

The Ringer



Editon No. 2

Falling for Fall



by Kat Rice

The SPX Ringer Staff is falling for YOU this fall! We love our super Sartans and this issue is all about them! There are many people and groups at St. Pius that bring the light to campus and act as “the rainbow in someone’s cloud”. This fall, we are celebrating Sartans one and all. Find out who everyone is crushing on this month. Be inspired by our studly fall athletes. Learn about clubs that have been noteworthy for a long time and clubs that are just getting off the ground. Also, discover some of our amazing fine arts teachers that you may not have known about! Your newspaper staff is bringing you the DL on all things Pius. Speaking of all things Pius, there are some things that you as Sartans simply deserve to know, so we have addressed two major elephants: accreditation and the reboot of the paper! This issue is also all about fall, from fall fashion to what everyone likes and dislikes about fall to everyone’s favorite fall holiday, Halloween! So grab your pumpkin spice lattes and read on! By the end, you’ll be falling for fall as much as we are!



The Ringer Staff:

Coeditors: Kat Rice, Rafael Sarmiento

Sydney Hollingsworth

Megan Samora



Check out our blog at spxtheringer.wordpress.com/!

Got anything grinding your gears? Have any ideas for articles? Email us at spxtheringer@gmail.com!

SPX NEWS

Fall Introduction

By: Sydney Hollingsworth

It's that time of year again! Break out those scarves, riding boots and big sweaters! You'll see our creative Sartan students walking around in fashionable (well, as fashionable as we can get...) outerwear and footwear! Guys, bring out those letterman jackets and maybe an occasional scarf and sweater! It's the season to drink up all those pumpkin spice lattes and cuddle up with your favorite blanket! Enjoy some hockey or basket ball. Shout out to all those hockey fans out there! Soon we'll be seeing those tweets about the snow, if we're lucky enough to get any this year, and about how everyone hates the cold. Maybe one of those traditional jumping pictures in the snow or the leaves. Get ready for Halloween and reminisce those wonderful Balloon Fiesta memories! But with fun comes responsibilities, Report Card Night was Thursday 24th! Enjoy this season Sartans!



Fall Pros & Cons

by Sydney Hollingsworth



Pros:

- Leaf colors changing – Mrs. Sluder
- Pumpkin Spice Lattes – Rory Martinez
- Cold Weather – Mr. Turcotte
- Balloon Fiesta – Mr. Herrera
- McCall's
- Smell of green chile! – Mr. Herrera
- Putting the top back on my Jeep – Lucas Caress
- Football season... Duh. – Earl Vallo
- The smell of the changing leaves and the menu changing at Starbucks! – Ryan Lardner

Cons:

- In the morning I have to wear a jacket and in the afternoon I have to find a place to put my jacket because it's too hot to keep wearing it – Mr. Herrera
- Politics – Mr. Turcotte
- Morning practice in the freezing cold... thanks Turcotte. – Rory Martinez
- Putting the top back on my Jeep... It's a love hate relationship
- The cold. – Jonathan Sanchez



SPX NEWS PART TWO

Accreditation

by Megan Samora

Yes, it's the infamous event that everyone has been talking about this year- the occasion that's been stressing our teachers out and allowing us a very much appreciated half-day on Wednesdays- Accreditation! However, how many of us know exactly what Accreditation is? A quick survey from a group of students showed that a whopping 9 out of 13 students had no clue what I was talking about when I asked what their opinions were on the subject. However, the ones who did know definitely had something to say about it.

"We get early days, so it's good. But it's kind of inconvenient for college, because if we don't get it, then that makes the application process more difficult," said Evan Smith.

So how exactly does Accreditation work, and how does it affect our college admissions? Now it's a really long process, so I'll try to give you the Sparknotes version of it.

An accreditation organization called AdvancEd is going to be inspecting our school. What they do is that they set out standards or benchmarks for education on what a good school should do, and then we do a self-evaluation of the school based on those standards. This is where the faculty comes in- they divide themselves into groups to evaluate how we do on each standard (since there are five regular standards and one Catholic standard from the NCEA (National Catholic Education Administration), that means that there are six groups total. These groups will then take all the info, write a report, and send it via e-mail to AdvancEd.

Fast forward to a few months later during March 3, 4, and 5; then an External Review Team from AdvancEd comes to St. Pius to evaluate our self-assessment and its validity. Then, if they deem our school satisfactory enough, we are accredited for another 5 years. And just in case you're still confused as to what that means, it just means that whenever colleges will look at our applications they will be able to tell how good our performance is at our school, thus making them much more likely to accept us.

So now you've got it! That's what Accreditation is, and the reason that we were getting early dismissal Wednesdays.



Return of The Ringer

by Rafael A Sarmiento

It's about time someone addressed the elephant in the room: exactly what was the deal with this paper, The Ringer, and its disappearance during the 2013-14 run? Well, I'm the only member left from the paper that was being handed out before it went onto a little break. Basically, the main issue comes from class size. When I first joined the paper my Sophomore year (I was a transfer), the class consisted of 5 people. FIVE. Like, the number of fingers on your hands. And The Ringer suffered the next year when one of those 5 people (Jordan Davis) went on to graduate and we were left with 4. That wasn't enough to be a class. So the paper went down for that year, and barely managed to make it this year when the oh-so-charming other staff members signed up for the class and to help tackle several articles that bring you those moments of entertainment and distraction. However, you may have noticed one of our staff, Dylan Bowles, has left. This was due to a concussion he got during one of the first football games, so he had to leave to recuperate and catch up on work. Going on with that, I am asking all underclassmen to consider taking this class next year. It's worth it. And the more, the merrier. After all, all but one of our staff members are seniors...you know what that means. Who wants to keep this newspaper going?



Halloween At SPX

LAST MINUTE COSTUME IDEAS

by Kat Rice

Halloween is right around the corner! If you have procrastinated and have not decided your Halloween costume yet, here are some creative and easy ideas!

Girls:

Target Two Day Sale Lady: Wear a red track suit and pearls, and gush to all your friends about all the great deals you're getting!

Minion (from Despicable Me): This costume has become a classic in recent years and is super easy! All you need is a yellow shirt, overalls, and goggles.

Social Butterfly: Be creative and punny! Wear butterfly wings and print out social network icons to tape to your shirt.

Rosie the Riveter: A total classic that looks good on anyone! Just wear a denim shirt and a red bandana on your head.

Sandy (from Grease): With this easy costume of black leggings, a leather jacket, and a red scarf, everyone will be singing "You're the one that I want!"

Boys:

Cowboy- Take the opportunity to show the world your country side with jeans, boots, and your favorite cowboy hat!

Jake from State Farm: Wear a red polo and khakis. But be warned, someone's wife may think you are hideous!

Forrest Gump- Everyone loves the movie, so come dressed as its beloved legend in running shorts with a hat and beard,

Brawn guy- It's very easy to be our favorite paper towel logo guy with a plaid shirt and some Brawn paper towels!

Waldo- A classic last minute costume is Waldo with a striped red and white shirt and a red and white hat! Lets hope people can find you!

Couples:

Person being struck by lightning and a lightning bolt- This unique and easy costume will electrify all observers! One person wears a cardboard lightning bolt painted yellow and the other wears a shirt with holes burnt in and messy hair.

Grandpa and little boy from Up- Who doesn't like Up? Wear gray hair and glasses and a scout uniform, with balloons!

Cosmo and Wanda- Be everyone's favorite Fairies! Wear a yellow shirt or white button down with tie, bring wands, wings, and small yellow crowns, and spray die green and pink into your hair!

Groups:

Village People- Individually, you all have different costumes, but together, you're the world's greatest band! Be an Indian Chief, Cop, Construction Worker, Cowboy, Motorcyclist, and Soldier and walk around blasting the YMCA from a boombox.

Dominoes- Wear a black shirt and pants and glue white dots to clothing. During passing period line up with your friends and fall on each other!

Mean Girls- Even though Halloween does not fall on a Wednesday this year, you can still wear pink as everyone's favorite high school clique!

Duck Dynasty- Two words: beards and camo.

History of Halloween

by Rafael A. Sarmiento

Halloween is a holiday that has a long, complicated history with several roots that evolved into the modern holiday. Not sure about the rest of you, but I'm guessing you've read this too much to stop at this point, even if you hate Halloween (buzzkill). Halloween comes from an ancient Celtic tradition in which the harvest season would end. It was also the time when fairies would come more easily into the world. To please these beings, the people would offer up food and drinks, then host a celebration and a vigil for lost souls, who they believed were also active that night. To keep themselves safe from any bad the gods might have brought if the offering was insufficient, people began to disguise themselves every year. For years, this continued, until the 12th century in Scotland, in which groups of children began to go door to door, declaring they would do mischief if they were not allowed inside. Eventually, the tradition became involved with Christian groups, calling it "All Hallow's Eve", in which the vigils for the dead were continued to be held, but on a separate day instead. It has now become "Halloween" on October 31st, and "All Saints Day" on November 1st. Mind blown yet?

Humans of SPX

Teachers of the Month

By Megan Samora

Ms. Keyson

Q: What is your favorite part about being a drama teacher?

There are so many, but it would probably be watching students become more comfortable with themselves and how they grow used to the stage. We just have so much fun and it's nice seeing how everyone gets so excited about it. It's just the enthusiasm that comes with them- theatre students are just the best. They get excited about everything.

Q: What made you want to be a drama teacher?

I always liked theatre and I like theatre people, so I thought that it was a perfect mix.

Q: Do you have any advice for aspiring actors?

It's a hard business. You could really be talented and really deserve the role, but not get it. You could be working for years and years, but it ever goes anywhere. I have some students who have worked really hard for countless years, and while they do get some roles here and there they can never quite break through. You get rejected more than you get accepted, and that's just something that you've got to get used to.

So there you have it! If drama interests you, then come check out the plays! A Curious Savage plays November 7 at, November 8 at 7, and November 9 at 2:00. And just so all of you know, Ms. Keyson was the drama teacher who helped mentor the legend that is Neil Patrick Harris. Just let that sink in.

Mr. Reith

Q: What made you want to be a music teacher?

When I was a junior in high school, I decided that I wanted to be a choir director/teacher. I sang in the choir all 4 years, had leads in 2 musicals and even arranged some songs for choir in my senior year. I just felt that God gifted me and wired me to be a choir director/musician.

Q: What's your favorite part of being a music teacher?

My favorite part of being a music teacher is when the choir or the band I am working with finally locks in on a piece of music and gets it right. That is like magic when you hear things come together for the first time.

Q: Any advice you'd like to give for aspiring musicians?

My advice to aspiring musicians is this. If you sense that God has gifted you in this area and you love doing music, give it your best effort and do not let anyone or anything derail you in your pursuit to being the best musician you can be.

Q: Anything that you'd like to add?

One more thought: If you are a Christian, you have the opportunity to offer any musical presentation up to Him as an act of worship. It's a win-win-win situation when you can offer your best musical expression to please an audience, feel good about yourself and be pleasing to God as well.

Crush of the Month

by Kat Rice

Matt Villareal

You may have seen this year's first Crush of the Month hoopin it up on the basketball court or leading the biannual Honors Convocation as National Honor Society's President. You may also have seen him walking through the halls spreading his infectious energy with his larger than life grin. That's right, our man crush of the month is Senior, Matt Villareal! We sat down with Matt to ask him a few questions:

What do you like to do in your spare time?

"I like to kick it with the squad."

What is your favorite movie?

"It's a three way tie between Glory Road, Happy Gilmore, and Benchwarmers."

What is your favorite song?

"Smile by Uncle Cracker"

What is your favorite place to eat?

"The Altamont Little League Concession Stand"

What is your favorite color?

"Cornflower blue"

What grinds your gears?

"When people spell my name with one T instead of two."

What would be your dream date?

"What is my dream date? Robbing Tiffany's at midnight. Do we go for the vault? No, we go for the chandelier, it's priceless. As we're taking it down, a woman catches us, it's her father's business; she's Tiffany. She tells us to take it down, we say no. We dance all night. In the morning the cops come and we escape in their uniforms. We tell Tiffany to meet us in Mexico but we go to Canada. Besides, we like the cold. Ten years later we get a postcard from her saying we are being searched for by the chief of police. We tell her to meet us in Paris by the Trocadero. That's where she's been waiting for us all these years. We don't care, we don't show up, we go to Berlin. That's where we stash the chandelier. Dinner and a movie is cool too."

Matt is currently single so count your lucky stars ladies, and you may be able to go on a dream date with this eligible bachelor! Although I'm not too sure how feasible a heist at Tiffany's is, one thing is for sure, Matt Villareal has stolen our hearts!

Chelsea Garcia

You've definitely seen our girl crush of the month around school; this gorgeous girl is everyone's Woman Crush Wednesday! She is a member of the Girls' Varsity Basketball Team and an essential part of campus ministry, helping everyone at Pius to praise Jesus! Our girl crush of the month is none other than Senior, Chelsea Garcia! We asked Chelsea some questions to get to know her:

What do you like to do in your spare time?

"I love hanging with my best friend, Gaby, and my basketball team. No matter what we do it's always a good time! FaceTiming with my boyfriend is always fun too!"

What is your favorite movie?

"One of my favorites is When The Game Stands Tall. It's such an inspiring movie!"

What is a song that describes your life?

"The Middle by Jimmy Eat World... or of course, The Climb by Miley Cyrus haha!"

What is your favorite place to eat?

"Cheddar's"

What is your favorite color?

"Purple"

What grinds your gears?

"When my sister gets in my closet and when people are unorganized."

What would be your dream date?

"Anything with my boyfriend Devon. 20 months and still going strong!"

That's right, eat your heart out fellas, this cutie is taken! Oh well, at least we have acknowledged that we are all still majorly crushing on Chelsea. Isn't the first step to help admitting that you have a problem?



SARTAN SPORTS

St. Pius Volleyball

By Megan Samora

As the season is starting to draw itself to an end, and our lady Sartans are trying their absolute best game after game, (and by trying we mean doing. These girls have more wins than losses under their belts) we at the Ringer thought it to be crucial to finally highlight one of our favorite sports teams. And to do that, we figured: why not take a different spin on it and instead of asking the players what they thought, asking the head honcho- Coach Fairchild. Although it's obvious from the girls' great performances during the game how much hard work they put in, sometimes it's beneficial to be able to take a look behind that little green velvet curtain. So without further ado, here is what Coach Fairchild had to say about this season and so much more.

What made you want to be a coach?

I love being a coach because I love being able to work with these girls and see them invest in what it is I am teaching them. I absolutely love the game and if I can teach these girls and instill even a fragment of the same passion of the game that I have in them, then I believe myself to be successful. It is very rewarding.

What is your favorite part of being a volleyball coach?

My favorite part of being a volleyball coach is just that. I love working with these girls, being a role model for them, and teaching them the same sport that I have loved all my life.

What are your hopes for this year?

My hopes for this year are that I can coach these girls to the best of my abilities and make them be the best athletes they can be. Obviously the

tangible reward of that would be a state championship. But if I teach them the right things, how to play, how to compete, etc, then that will be a reward in and of itself.

What do you look for in a volleyball team?

The biggest thing I look for in a volleyball team is heart. I love girls who compete, who want to be better every day, who want to be the best versions of themselves every day. As a coach, you can teach fundamentals and strategy all day, but you cannot coach heart. And these girls have a ton of heart, so it makes my job even more fun because we have insane talent and they are incredibly competitive. I love that.

How do you get your girls ready for a volleyball game?

There are several different ways we get our girls ready for a game. The biggest is obviously knowing who our opponent is and strategizing/planning our practices around their weaknesses so we will be successful. With these girls, since we are so talented, 9 times out of 10, it simply comes down to mental preparation. Knowing who we are playing, who their key players are, but simply coming out on the court prepared to defend our name day in and day out. When you have a great program, there is always a target on your back, which is a good thing. So for us, it is mental preparation

So there you have it! That's what our beloved volleyball coach has to say for her job and other things this season. And to little hopeful volleyball players: now you know what it is that she wants to see in your team and what you have to do if you want to join. Go support our our team and see them in action!

Girl's Soccer by Kat Rice

With a record of 13 wins and 3 losses, with 2 wins and 0 losses in district, our Saint Pius X Girl's Soccer team has a pretty good chance of taking state for the second year in a row! This year's team has only five seniors, so the program is building. However, the seniors we have are pretty extraordinary! Samantha Alfonso, Dominique Rivera, and Alex Otero are all committed to play soccer next year at New Mexico State University and Maddie Waszak is committed to play at Northern Arizona University. We asked coach Sullivan and captains Sam, Dom, and Alex a few questions:

What has been the toughest game so far this year?

Coach: "Eldorado. There was a lot of pressure because they are the state champs from the division above us. During the second half we gave up three goals in twenty minutes and had a hard time getting out of that hole."

Sam and Dom: "Eldorado."

Alex: "Rio Rancho. They are a great team and super well organized. They had just won Metro and were very confident in their abilities."

What do you consider one of the team's greatest moments so far this season?

Alex- "Beating Academy seven to zero."

Sam- "Beating Rio Rancho proved we could beat a very good 6A team."

Dom- "The whole week coming into district."

Do you think the team has a good chance of repeating as state champs?

Coach- "Yes. We have a very good chance, but we are focused on taking it one game at a time."

Dom- "Yes. Knock on wood!"

Alex- "I think so. I'm very confident in us."

Sam- "Definitely. We have to stay focused"

Since there are only five seniors, do you think that the program is building?

Coach- "The seniors we have will be hard to replace but we have young talent that are learning from their skills and their leadership abilities."

What has been your favorite part of being on SPX soccer during high school?

Sam- "Team dinners. Free food!"

Dom- "Being fergalicious."

Alex- "Spending time with my teammates."

Kayla- "Surrounding myself with amazing people and players."

Maddie- "Constantly being with my best friends."

That does it. Our girl's soccer team is pretty extraordinary! If you see any members in the hallway, tell them congrats for doing well so far and wish them good luck in the state journey!

Boy's Soccer by Kat Rice

Our boys soccer team has been impressing all audiences this season with their resilient spirit and hard work. The team has a record of seven wins, ten losses, and one tie going into the state tournament, but they are prepared to defy all odds to take home that blue trophy. Although they have ten seniors, they have a building program. There is no JV team this year, so all of the younger players are learning what it takes to be a great varsity athlete from the upperclassmen firsthand. We asked Captains Ryan Corcoran, Luke McConnell, and Joey Sinclair a few questions:

What has been the team's toughest moment so far?

Ryan and Joey: "The Academy game. They're the best team we've played so far."

Luke: "Seeing Campbell get hurt."

What do you consider to be the team's greatest moment?

All three: "Tying Eldorado."

Who da real MVP?

Ryan: "Luke McConnell."

Joey: "The freshman, little Garrett."

How do you feel about the team going into the state tournament?

Ryan: "Chances of taking state are dismal, but we have pretty good chances of making it into the tournament."

Joey: "We're the underdogs but we can surprise everyone and take it all."

What has been your favorite part of being on SPX soccer during high school?

Ryan: "The friendships I've made."

Joey: "All the people and friends."

Luke: "Being with my friends"



Seniors on Girl's Soccer



Boy's Soccer Team



Girl's Volleyball Team (Pictured left)

SPY CLUBS

Fencing Club

By Megan Samora

En garde! Interested in learning how to fight like a professional swords master (or more realistically just having fun with friends?) Then the Fencing Club is the place for you!

Fencing has gone back to the ancient days of Rome and Egypt, and has always been a symbol of power and glory and a popular form of expression. The St. Pius Fencing team carries this very special tradition to the modern day, and even incorporates it with tastes of friendship and community.

"I like stabbing people for fun and not getting to hurt them," stated Christopher Aragon, 10th grade.

All the other club members had something to say along those lines. Fencing is a way to test oneself physically, but without the risk of injuring someone. Not to mention that, but it's a good way to let out pent up emotions from the loads of homework that you've been assigned, or the zero that your teacher gave.

Fencing Club is a really fun experience, where you even get to suit up and practice dueling your fellow peers or some very wise mentors (who take the form of Mr. Kollasch and Mr. McHarney.) Does this sound interesting to you? Then join Fencing Club! They meet every Friday after school in the Counseling Office, or out by the Quad.

Native American Club

by Megan Samora

Native American Club (or as the club members affectionately dub it Nu Alpha Chi): the perfect place to go to in order to appreciate Native American culture, whether you're Native American or not! Either way, you leave the club with a newfound knowledge of different Native American tribes, and the joy of being around such open people. When I went around the room to ask the members what it was exactly that made them enjoy being part of the club, they all had different things to say.

"The natives," said Ben Parmun, 11th grade.

"I enjoy the fellowship and community gathering we have here," said the club's president Bryce Bensy, 12th grade.

"I like the brotherhood and sisterhood we have here," said Tyrell Konico, 12th grade.

"My favorite part is the free snacks and drinks," said Miguel Santana-Lopez, 12th grade.

"I enjoy coming together with friends, having a good laugh, and gathering with others who are native," said Neal Bitsie, 10th grade.

Shoshanah Totzke and Britney Nguyen, both 12th graders, also commented on how much they appreciated being able to hang out with their friends in a relaxed environment.

Mrs. Carlton- McQueen, founder and sponsor of the club, resurrected it around 2006 with retired teacher Ms. Peckinpough. She even had some words to say of her own.

"I love the kids. I think that there are many times when they are overlooked, and they're wonderful kids, and I want them to know that even from all these different tribes they can come together and do great things. We're willing to take anyone who wants to come," Mrs. Carlton-McQueen added. "We have people that are Vietnamese, we have people that are Hispanic, we have people that are Anglo- they don't have to be native in order to be part of our club, but they have to be willing to learn about different groups and cultures, and come to learn when the right time is to sit back and the right time that is to lead."

All in all, Native- American Club is a great place worth checking out. They play a huge role in putting together the Thanksgiving Mass. There are plenty of other fun activities that you can join to be a part of also. They meet Thursdays at 3:15 in Room 116, if this is something that you're interested in checking out.

Harry Potter Club

By: Sydney Hollingsworth

I met with one of the two the mediators of the spell-tacular Harry Potter club, Ms. Taylor and Ms. Sanchez!

"When and where does the club meet?"

Ms. Taylor: " We meet every Monday after school in room 803!"

"How did this club start?"

Ms. Taylor: "Ms. Sanchez had a group of Harry Potter enthusiast approach her, obviously if you know Ms. Sanchez well enough you would know she's a huge enthusiast herself, and then and there the club was started!"

"What kind of activities do you guys do?"

Ms. Taylor: "We play quidditch amongst each other, we watch all the Harry Potter movies, and we drink and make our very own Butter Beer! "

Ms. Sanchez added that the club is working on making their own broomsticks!

They concluded that it's okay to be Harry Potter nerd and it's a MAGICAL experience!

J.R.R. Tolkien Middle-Earth Club

by Rafael A. Sarmiento

What's the best franchise out there? Star Wars? Star Trek? Harry Potter? Marvel? DC? James Bond? The Hunger Games? Twilight?

Well, if you thought it was any of the above, you're wrong. No, Middle-Earth is the best franchise out there! Home to The Lord of the Rings, The Hobbit, The Silmarillion, and Unfinished Tales, all by J.R.R. Tolkien, the world of Middle-Earth is an absolutely fantastic, diverse, and action-packed series. With amazing theme songs in both the animated and Peter Jackson films. The songs in the books are questionable. New to the school, and led by the one, legendary Mr. Macmurchadha, Middle-Earth club meets in Room 324 on Thursdays. I interviewed Mr. Macmurchadha, and had some insightful stuff:

What do you guys DO in Middle-Earth Club?

-Well so far, it's all new. We've had a few meetings, choosing the club symbol, and having decisions on which Tolkien race they'll represent...we're also having a Lord of the Rings theme event.

Any upcoming events so far?

-Not just yet, seeing as it's still a work in progress. It's the J.R.R.

Tolkien Club for now, but the name is too broad. We might rename it to Arda Club, since that is the official name of the land.

Why did you have the club in the first place?

-The theme of Tolkien's work. A lot of people think of Middle-Earth as just fantasy, but the origin is actually a very Catholic work. Tolkien himself later declared it. It didn't start off as such, but it soon became one. Good vs. Evil, Christ figures, biblical comparisons are everywhere. All mixed in with good battle scenes.

What's your favorite moment in Middle-Earth?

-That's a very hard question to answer. It's like asking my favorite part of the Bible...I like the beginning of The Silmarillion. It's a lot like an epic version of Genesis. I also admire the struggle of Frodo. It's very Christ-like, carrying a terrible burden to save all of the rest. The full impact really comes from that. And of course, the themes, especially friendship. Look at Sam...Mordor is Hell on Earth, but he doesn't buck out. There aren't many friends that would literally carry you through Hell, to put it mildly. It's a theological series, so as a theology teacher, I'm especially drawn to it.

X-Static

Best Halloween Movies

by Rafael A. Sarmiento

Considering that we're a Catholic school, it would probably be a bad idea to go ahead and make a list of violent movies. So instead, I present to you a list of movies that are for everyone! Before going into it, I want to point out that these are my personal favorites, not what I think is actually the best.

10) Beetlejuice-Ah, classic. You have the principal from *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, Batman, and Alec Baldwin IN THE SAME MOVIE. At that point it doesn't even have to be a good movie. Anyway, it's a classic Tim Burton film filled with fun (and the Banana Boat song). A sequel is coming! Even though it was made in 1988. Whatever. I'm down to go see it.

9) Wallace and Gromit: Curse of the Were-Rabbit-Wallace and Gromit is so charming and cute, it's hard not to love. The same studio that made *Flushed Away* and *Chicken Run* managed to bring a great home with this one. It's a fun, utterly crazy kid's movie that manages to entertain all who see! Give British humour a chance! NOTICE THAT I SPELLED "HUMOR" WITH A "U".

8) Hocus Pocus-Out of all of the Disney Channel Halloween movies, this is my personal favorite. I just love how over the top and zany the witches are, and the weird jokes never cease to impress me. Classic live-action Disney.

7) Casper-In hindsight, Casper was really kind of a boring character. I guess I always liked his 3 uncles more-Stretch, Stinky, and Fatso. I'm sorry, they were just way more entertaining. There's a pretty decent amount of Casper movies out there, but none of them are that different, so just insert the first movie that comes to your mind and you're probably gonna get the same result anyway.

6) It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown-IT'S CHARLIE BROWN. Do I really need to explain why this is a classic?

5) Corpse Bride-Brace yourself, because a LOT of those 3-D/Stop Motion films are about to come up...wait, this was made in 2005??? I thought this was made in the 90's!!! FORGET THE REVIEW, I LITERALLY CANNOT FINISH THIS ARTICLE BECAUSE MY WHOLE LIFE IS A LIE. THE WORLD HAS TO KNOW!!! CORPSE BRIDE WAS MADE IN 2005!

4) Coraline-OK, so this is actually the scariest movie on this list. Isn't that weird? It's also a fairly gloomy one. however, it manages to be really good. It also makes you love your parents more than you already do, considering that *spoiler alert* the alternate dimension parents in this movie are *messed up*.

3) ParaNorman-I went into this movie thinking it would be hilarious. And it was funny, just not *hilarious*. But man, it was DEEP. I was really blown away at the twists and really creative ideas made throughout this production. I won't say anything else, but definitely make sure to give this film a chance.

2) The Nightmare Before Christmas-Perfect! A movie that can be seen during October and December! A great story, amazing visuals, fantastic characters, and insanely catchy songs make this movie a really unique and entertaining one. Also, this was NOT directed by Tim Burton. He co-wrote it. It was actually directed by Henry Selick, director of *James and The Giant Peach* and *Coraline*. Just wanted to throw that out there. Also, it was made in 1993, so that part of my life wasn't a lie. I'm obviously still not over *Corpse Bride*.

1) Ghostbusters-If you haven't seen this movie, watch it. NOW. If you have, and you don't like it, I sincerely wish you well on your life journey of trying to obtain a sense of humour. With a "U".

Honorable Mentions:

Monsters, Inc.-It's not Halloween, but it involves monsters! Pixar is life. And the prequel to this movie was actually OK! How about that?

The Karate Kid-I know, you're thinking "...wut?" BUT there was some scenes during Halloween during this movie! Close enough! WAX ON, WAX OFF. Whatever happened to those epic skeleton costumes? Good thing they're making a comeback with those.



Halloween Fun Facts

by Sydney Hollingsworth

- Orange and black are Halloween colors because orange is associated with the Fall Harvest and black is associated with darkness and death.
- Jack o' Lanterns originated in Ireland where people placed candles in hollowed-out turnips to keep away spirits and ghosts on the Samhain holiday.
- Tootsie Rolls were the first wrapped penny candy in America.
- Halloween candy sales average about 2 billion dollars annually in the United States.
- Chocolate candy bars top the list as the most popular candy for trick-or-treaters with Snickers as #1.
- Halloween is the 2nd most commercially successful holiday, with Christmas being the first.
- Bobbing for apples is thought to have originated from the Roman harvest festival that honors Pomona, the goddess of fruit trees.
- Black cats were once believed to be witch's familiars who protected their powers.
- Signs of a werewolf are a unibrow, hair palms, tattoos, and a long middle finger.
- Vampires are mythical beings who defy death by sucking the blood of humans.
- Many people still believe that gargoyles were created by medieval architects and stone carvers to ward off evil spirits.
- If you see a spider on Halloween, it is the spirit of a loved one watching over you.

What Grinds My Gears Teacher's Special

by Rafael A. Sarmiento

No one, absolutely NO ONE, has interesting comments like the teachers do. It's always a blast to see what the people in charge grapple with throughout the day. So welcome to the first teacher's only edition for the beloved Grinds My Gears. Kudos to none other than the ever non-sarcastic Mr. Burns for coming up with the idea!

"People who have no money etiquette; like they give it to us at the snack shack folded, crumpled, wet, and so on."

-Ms. Dow

"Students who don't turn in stuff on time."

-Mr. Hillsey

"Goose poop on Ben Rios..."

-Ms. Eiler

"People leaving bits of burrito all over the carpet in the library."

-Ms. Sullo

"When students eat lunch in the beautiful SPX courtyard and leave their trash!"

-Ms. Larrañaga

"Students talking during class when I'm teaching...and especially their whining and complaining."

-Ms. Dubuque

"When people confuse me with Mr. Herrera."

-Mr. Mares

"When people confuse me with Mr. Mares."

-Mr. Herrera

"When I see so many students out of dress code."

-Mr. Rodriguez

"When people don't throw things away in the recycling, but if they're throwing something away, they mess up and contaminate the recycling."

-Mr. Neuschwanger

"If I'm the one grinding someone's gears...and dishonesty."

-Ms. Finley

"When people are intentionally unkind"

-Mr. Hudetz

"Students using their phones at lunch."

-Ms. Villareal

"You'll know what I mean...When superhero movies don't follow the comics...just write something like that in my voice, Rafael"

-Mr. Ball

*Rafael did not alter the quote.