

TIGER TIMES

Thomas Jefferson Elementary School



Annette Frankian | Nare Aghanian | Ruben Petrosyan | Leon Khachatryan | Renate Megertchians | Daniela Akbari | Emily Terteryan | Gaige Vartan | Noel Tulbendzhyan | Sofi Avetisyan | Hayk Sedrakyan | Samuel Johnson | Sofi Avakyan | Anna Vahanyan | Davit Hayrapetyan | Arthur Petrosyan | Advisers: Chris Stanley, Armineh Alexan, Ben Dionisio, Marine Avakyan, Francesca Silva

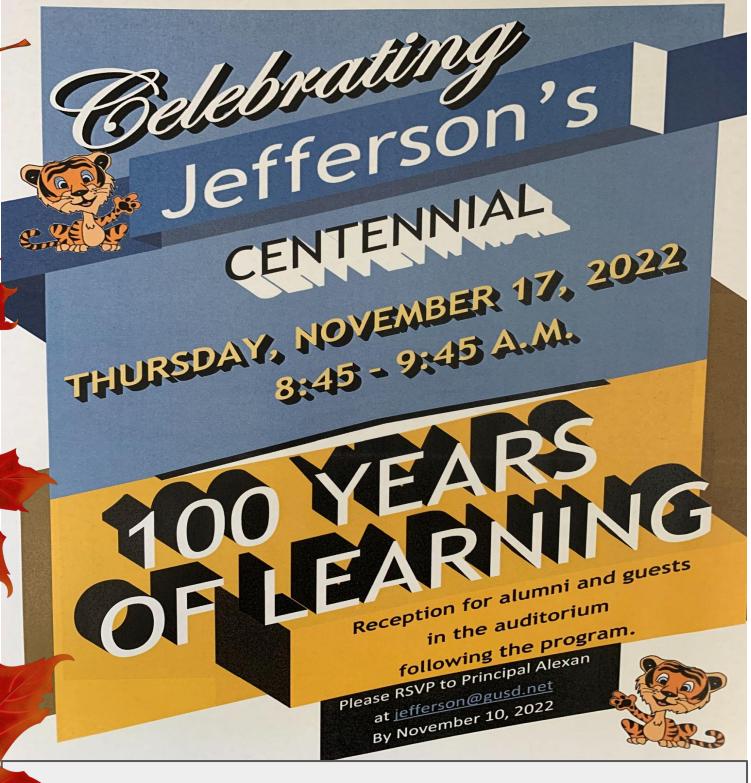
Fall By Sofi Avetisyan

Covered with color and rain
I will come with joy and fun
The tree's leaves colorful
But dancing and falling right to the ground

The days are shorter
And the nights are longer
Cause I'm wide awake at 2:00 am
The little light makes me fall asleep again

There are so many beautiful and big holidays
Like Thanksgiving
And Armenian Independence Day
They all have their own time to appear
To celebrate important events and people

Your body will be healthy and happy again
Your favorite fruit will be grown and fed
The flowers bloom and ready to live
I hope this season will never end!



Poster created by Marine Avakyan to commemorate Jefferson's Centennial Celebration



Painting by Samvel Melkonyan

The Origins of Halloween By Annette Frankian

Wearing costumes, trick or treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, and decorating our houses with ghosts and skeletons are regular Halloween traditions. But have you ever wondered where these traditions came from or why they started in the first place?

Most of our traditions started with the Celts of ancient Ireland. They celebrated Samhain. Samhain was the Celtic New Year's Eve. The holiday marked the transition from summer to winter when the barrier between the living world and spirit world was thinnest. They believed that on this day ghosts could return to earth.

The Celts celebrated by building huge bonfires. People would wear costumes and make lanterns out of gourds as a way to keep ghosts away, which is why we wear costumes and carve jack-o-lanterns today. Fortune telling was also common because of the thinner barrier. Peeling or bobbing for apples was a popular way to do this. Today a popular Halloween tradition is trick or treating, which also started with Samhain traditions.

One big difference between Samhain and Halloween is their names. How did Halloween get its name? The name Halloween comes from the Christian holiday, All Hallows. Since All Hallows is on the day after Samhain, people started calling Samhain 'All Hallows Eve,' which resulted in Halloween.

Halloween today is very similar to Samhain but with a modern twist to it.

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Valentina and the Haunted House

By Daniela Akbari

There was a vampire named Valentina. One night, Valentina was out on a walk when she suddenly had an idea. She dreamed of making a haunted house since she was three years old. It was getting close to Halloween, so it would be a perfect time to build it. At school, she learned how to build small statues so it would be easy. But there was a problem. She didn't know how to build a real haunted house and had no idea what to put inside. She couldn't sleep. Then morning came. She had no idea what to do and this was her only chance of making a haunted house. Valentina thought and thought until... of course! "Why did I not think of this before? I could ask my friends for help! One of them made a haunted house before too!" Valentina thought. So, she waited until the sun was out of sight to talk to her friends.

She grabbed some paper and a pencil and left. Valentina walked to her friend's house. "Hello Valentina. What's up?" said Hector the zombie.

"Oh nothing. I was just coming to ask you something. You see, I was planning on making a haunted house, but I don't know what to do," Valentina said.

"Hmmm. Well, I have some ideas. Maybe you can make the house a little crooked and add a lot of dark colors. You can also put a lot of jack-o'-lanterns and some pumpkins."

Valentina wrote this down... Jack-o'-lanterns and some pumpkins. "Thanks a lot. Bye!"

"Bye!" said Hector.

Valentina left to go to her other friends' house, Oliver and Olivia. They are ghosts! "Hello Valentina," said Oliver and Olivia. "Hello," replied Valentina. "I was wondering if you have any ideas of what to put in a haunted house. I was planning on making it, but I don't know what I have to do."

"Hmmm. Well, you can add some ghosts and bats to make it scary," said Oliver. "You can also add some candles to light up the house," Olivia added. "That's a good idea! Thank you so much," Valentina said as she left the house. "Ok, two more friends to meet."

The next night, she got up really early to go to her friends', Sally and Milly, the witches. "Oh hello there Valentina! You came just on time to try our new potion." said Sally. "Ummmm, I think I am good, but that's not why I came. You guys made a haunted house before, right?" Valentina asked. "Yes, but after a while we sold it," Milly said. Valentina asked some more. "Well, do you remember what you put inside the house? I was planning on making a haunted house, but I don't know what to put in it."

"Well of course we remember! We added creepy paintings, at least two floors, some old books, a bunch of spiderwebs on the ceiling, a giant spider and more." Sally said. Valentina started to write this down. "Thank you. Well, bye!" Valentina said.

"Bye-bye!" said Sally and Milly.

Valentina left quickly to her best friend's house. "Valentina! It's been such a long time since I've seen you!" Vanna the vampire said. "Hi Vanna! I was wondering if you have any ideas of what to put in a haunted house," Vanna asked. "Well, I have some ideas. Maybe you can add a backyard. You can also add a huge closet in your room, but only put dark colored clothes in it. You can also have a huge bed and decorate it with some spiderwebs and bat decorations."

"Thank you Vanna! Bye," said Valentina. Valentina left. She had all the information she needed to make a haunted house. She looked at her notes. "The only problem now is how to make it," she thought to herself. She called her friends, Sally and Milly. She knew they had made a haunted house before. Since she had already gone to their house, they knew her plan. "Hello! What's up?" Milly asked. Valentina asked, "Well, can you help me make the haunted house? I don't know how to build it."

"Sure!" Milly and Sally said. Together they built the haunted house. After a few weeks it was ready. "Wow. It's amazing," they said. Valentina thanked Sally and Milly for their help. Finally, her dream came true!

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Crazy National Days

By Nare Aghanian

National M&M Day is a thing. M&M is one of the most popular candies in the world. But a while back, M&M was called Mars & Murrie. The stamp on the M&M was not a thing until 1950's. National M&M Day falls on October 13.

Another crazy day is the World Pasta Day. It falls on October 25. This day must be a favorite among pasta lovers. Did you know how many different types of pastas there are? Pasta comes in over 300 different shapes. Isn't that crazy?

Plush Animal Lover's Day is celebrated on October 28 every year. I am surprised this day is a thing. Did you know that everyone calls plush animals differently? They go by stuffed animals, stuffies, cuddly toys, soft toys and more.

There is even a National Necktie Day. Can you believe it? Did you know that neckties used to be called cravats? There are over 177,140 ways to tie a necktie. There was a tie that had a value of \$220,000. It was made of 261 diamonds.

How to Make Our School Better, Part 2

By Emily Terteryan

I wrote part 1 of "How to Make Our School Better" last month. And now, I am here to say that most things that I suggested were approved.

Like when I wrote about getting separate recycling bins, we used to throw both plastic and paper in the same bin. But now, we started throwing plastic in a different bin while paper trays were collected in one stack.

Another thing that also happened was the opening of the library. Our school librarian, Ms. Sofia, started bringing the preschoolers and kindergartners to our school library for storytime. The little kids enjoyed the story together.

Another thing that happened was the Book Fair which we started last week for the first time in many years. It was a great event and the students seemed to enjoy it very much. I also really enjoyed the Book Fair where I got some cookbooks.

These are the ways we improved our school. Some were suggestions from Part 1 of "How to Make Our School Better."

Red Ribbon Week

By Leon Khachatryan

Red Ribbon week is held from October 23 to October 31. This is a week to celebrate awareness on drugs. This year's Red Ribbon week theme is "Celebrate Life Drug Free." The whole purpose of Red Ribbon Week is to keep kids away from drugs as they get older. We celebrate Red Ribbon Week in our school because teachers want to keep us away from drugs and other kinds of vapes. Alcohol and tobacco are another type of drug.

In our school we tie ribbons on the fences to observe Red Ribbon Week. During Red Ribbon Week, we also learn some stuff about drugs. We get educated on healthier choices and how to stay away from these dangerous vapes.

In conclusion, Red Ribbon Week is designed for kids to learn to stay away from drugs. This is very important because we need everyone to avoid using any kind of drugs. Drug Free is the best way to be!

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Հայաստանի անկախության օրը

By Noel Tulgendzhyan

Հայաստանի անկախության օրը տոնում ենք սեպտեմբերի 21-ին: Մենք տոնում ենք Հայաստանի անկախության օրը, որովհետև այդ օրը Հայաստանը անկախացավ Ռուսաստանից: Հայաստանի անկախության օրը սովորաբար նշվում է հրավառություններով, համերգներով, շքերթներով և երեկույթներով:

Բոլոր հայերը նշում են Հայաստանի անկախության օրը: Հայաստանը, լինելով աշխարհի հնագույն երկրներից մեկը, միշտ պայքարել է իր անկախության համար. իհմա նրանք վերջապես ունեն այս:

Famous Armenian Inventors

By Sofi Avakyan

Armenia is a very small country in the Caucasus. There are many famous people from Armenia who invented things that we use in the modern world today. Look around in your house or apartment for a moment and I'm sure you will see something made by an Armenian.

Hovannes Adamian was a Soviet-Armenian engineer who was the first person in the world to design and produce a color television. He patented his technology in 1908. Another famous Armenian inventor is Christopher Ter-Serobyan. He invented the color of the U.S dollar bill. He got \$6,000 dollars for his invention. Born to Armenian parents, Luther Simjian grew up in Antep, Turkey, but was separated from his family in the Armenian Genocide. Luther Simjian is best known for formulating the first automated teller machine, also known as an ATM machine. Alex Manoogian was an Armenian-American industrial engineer, businessman, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. He spent most of his career in Detroit, Michigan. He was the founder of the Masco Corporation. His company is a manufacturer and distributor of building and home improvement products. He built the faucet that we use today. Oscar H. Banker was an Armenian-American inventor who invented the automatic transmission. He was born Asatour Sarafian in the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) in 1895 to an Armenian family. He left the Ottoman Empire as a teenager and settled in Chicago. And finally, Arthur H. Bulbulian invented the oxygen mask we use today during emergencies. He invented it during the 1940's for the United States Air Force. The mask included a microphone, and it was frost proof.

NASA's Mission

By Emily Terteryan

NASA is a U.S. government agency that is responsible for science and technology related to air and space exploration. On Wednesday, November 17, 2021, NASA launched an aircraft with one simple mission: Smash into an asteroid at 15,000 miles per hour to change the direction of the asteroid. The mission, named Double Asteroid Redirection Test, or DART, left Earth to test whether slamming a spacecraft into an asteroid can nudge it into a different trajectory. The DART spacecraft lifted off atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on Wednesday at 10:21 p.m. from the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. The rocket reached space before sending its reusable booster back toward the ocean to land on a SpaceX drone ship. It took about an hour to deploy the spacecraft into orbit, and hours after that it used solar panels to power the vehicle on its journey. The reason that NASA was crashing into the asteroid was to test, for the first time, a method of planetary defense that could one day save a city, or maybe the whole planet, from a catastrophic asteroid impact.

Why can't we just blow up the asteroid? Blowing up the asteroid will just break it into pieces and may cause the larger chunks to fly through the atmosphere. That will put Earth in a bad position and maybe cause a catastrophic meteor shower.

You may be wondering, if NASA succeeds in its mission, is the Earth safer? Well I don't really know. But in my opinion, NASA's mission now made the Earth safer and maybe will save us and the whole planet from an asteroid crashing into Earth one day.

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Voldemort Is Back Again!

By Anna Vahanyan

Voldemort was about to fight the clever zombie. Flashback: The zombie lost her family because of Voldemort. It was time to fight back! But first, she had to find out what was going on and save everyone.

She entered Hogwarts to get her human friends and save the rest of the wizards and witches. Her friends were not from the Slytherin House. The wizards and witches were all there. But couldn't use their wands because Voldemort cast a spell on them.

Wendy, the zombie's witch friend, told her she could make Voldemort go away. But first, she had to play quidditch against Voldemort. When her parents were alive, she remembered her mother, Dana, playing quidditch. She remembered the moves and how to do them, sort of. Then she saw flying broomsticks. One was Harry Potter's broomstick, the Nimbus 2000. Of course, she grabbed the worst broom, the cursed broom, Draco's Nimbus 2001. Draco's broomstick had a mind of its own. It did a flip, zigzag, up, and down. She was not able to control Draco's broomstick because Voldemort was controlling it. The zombie fell to the ground. Then a tornado came. She got on the broomstick and flew inside the tornado without getting hurt. Her feet were touching the clouds and she did not fall this time.

From behind the clouds came the queen spider. She said, "My father, Voldemort, wanted me to capture you. I had to do what he said so get ready to be captured!" The zombie stepped on the trap, a spider web sac. The zombie's eyes glowed when the spider queen picked her up. The light from her eyes reminded the spider queen that they were cousins. The spider queen said sorry and said she would help the zombie capture her father. But Voldemort had a magical spy. He gave her a little bit of magic. The spy struck the spider queen and the zombie with a lightning shock that transported them to the House of Slytherin.

In the Slytherin House, they saw a ghost. And the ghost said, "Mahaha, my lifesaver Voldemort wanted me to hurt you." The zombie acted fast and ran through the ghost. The ghost said, "No one had ever gone through me. Your name, is it Zoey?" asked the ghost. "My name is Grace and your name is Sofi," she said to the spider queen. Sofi said, "Voldemort is not just a liar. He is a double liar." They saw the Slytherin sign and they all said, "aaaaaaah!" Sofi said she hated this place. Zoey said, "We all do!" Suddenly, a light came from one of the rooms. They took a peak, It was Voldemort!

He is back! Again!

Hispanic Heritage Month

By Sofi Avetisyan

We celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month between September 15 and October 15. It is dedicated to recognizing the culture, achievements, and contributions made by Hispanic Americans and Latin Americans. It includes Mexico, Central America, South America, and the islands of the Caribbean whose inhabitants speak Spanish. There are also 21 other countries in which all of them have Spanish as their official language. Some famous Hispanic Americans are Ellen Ochoa, Dolores Huerta, and Cesar Chavez.

Music is a big part of the Hispanic culture. The number of musical genres in Latin America is in the hundreds. Each Latin American country has several genres of music. And each may have several style variants because of its musical richness, Latin America also has a great variety of musical instruments. The instruments people use to play music in Latin America are La Marimba, Digital Piano, and El Reco-Reco. Some movies you might have seen from Disney that have Hispanic music in them are Coco and Encanto.

Mexican national clothing is very bright and beautiful. The main characteristics of the Mexican national attire are: sun protection (that's why sombrero is so wide and the clothing itself is made of natural materials), brightness (the fabric is mostly colorful; a lot of colorful ribbons are used), and moderate modesty (the clothing is elegant and playful). There are a lot of accessories which go with the national Mexican costume such as ribbons, ritual necklaces, amulets, shawl or scarf for women cowboy hats and boots, sombreros and other wide hats made of straw and palm leaves, and morral which is a bag with shoulder strap for men.

Students can study more about the Hispanic culture by learning about Hispanic cuisines, music, fashion, and famous Hispanic Americans.

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Benjamin and Bonita at the Beach, Part One

By Renate Megertechians

Benjamin and Bonita are good friends who met in a meadow. One day, Bonita the bunny was running to Benjamin, the bear's house. "BENJAMIN!" yelled Bonita. Benjamin busted the door open almost instantly. "What, what is it?" asked Benjamin worriedly. "Benjamin, I got free tickets!" exclaimed Bonita. "Free tickets for what?" asked Benjamin. Bonita answered his question "They are V.I.P tickets, and the first three people who get the V.I.P tickets get extra stuff and get to go backstage." "That is amazing!" said Benjamin, then continued "Who is the singer?"

Bonita replied, "The singer is Nina Malia. She is my favorite singer in the whole entire world!"

Benjamin then said, "She is my favorite singer too, and umm.... After this talk, can we eat because I'm really hungry?"

Bonita giggled, "Yeah, sure."

After a little while later, they ate fish for dinner and cherries and popsicles for dessert. They headed out to the concert after dinner and dessert. "Welcome. Welcome. I am Nina Malia," said Nina Malia. "Okay, you must be Benjamin and you must be Bonita."

"That's right, Benjamin and I are your number one fans. Isn't that right Benjamin?" said Bonita.

"Yeah that's true but uhh, how do you know our names? Nina answered his question very easily. "I know you two because I went to school with your moms and we were very close friends at school. And we still are." After the concert the two went toward the sea to pick some seashells. Bonita saw something weird then said, "Hey Benjamin what's that over there?"

To be continued

Where Is Area 51?

By Ruben Petrosyan

Area 51 is a top secret U.S. Air Force base located in Groom Lake, Nevada. Many people think that the government is reverse engineering UFOs and are running top secret tests on alien beings in Area 51.

In 1942, there were only two dirt runways on the property near Groom Lake. The area was used by the U.S. Air Force for bomb practice. The U.S. Air Force conducted bombing tests on nuclear weapons used in World War II. These types of nuclear weapons being tested were devices that released huge amounts of destructive energy. These included the hydrogen and atomic bomb.

The CIA (The Central Intelligence Agency) conducts background checks on anyone wanting to work in Area 51. The land around Groom Lake is owned by the Atomic Energy Commission. The U.S. government simply refers to it as an "operating site," never acknowledging the existence of Area 51 until 1998. Originally only 6 miles wide and 10 miles long, Area 51 encompass over 400 square miles of restricted airspace. The security is very tight. There is only one gate into the property. The base is not easy to access. And that is just the way the CIA wants it.

During the Cold War, there was a great fear of communism in America. The Soviet Union was communist country. Communists believed that the government should have full control over how people live and work. One of the ways the U.S. and the Soviet Union gathered intelligence on each other was by listening for information about their enemies. This was exactly the kind of technology that the US government had been developing near Roswell during World War II. From 1947 to 1949, Alamogordo Army airfield became the launch site for testing high altitude balloons that carried microphones. The US government wanted to develop the technology to listen in on the enemy. The New Mexico-based project, known as Project Mogul, was launched on May 29, 1947. Project Mogul was a top-secret project that worked to listen in on enemy bomb tests. In June 1947, a weather balloon launched by the Project Mogul team crashed in the New Mexico desert. Most locals thought it was a crash site of an extraterrestrial alien spacecraft.

At the end of World War II and throughout the cold war, the US and the Soviet Union were trying to get one person into outer space. This was known as the "space race." The Soviet Union was the first to take an unmanned space ship into outer space but the US was the first to send the first man to the moon. This man was named Neil Armstrong.

America was in the cold war, the CIA wanted to move quickly to test and approve new planes at Area 51. In the 1960s the US perfected the U-2 spy plane, which could carry up to 700 pounds of photographic equipment. The U-2 was manufactured in Burbank, California, currently the Burbank empire center, and transported by truck to the top-secret Area 51. In 1974 pictures of Area 51 did come out from the Skylab, even though the CIA had especially told the astronauts aboard the Skylab not to do this. Even though Area 51 has been kept away from the public for so long, we probably will never find out what really happens in Area 51 until the government reveals the truth about Area 51.

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The Lonely Dragon 1

By Daniela Akbari

There was a dragon named James. His parents were very sick and couldn't take care of him, so they left him in a cave near a volcano. Years later, James was still in the cave and barely left it. Since he was alone, he didn't know how to fly. But after many sad and lonely years, he finally decided to go. "I want to meet some other creatures and see what's out in the world," said James, although he wasn't sure where he would go.

After walking for weeks, he found a little village. "Maybe I can stay here!" exclaimed James happily. When he went to the village, all the animals screamed and ran as fast as they could. So, James left to find somewhere else to stay. A few days later, he saw some beautiful purple flowers. He went to look at them when suddenly a little bunny came hopping along. "Ahhh," said the bunny. "Help! Help! Help!" James jumped up and saw the terrified bunny sobbing with fear. He wanted to help, so he went to the bunny and asked, "Hey, what's wrong?" The bunny sniffled a little and whispered. "Wait! You're not going to hurt me?" James replied saying, "Of course not! Why would I do that? Oh! By the way, what's your name?" She answered with a little more confidence saying, "Lilly." "That's a really pretty name. By the way, can I live with you? I don't have anywhere else to go," James told her. "Sure," said Lily.

Together they went to Lilly's little cottage and settled in. James could barely fit into the living room. "Do you want some tea?" asked Lilly. "Ummm, what's that?" James asked. It's really good. Trust me," said Lilly. After they drank it with some cookies, James said, "Wow! This is really hot, but delicious."

A few months later, James and Lilly became best friends. Sometimes Lilly took James to her friend, Briana, to teach him how to fly. Lilly was a bird. Six months later, James learned how to fly, and he loved the experience of looking at the view of his tiny home from the sky. One day James let Lilly go on his back, so they could fly together and see the wonderful views of nature. In the beginning, Lilly was scared and started to scream. But with some help from James, she calmed down. At that moment, James was so happy that he finally had a friend, and together, Lilly and James went back home to sleep so they could have energy for another adventure.

The Helte Truck 7555

By Alexander Ayrapetyan, guest writer

The Helte Truck 7555 will help kids, adults, and will also save the world! It is a concept car.

This is a car and a robot. The robot's feet are behind the trunk and the hands will be in the front. It is a dream come true! It is fun to use and the best thing is- it runs on electricity. No gas.

It comes in any size. You decide if you want a roof or not, or if you want widows or not, or if you don't want it to be a robot. It comes in many models: Toyota or Audi or Lexus or Range Rover or Tesla. It will cost \$70,000 to invest. You must use cash.

If you want to invest in the Health Truck 7555, please call 1-800-CONCEPT. Or stop by the shop on Justin St, in front of the gate.



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The Adventures of Harry: Into the Holiday Realm

By Noel Tulbendzhyan

Chapter 1: Two Unsuspected Deeds, A Journey, and An Odd Destination

Once upon a time, in a poor little country, lived a boy named Harry. Everyday Harry would go to the fields to tend to his family's crop. He would water the plants and keep them safe from predators and weeds. Though this seems tiring and boring, Harry loved it! He loved the sounds of the wind whistling and the birds chirping. He loved how peaceful and quiet the fields were. He also had a secret wolf friend named Eclipse, which had a mysterious diamond shaped birthmark. Though Harry loved Eclipse, he never told his parents about him since he knew that his parents would hate him.

One day, Harry went out to tend to his family's crop. As he was getting water from the lake to water his crop, he saw an old man who needed help. Though Harry was in a hurry and sometimes had an attitude, he was kind hearted. So he forgot about the ticking clock and decided to help the old man. "Thank you," the old man said. Then the old man told Harry to follow him, but he respectfully declined. "I have to find my friend and leave," said Harry. So the old man told Harry to meet him at the same place the very next day. Harry agreed, "I'll try to," he said as he left to go home.

The very next day, as the old man said, he went back to the exact same spot where he met the elderly man. And though it took a long time, the old man finally arrived. As he was about to follow him, Eclipse barked frantically to tell him something. Harry got his message and ran right behind him. When Eclipse finally stopped running, they found themselves at a cave. Inside the cave, there was a dragon guarding his treasure and his prisoners, Harry was shaken. But confused or not, he couldn't stand for this. So he grabbed the sharpest stick he could find. Ignoring the many people telling him to turn back and leave, he faced the dragon. The dragon burned his stick and he almost became a marshmallow. Then the dragon lunged at him with terrifying force and just as he thought he was done for, a terrifying monster leaped in front of him, protecting him. At first Harry was shocked and still a little shaken. But then he switched his focus to the possibly wounded monster. Harry thought it was dead but surprisingly, there wasn't a single scratch on it. Well maybe one or two but that was it. Harry noticed a pendant looking gem that seemed to be engraved in its chest. "it looks exactly like Eclipse's birthmark," he thought to himself. Then the monster got up and left. Soon after, Eclipse came running to Harry. At that moment, Harry remembered the imprisoned people. He went running to free them. After he freed them, he went back to the old man, who was still waiting for him. The old man was a little shaken by Harry's story. Then off they went on their way. It had struck midnight when they reached the Haunted Woods. "T-This is w-where you wanted to t-take me?" asked Harry, terrified. "Oh no," the old man said. "This is just the way to get there."

"But t-there are m-monsters in the Haunted Woods," said Harry. "No there are not," said the old man. "That's just local legend."

"R-Really?" asked Harry. "Y-Yes," teased the old man. "Okay old man," said Harry. "I trust you." "Please call me Jackob," said the old man. They walked for what seemed to be forever until they reached a strange tree. Upon further investigation, Harry saw a what seemed to be a vortex. Then Jackob told him that what he wanted to show him was thru the vortex. Now understanding that this was where Jackob was taking him, they both went into the vortex.

To be continued.

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The Day It Rained Candy Corn

Sofi Avakyan and Ellen Sharyan, guest writer

It was today, the day it rained candy corn... My alarm went off at 9:00 am on Saturday morning. I started to smell delicious pancakes from the kitchen. Mom called my name. She asked if I was awake, which I was. There were 2 more days until Halloween. I started to make my bed, brush my teeth, and change my clothes. I went downstairs and greeted mom. Dad was at work. I saw the yummy pancakes, as if they were calling to me. As I sat down to eat my breakfast, I saw mom putting up Halloween decorations. Mom asked me if I could help her finish after I eat my breakfast. I reluctantly agreed. Once I finished eating, I thanked my mom for the delicious pancakes. I asked her what I could start with. She said I could start with making little pumpkins out of colored paper. I walked up the stairs to get the supplies.

30 minutes later

I finished with 13 paper pumpkins. I asked my mom what I could do next. She told me I had to pin them all over the house walls. However, I didn't know where the pins were. It was like mom read my mind. She saw my face and told me the pins were in her room, on her desk. I thanked her for telling me where it was. I went upstairs and found the pins on her desk. They were glowing with the colors white, orange, and yellow, like candy corn colors. My favorite candy.... I was mesmerized by the beautiful glow. I couldn't feel myself move, as if the pins were drawing me closer... I snapped out of it when I heard my mom call my name. She said it had been 5 minutes since I had been upstairs. I called back to her, apologizing while running down the stairs with the pins in my hand. I chose not to tell her about what happened because I thought she would say it was my imagination. What if it was? I asked mom where I could start pinning my pumpkins. She told me I could put it wherever I want as long as it's not too close to each other. I started to get to work. First, I pinned 3 pumpkins in the living room, 2 pumpkins in the kitchen. Definitely none in the bathroom...because that will be weird. 2 in my bedroom, 3 in my parents room. 3 in the guest room. That was all the pumpkins I had made. I desperately wanted to text my friends. I just wanted to be on my phone. Again, my mom saw my face and said I could have a 5-minute break. How did she read my mind again? I thanked her and jumped on my fluffy bed. I reached for my phone on my desk. "Almost there...come on! Why are my hands so short!" I finally got my phone. But it was my fingertips that got it. Suddenly I felt my grip on my phone loosen. It fell with a loud thump! My phone fell! Mom rushed upstairs to see what was going on. I was frozen when she asked me what happened. I couldn't move. Again. What was going on with me not being able to move? I knew the reason why I was frozen this time. It was because I have sensitive ears and when I heard a loud sound.... You don't wanna know. I forgot my mom was there when I started to move. Mom came and picked up my phone. She put it on my bed as she sat down. *Oh boy, here comes the lecture of being more careful.* After mom left, I got on my phone. I was pretty sure that 5 minutes was probably up. But I didn't say anything. I was taking advantage of it. I checked my friend's Snapchat. I got a notification. Turns out they just added to their story. I liked the picture, commented, and exited Snapchat. Then I went to play my favorite game, Candy Crush. I opened the app and started playing. *Oh! One of my friends was online. Let me join her.* I started to play a match against her and in moments, victory was mine! I got off my phone and started helping mom again. This time, she wanted me to help her make some Halloween party invitations for the Halloween eve party. I guess I was a little bored and I loved helping my mom so I got to work.

I wrote a list to whom I need to write invitations for.

List:

1. Aunt Lauren
2. Uncle Howard
3. Cousin Melisa
4. Cousin Elizabeth
5. Cousin Maria
6. Dj Lewis
7. Cindy (aka my best friend)

I got to work. I got my art supplies from my room, and start



2 hours later

By the time I finished it was 12:30. Almost 1 pm. Almost time for my playdate with my friend I was playing with in Candy Crush. Her name was Cindy. We knew each other for 8 years. I'm 11 years old right now and so is Cindy, that means we have been friends since we were 3.

10 minutes later

I heard the phone ring. Maybe it's Cindy! I got excited and answered the phone. Unfortunately, it wasn't Cindy. It was dad asking if we bought groceries yet. I told him we forgot about buying them. He sighed and hung up the phone. I instantly told mom that dad called and asked if we got groceries. Mom responded by telling me that she will buy the groceries during my playdate with Cindy. I went back upstairs to my room and started to get ready to see my friend. I changed into a comfortable blue shirt, and some jeans. I brushed my hair, brushed my teeth, and wore my shoes. Mom called me to ask if I was done. I responded and said, "Yes I'm done!" And I went downstairs. Mom started the car and asked me if I had to use the restroom. I said no, and opened the window to get some fresh air. Mom started to drive up to Candy Corn Avenue. I texted my friend to ask her if she could open her door.

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Suddenly she ran out the front door and into her front yard. She opened the gate and let me in. I got out of the car saying bye to mom. Mom drove off toward the grocery store. I went inside and greeted Cindy's mom and brother. Cindy's mom got excited and hugged me tight. "It's been so long since we've seen you Olivia!" Her mom said. Cindy was a little embarrassed and quickly invited me up to her room. I stared at a board game on the kitchen counter while going upstairs. I asked Cindy if we could play that game. She nodded her head. We went back downstairs and got the board game. Cindy's brother, Lucas, came running up to us and asked if he could join us. I was going to approve, but Cindy interrupted me by saying no. Then Cindy dragged me upstairs so we could play in her room. I asked her why she wouldn't let her brother play with us. She said that he was annoying. I thought that Cindy and her brother disliked each other but we just started to play anyway.

1 hour later

We finished playing a few rounds and I won all of them! Cindy got a bit mad but thankfully, I calmed her down. We started playing Candy Crush. After, Cindy's mom called us down to eat lunch. "My mom's special!" said Cindy excitedly. It was steak, with mashed potatoes and asparagus. I took the knife and cut into the juicy steak. I took a bite and I was amazed! I ate a bit of the mashed potato and loved it. Same with the asparagus. A few minutes after we ate, we made lemonade with whole lemons. We squeezed the lemon juice out of the lemon, added a bit of sugar, and water, and ta-da! You have great tasting lemonade. We drank it all in a few minutes because it was so good! We played a little soccer outside and went back inside because it was starting to get cold and it looked like it was about to rain. We sat on the couch and started to watch scary movies on the TV. Cindy's mom made popcorn, and gave us some ice cream to eat while we watched the movie. It was called, "Chills on Candy Corn Avenue." What a coincidence! It was the same street.... but I just shrugged it off. When we were in the middle of the movie, I had to go to the restroom. When I came back, I looked outside in horror. It was raining candy corn! I started texting my mom and asking her if she could come pick me up. But she told me she couldn't because she was still grocery shopping and couldn't get out of the store. I started to worry and worry. What will happen to the Halloween party? What if the candy corn breaks the windows? What if...What if...

I suddenly realized that I was asleep. Was it a dream? I thought. It wasn't. I looked out the window and saw the candy corn still coming. I wanted to go outside and feel the candy corn go down my hands, but I knew it was dangerous. I felt a feeling of sadness and loneliness. Everyone was asleep, Cindy, her brother, and her mom. I went back to sleep as well.

In the morning

I suddenly woke up on the staircase. I felt dizzy all of a sudden. I saw Cindy's mom cooking bacon, eggs, and hash brown. I was incredibly hungry. I saw Cindy and Lucas sitting near the window looking outside in shock. I asked Cindy what happened, and she said that it stopped raining candy corn. I sighed in relief. I desperately wanted to go outside to eat some candy corn off the grass, but that would be weird. Cindy's mom told us that breakfast was ready. We went and sat down to eat. Delight filled my mouth as I ate.

15 minutes later

We finished breakfast and I texted mom. Mom arrived 10 minutes later. I said goodbye to everyone politely and got in the car. Mom asked me if I was okay. I questioned her why she was concerned. She reminded me about the candy corn incident. I told her how I felt. She hugged me lightly and promised me nothing like that will ever happen again.

End Of Part 1



Ms. McDonnell's class during the Great California ShakeOut, Grandview Library, Glendale, CA

