honestly, my teammates motivate me to do better and we are so close and like a family.

Meghan Levesque: Ditto. I like Rachel’s answer.

Q: How is the bond between

teammates?

A: Meghan Levesque: It’s awesome. We spend a lot of time in the summer just getting close and establishing that we are a family no matter what. Then, as soon as the season started we only got closer from there.

Q: Who has helped you throughout your volleyball journey?

A: Meghan Levesque: Definitely our teammates but also our coach. He is definitely the biggest supporter of all of us.

Rossely Nunez: He has way more faith in us than we do ourselves so he keeps us pushing.

Q: What are some of your goals for this year?

A: Meghan Levesque: This year, our biggest goal is definitely to make the state tournament. We have four games left and we have to win two so we are really

working hard to make that happen for ourselves.

Q: How has volleyball helped you in your day to day life?

A: Rossely Nunez: I feel like volleyball has just taught me to work hard for something that you want and also to allow people around you to get better. So I feel like I can use that in my classes and life in general.

Q: What is the best part about competing?

A: Meghan Levesque: I just find the fun in everything. I think it’s really fun to compete and put what we do in practice everyday to the test in a game. I like to see how much we can do and how hard we can push ourselves.

Rachel Batista: Also, seeing our growth from the beginning of the year to almost the end of the season. It’s crazy and it’s fun to see that, as well.

Q: Since you are seniors, do you plan to continue playing volleyball in the future?

A: Meghan Levesque: I think for fun. Not professionally or in college.

Rachel Batista: Yeah, I agree.

Rossely Nunez: Yeah, I’d only play for fun.

Making a Splash with Swim Team

By Katelyn Wojtowicz

The combined swim and dive team of Methuen and Tewksbury is more than just a team-they are a family.

“I would say my favorite part of swim is being around my friends and how supportive everyone is towards each other,” said sophomore team member Katie Lefebvre.

Team members support one another through their meets, which has allowed them to win numerous meets so far. They were able to defeat Haverhill for the first time since 2003.

The students on this team participate in diving, relay races,



Image Courtesy of Katelyn Wojtowicz

The Methuen/Tewksbury High School Swim and Dive Team

and individual events to create their final team score. The program has continued to thrive and to improve as the season goes on and states grows nearer.

Outside of their meets, these students create even closer relationships. They hold pasta dinners before every meet. They look forward to them so much,

many of the students have a countdown to when the dinner will be after practice. At these pasta dinners they eat, talk, laugh, and enjoy being with one another. These strong bonds that are created last for life.

When looking around the school, especially on Fridays, it is quite evident who the members of the swim team are. Every Friday they had a meet, so every Friday they all dress up based on a decided theme. This is why you may see 80’s themed outfits or red, white, and blue outfits that brighten up the school. Dressing up like this has been a long time tradition for the team and brings them even closer.

This family will continue to grow each year as the relationships between the students become stronger and stronger.

A Marching Band is...

By Johnna Padvaiskas and Chris Crowninshield

“That’s seven, seven, point, seven!” The announcer said along with bands from surrounding towns, including Methuen High School’s own Ranger Marching Band.

77.7, or silver, is what the Methuen High School Marching Band earned after their first competition in North Andover.

“A Hero is...” is the title of their 2019 show, and despite a hard week of band camp, long practices, and EEE the band is determined to have a great season.

Brian McGonagle, the director of the band, believes that the season is off to a great start. However winning first place isn’t the first thing on his mind.

“As with any season, my hopes are that the students reach a point of excellent showmanship and pride with the show.” Mr. McGonagle said when I asked him his hopes for the season. “As with any show, I hope that the experience is both memorable and rewarding to all students.”

To have a rewarding show however, the band members went through five eight hour days to learn how to march, play their music, and learn their spots (or dots as one calls it in marching band lingo). Every year the goal is to be better, but to also have a good time. This year the band has been working extra hard with new exercises in practices and elements in their show.

“We have taken a different approach from previous years in terms of design, and I feel

that the show does a great job telling the story about what being a hero is through music, narration, and visual design. I am very pleased with how the show is coming along.”

The band is always excited to perform but there is one performance that they’re especially ecstatic for: Disney. Every other year the band goes to Disney to perform in a

parade and a workshop letting the students know what it’s like to be a studio performer.

“The band is definitely excited, and we are looking forward to it, as past trips to Disney have been such a memorable experience for the band.” Mr. McGonagle said. “We are also working closely with the Methuen Ranger Band Parents Association as well, and they have already put some fundraising ideas together to help pay for our trip.”

The band does fundraisers with Krispy Kreme

doughnuts, Yankee Candle, and many more organizations, so be sure to look out for them.

As the year continues the band will transition from marching band to concert band, playing on a stage instead of a field. They will perform a winter and spring concert while also performing in Methuen’s Band Jamboree in April.



Image Courtesy of Johnna Padvaiskas

The Marching band in formation

However, when the season started to get into motion EEE did as well. Practices were cut short making it difficult for the band to put their show together, but this gave them a push they needed.

“Although we have lost outdoor rehearsal time due to the evening curfew, I feel like the students have also stepped up their game, and have worked hard to maximize the limited time we do have outside.” He said, adding that in the end it’s for everyone’s safety.

Apple's New iPhone 11

By: Jennifer Carmona

Everyone is talking about the new iPhone 11 Pro, but the real question is, is it worth the hype? Or is it just another camera upgrade?

Let’s start with looks. The 11 Pro looks completely identical to the X. It comes in six colors, black, Product(Red), and new colors like yellow, green (which looks gray in some instances), purple, and white. However, what sets the 11 and the X is the triple-lens camera system on the back of the 11 Pro. “When Apple first debuted this phone, the

internet quickly responded with memes showing how the new rear camera system looked like a stove top,” according to Dave Smith from *Business Insider*. “The triple-lens helps to produce portrait mode effects or take over when the user zooms in a lot,” according to *TechCrunch*.

Photos taken at night, or in low-light situations, look similar to how they looked in daylight, which is thanks to the LCD “Liquid Retina” display on the 11 Pro. The 11 Pro also has the best battery life of any smartphone. iPhone



Courtesy of Google Images

The new iPhone 11 Pro Max boasts three cameras.

users can get through the day on a single charge, and it can go up to 34 hours on a single charge compared to the 27.5 hours with the X.

Some people argue that updating to the 11 Pro is a waste of time,

so let’s talk price. The 11 Pro cost \$1,000 (while the Pro Max costs\$1,100). The iPhone X cost \$679. That being said, you could probably buy it slightly used for \$500 or even less.

In my opinion, if

you already have the X, you shouldn’t have to upgrade, as it’s already a magical piece of technology. However, the 11 Pro does have a lot of great features.

Nationwide Vaping Ban

By: Jennifer Carmona

It’s no secret that teens are vaping. According to the National Youth Tobacco Survey, roughly 20% of high school students are

vaping.

The companies that make products like JUUL know their main target. They claim that their products are for adult smokers looking to

quit smoking tobacco cigarettes, yet they make smoking devices that look like flash drives. We still don’t have enough information to determine what exactly is in vape products, but

one thing’s for sure, they are doing more harm than ever.

The CDC announced that national vaping-related lung injury cases have jumped to 1,080 and at least 18 have died. Ten cases of lung injuries have been reported here in Massachusetts.

On September 24, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker announced a temporary four-month ban on the sale of vaping products. This ban is affecting smoke shop owners negatively. One of the attorneys for the vape shops said, “This has very real consequences because most people live week to week.”

Others say that this ban should not apply to vape shops but to vapes found on the black market involving THC. One vape shop owner, Linda Vick, said, “This vaping has been out for almost 12 years...how come all of the sudden in just the past eight [months] everyone is getting sick and not in the past 12 years?” Vick said the ban has forced the closure of her store.

What do you think? Should there be a ban on vape products? Will banning vape products help people stop vaping or encourage them to buy them from the black markets?



Courtesy of Bing Photos

No Progress Reports

By: Cole Wilkinson
Methuen High has decided for the 2019-2020 school year to not give out the dreaded Progress Report.

Progress Reports were many kids nightmares if they were failing their classes early due to missing assignments. Progress Reports would be released midway through the quarter and would have student grades shown on them. The goal was to have kids go over it with their parents and their teachers and see where the grade could go

up. But now that the school is no longer releasing progress reports, how are some of the students and teachers feeling about the removal of progress reports?

Most of the students that were asked, as well as a few of the teachers, do like not having progress reports come out during the middle of the quarter. British Literature and Journalism teacher, Mr. McKenna said, “I like the idea of no progress reports because I think it allows teachers and parents to talk with each other

about grades without worrying about a progress report grade, because they can sometimes be misleading.”

But not everyone seems to be happy about this. One student, Sophomore Chris Lannan said, “I’m very upset because I used to like them because I would know where I was at, and I now I won’t know where I am at.”

There were a few students who didn’t seem to really mind it. Junior Anthony Smerdon said, “I don’t care,

it’s on the iPad,” referring to the grade system the school uses, Infinite Campus. At any point during the quarter, parents and students can both go onto Infinite Campus and check out the grades.

So, while for some it is not good that progress reports are being removed, it seems that to most people, it’s a positive development.

By Allison Lam
Starting out as a rumor, and officially announced at class meetings, MHS students now have to wear lanyards around school at all times, along with their photos and basic information about them. For some students it is not good news, but others are unconcerned.

What exactly are the opinions of the students and staff of MHS? Some have agreed to tell me their opinion on what they think about the new rule.

“I think it’s good in the sense that it will help the powers we do for our job a bit better,” Mr. Scammon, the AP Psychology teacher, said. “It will help the associate principals identify students, which honesty helps when there are certain situations that occur in the building...It may not come off as a good thing for students in the beginning, but it is a positive thing.”

With all of the complaints from the students, it is clear that many are upset with the new rule.

Many students are already hating the new lanyard rule, but why?

“I think it’s stupid. I

think that if someone wants to identify if someone goes to this school or not, they can just ask us to get it from our backpacks,” said Bella Marcoaldi says, a junior here at MHS. “They’re ugly. They don’t match with any of my outfits, and they’re just pointless.”

A blue lanyard, known for showing off Ranger spirit, may not always match with the day's outfit. Kendall McKenna, Junior, also seems to dislike the new rule, saying, “I don’t want to wear them, I don’t think anyone does. I do get the point of them though, for security and all that jazz. I just think everyone is against it because they’re irritating and don’t want to have to wear them all day and remember to put them on in the morning.”

While these students think that wearing the lanyards is inconvenient, others simply do not care. For example, Elizabeth Francioso, a senior says, “I know everybody’s making a big deal out of it, [but] I wear my keys around my neck, so it’s not really that big of a deal.”

Others also agree with Liz, looking at the bigger picture of the lanyards being used for more security in school. Senior Annalise Quick

said, “I understand why it’s needed. Say that there is some situation happening in the school, and staff members need to check if all students in the school are supposed to be there, and aren’t some intruder, then the lanyards are good in that sense. However I do see how it could be a downfall, saying that some students may just not wear the lanyard at all, or could forget them at home or in classes.”

After the many opinions the MHS students and staff have shared with each other, it is clear that not everyone sees eye-to-eye. No matter the view, though, all students and staff will be wearing lanyards this year.

Lanyards at MHS



'Tik Tok' Takeover?



Courtesy of Google Images

By Allison Lam

The new phenomenon taking over our generation, Tik Tok, is known by many at MHS, and many others all over the world.

Tik Tok is a platform where people can lip sync to audio clips available in the app. The app has made many known trends everyone

seems to know. So why exactly is this app so addictive? Why do teenagers our age obsess over becoming famous on Tik Tok?

Videos made on Tik Tok can be anything the creator may want to show, such as funny content, cosplays, tutorials and much more. The app also has a ‘For You’ page based on videos the user likes, and content they seem to enjoy. They have a specific page for new

videos from the creators that you follow, making teens, and other kids more addicted everyday.

So what does it mean to be Tik Tok famous? Well for starters, it matters what content the creator puts out. Is it funny? Emotional? Heartwarming? Videos like these seem to get the viewers’ attention best. Next, knowing and learning how to edit the video can be challenging for some, but come easily for others. The app offers many different filters and edits to change your video and create amazing content. After recording, editing and checking over your video, hashtags and a description are also a must for a creator. Many use hashtags such as ‘#foryou’ or ‘#fy’ in order to get known by others on the app, and possibly get famous.

Is it really that easy to be famous on Tik Tok? Surprisingly, it kind of is. However, not everyone gets famous on the app by following rules from someone else. Each person is different, and makes different content, which can either be appealing to the viewer or not. The content the creator makes is the deal breaker for whether you get famous or not.

Now why is it that so many people our age these days are obsessing over getting famous on some random app? It may be because it is an app that people can get for free, or because so many people have the app and are able to see these videos. Some people simply want to be known for making funny videos, and for being famous on a very well-known app.

Either way, Tik Tok seems to be taking over our generation by storm, and the trend doesn’t seem to be fading anytime soon.

What Are You Eating This Fall?

By: Kayla Harris

For many people, fall is the coziest season. So, what about fall makes it so cozy? Is it the crisp air, the bonfire after a football game, the warmth or blankets and sweaters, or is it all of the comforting foods and warm drinks? Fall arguably brings some of the best foods to early mornings, and chilly nights. A lot of people will even argue that some of those foods are *better* than others.

There are so many different variations of fall foods, that it is hard to say that the season is even long enough to try everything. Even if you don't get to try everything, here are some dishes, and yummy snacks that might be worth trying this colorful season.

Of course there are the classic fall

foods like apple pie, pumpkin spice lattes, apple cider donuts, and butternut squash soup, which are most definitely the best. Now, let's think outside the box of the classics. Nothing is warmer than a bowl of creamy gold, AKA mac and cheese. A steaming bowl of butternut squash soup would do a brisk evening outside justice, too.

Not that hungry? How about some roasted sweet potatoes or a warm piece of cornbread?



Now, if you're more of a sweet tooth, it's hard to be disappointed with these seasonal desserts. There’s nothing that says “fall” more than pumpkins and apples. Most people are either enjoying warm apple crisp with a scoop of ice cream, and a cup of the best pumpkin spice latte, or just about any pumpkin dessert there is. Whether it's a pumpkin spice cinnamon roll, or pumpkin bread, or the finest piece of pumpkin pie, there is no escaping the PS.

No matter what you are eating this fall, nothing this season brings will leave anyone empty (stomach wise). You might as well enjoy as much of these delicious comfort foods and more while you can. Try new things and let your taste buds explore this wonderful and beautiful season.

By: Caroline Calla

Halloween is a holiday that has been celebrated for hundreds of years. Similar to other holidays, it is jam packed with different activities; from trick or treating, dressing up as ghastly ghouls, to scaring children. Halloween is a holiday that is always feverishly anticipated as the cool weather hits. While some prefer to spend their holiday a little more mildly with fun family events, or dressing up, others turn to horror movies to really help them get into the spirit. Horror movies have been around for years, but just in the past ten years they seem to have gotten a lot more disturbing, and lot scarier. Here are five must see horror movies from the past decade that will surely get your heart pumping this holiday season.

1. It (2017)



Stephen King, the man known to many as the king of horror, delivered everyone with a beautiful and highly anticipated depiction of his 1986 horror novel about a killer clown. Although *It* is relatively new to the horror movie scene, many claim that it is truly the new king of horror. *It* rocked theaters when it was released in the fall of 2017, when it made \$123 million from just the opening weekend. The 2017 adaptation of the horror novel follows a group of seven outcasts as they face their worst fears in the form of a shape-shifting ancient evil that appears from the sewers of Derry, Maine every 27 years to prey on the children of the town. The audience accompanies the outcasts as they are forced to face their fears in order to survive and fend off the killer clown known as Pennywise.

Kelley, Seth. “Box Office: Stephen King’s ‘It’ Officially Opens to Massive \$123 Million.” *Variety*, *Variety*, 11 Sept. 2017, <https://variety.com/2017/film/news/it-box-office-stephen-king-movie-opening-weekend-1202553361/>

3. The Conjuring (2013)

The first installment in what is now known as the Conjuring series is definitely what most consider to be a must see when it comes to horror movies. *The Conjuring* is the first movie to follow the true story case files of paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren. This particular case is that of a real life haunted house. Carolyn and Roger Perron move their family out to a secluded farmhouse in Rhode Island. Unbeknownst to them they accidentally placed themselves in harms way. At first, they experience minimal signs of a haunting. Things being moved or displaced, or the death of their dog. As things begin to pick up, Carolyn calls the notorious Warrens for help. Together, they battle the horrors that live within the old farmhouse. This first installment in the series is sure to leave you trembling. A real nightmare for those who live in older homes.

“The Conjuring.” IMDb, IMDb.com, 18 July 2013, www.imdb.com/title/tt1457767/?ref_=ttpl_pl_tt.



5. Get Out (2017)

2017 was a popular year for new horror classics. Leading the pack at the beginning of the year, comedian Jordan Peele unexpectedly delivered the world with a fantastic take on a visit to the soon-to-be in-laws house gone wrong. No one saw it coming that the *Saturday Night Live* comedian could deliver such a suspenseful horror film, but deliver he did. *Get Out* dives into the real life horrors of racism that still exist today. It follows Chris Washington, an African American man as he goes upstate to visit his girlfriend’s family for holiday. At first, Chris sees the family’s efforts to be as accommodating as possible as a way for them to deal with the idea of their daughter’s interracial relationship. As the weekend away progresses, things start to get a lot more alarming. Raising red flags that maybe they aren’t as hospitable as they seem to be.

“Get Out.” IMDb, IMDb.com, 24 Feb. 2017, www.imdb.com/title/tt5052448/?ref_=ttpl_pl_tt.

2. Hereditary (2018)



If killer clowns aren’t your style, this horrifying story about a grieving family by *Ari Aster*, will surely do the trick. *Hereditary* is a triple threat with it’s drama, mystery, and horror aspects. *Hereditary* follows the story of a woman named Annie Graham and her family as they prepare for the funeral of her late mentally disturbed mother. As each member hunts for a way to cope with the grief that shrouds the family, Annie and her daughter turn to something a bit more supernatural. Consequences are quick to follow

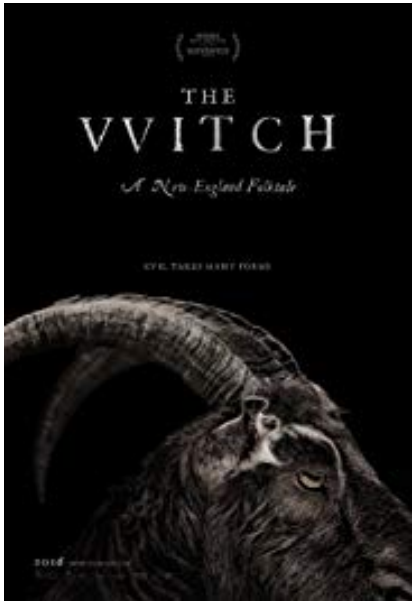
as disturbing, otherworldly experiences begin to plague the grieving family. As the experiences become more consistent, secrets from the family’s past are uncovered revealing the evil that has tormented the Graham’s for decades. Something that Annie and her family have now inherited. Now, Annie must make difficult sacrifices in order to outrun the sinister fate that is looming over her and her loved ones. A fate that she inherited.

Tomatoes, Rotten. “Hereditary (2018).” *Rotten Tomatoes*, 2018, www.rottentomatoes.com/m/hereditary.

4. The Witch (2015)

Taking a step back in time a couple hundred years, we have *The Witch*. A “New-England Folktale” that follows a family of settlers in 1630 New England. The gist of it is a family being torn apart by the horrors of witchcraft, black magic, and possession. *The Witch* is the classic witchcraft movie with a bit of a twist, everything is peaceful in the family of seven, until the newborn son vanishes into thin air. The family then experience crop failure and other odd occurrences as the blame shifts around the family eventually landing on the eldest daughter. The inability to accept their own sins and mistakes leaves them vulnerable to unexpected evil. The family is forced to deal with their own sins as they hunt to find the source of their misfortune.

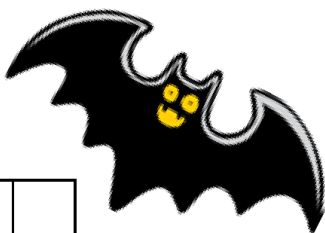
Imdb. “The Witch.” IMDb, IMDb.com, 19 Feb. 2016, www.imdb.com/title/tt4263482/?ref_=ttpl_pl_tt.



Name: _____ Date: _____



Halloween

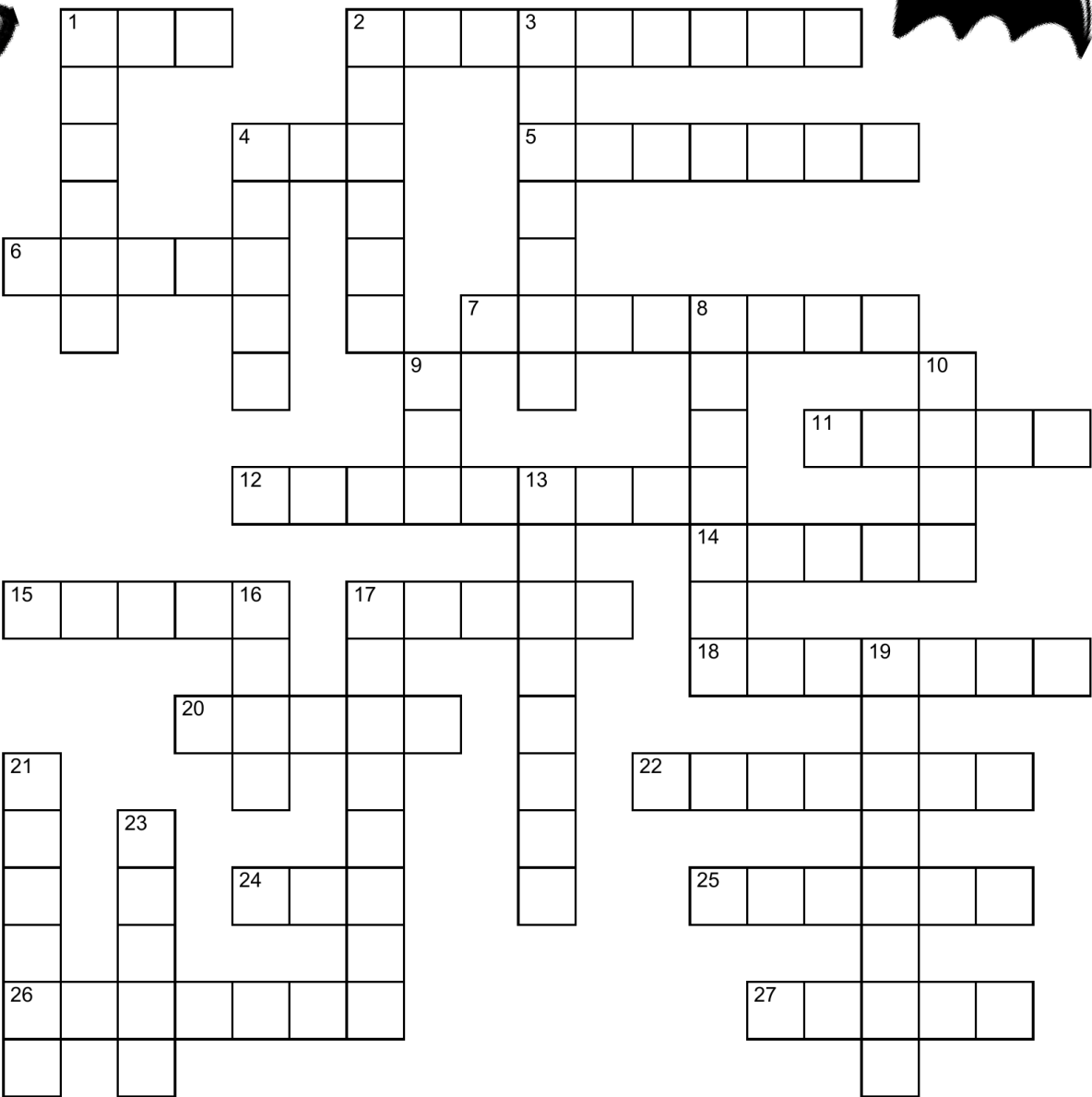


Across

- 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. Whoo? Whoo?
- 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.





Happy Halloween

T	L	U	F	T	H	G	I	R	F	S	P	O	V	D	M	Z
H	E	P	C	Z	C	S	J	S	T	Y	S	O	S	O	K	N
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- AMULET
APPARITION
BATS
BLACK CAT
BOO
BRIMSTONE
CACKLE
CAULDRON
COBWEB
- CONJURE
EERIE
FRIGHTFUL
GHOST
GOOSE BUMPS
JACK-O-LANTERN
MOON
MYSTERIOUS
PHANTOM
- POTION
PUMPKIN
SKELETON
SPELL
SPOOKY
TRICK OR TREAT
TWILIGHT
WITCH



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