

THE BEACON

MT. GREYLOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER—OCTOBER 27, 2005

“Double, double toil and trouble; Fire burn and cauldron bubble.”

-Shakespeare

Reminder Halloween Dance

On **Friday, October 28th**, the Middle School Student Activities Organization will hold a Halloween Dance in the wrestling room from **7-10 pm**. Students are invited to come in costume for a dollar off the normal \$4.00 cost of the dance. There will be a costume contest as well as the official judging of the “Advisory Jack-O-Lanterns Contest.” There will be a bus to and from Lanesboro leaving at 6:45 pm from the elementary school and returning around 10:15 pm. It promises to be a **ghoulish** good time!

A Fall Chill is in the Air

-Principals Office

A reminder that it is advisable to label all clothes and shoes. Since the temperature fluctuates depending on which area of the building a person is in, students take sweatshirts/sweaters off and forget where. If items are labeled it is easier for a teacher or Jan to get the item back to its owner.

It is also pretty cold at the bus stop in the morning so stuffing mittens and caps in pockets is sometimes more effective than a reminder to wear them. Students can leave home “cool” and once they get cold they can reach in their pockets. Small packets of tissues are also a great idea, not all classrooms have a supply.

As the days get shorter and gloomier and the roads tend to get icy, students should be reminded not to become involved in horseplay or climb snow banks while waiting for the bus, and being respectful of the challenges facing drivers as road conditions deteriorate.

AUTUMN

In the valley once so green
leaves are leaving trees behind
Grey geese heading south are seen
a certain Autumn sign
Though darkness falls and winter's near
and summer's far away
I can say be of good cheer
it will return some day

The leaves that fall are blushing
as if they were embarrassed
by leaving their trees undressed
The birds have ceased their singing
though tunes of summer linger
yet the flowers have gone to rest

The valley once so green
Grey geese heading south are seen
Summer
yet so far away
I know it will return some day

A cold and misty morning
is letting us all know
a new season is dawning
when summer has let go...

Halloween Facts

The Origin of Halloween

~Halloween's roots can be traced back to Celtic culture in Ireland. According to their "Druid" religion, November 1st was New Years' on their calendar. The celebration would begin on October 31st, and last into the following day.

The spirits of all who died in the prior year, would rise up and roam the earth on this night. This is an evil night when spirits roamed the streets and villages. Lord Samhain, the lord of Darkness, would arrive in search of the spirits to take them to the underworld. Halloween as it is currently celebrated with costumes, trick or treat, and superstitions, takes from this Druid Holiday.

Interesting Notables

~Since 1995, trick or treating in the town of Sandusky, Ohio, has been against the law for anyone older than 14.

~It is very rare for a full moon to occur at the same time as Halloween. It has only occurred in - 1925, 1944, 1955, and 1974. The next time it is said to occur is 31 October, 2020.

~The word Halloween appeared in the Dictionary in the 1700s.

~Dunking for apples arose from a practice of divining the future. It was believed that if you could hold an apple between your teeth you would have a fulfilling romance with whomever you choose.

~According to ancient superstitions, if you stare into a mirror at midnight on Halloween, you'll see your future spouse.

~The pumpkin is one of the best sources of Vitamin A.

~It is believed that the Irish began the tradition of Trick or Treating. In preparation for All Hallow's Eve, Irish townsfolk would visit neighbors and ask for contributions of food for a feast in the town.

~In some ancient cultures, bats were thought to be the ghost of a person not yet reincarnated.

The First Jack O'Lantern

~The Irish carved Turnips and put coals or small candles inside. They were placed outside their homes on All Hallow's Eve to ward off evil spirits. They were also known to use potatoes and Rutabagas. When Irish Immigrants came to America, they quickly discovered that Jack

O'Lanterns were much easier to carve out and began using them. This truly neat tradition quickly spread to the general population in America and elsewhere.

SPORTS

Cross Country

Monday, Oct. 31 vs. Monument Mountain and Taconic -Make-up Meet at Taconic at 3:30 pm

J.V. Volleyball

Friday, Oct. 28 at 5 pm vs. Waconah-HOME

J.V. Football

Monday, Oct. 31 at 7 pm vs. Drury-HOME

J.V. Boys Soccer

Thursday, Oct. 27 at 4 pm vs. St. Joseph-HOME

Goings On

Tues. Nov. 1 is Rescheduled School Committee

Mtg. 7 pm –school Library

Wed. Nov. 2 is a HALF DAY 11:49 dismissal

Fri. Nov. 11 is Veteran's Day-NO SCHOOL

Update for MGRHS Phone Extensions

Two new phone extension changes should be made to the list sent home last week:

Courtenay Gibson is now 135

Andrew Floyd is now 182

Look for **THE BEACON** on the Mt. Greylock website under MS News: www.mgrhs.org

Please send items for the next issue of The Beacon by