

The Howler

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Inflatable Halloween Costumes: pros and cons

Madelyn R., 6th grade

Do you like inflatables? Do you have a Halloween costume? Want a cool, funny costume? Well the inflatable costumes are for you! But wait...What happens when the battery dies, or when it deflates! Don't worry, it's very easy to avoid deflation! Well, here are some pros and cons about inflatable Halloween costumes.

Some benefits about inflatable costumes include: you'll stand out from all your friends and will be a head turner every time! They are also so much fun and you won't want to take them off. The fan inside works as a great air conditioning! Plus, when it gets dark, you will be visible because of the bright light! What fun! They are absolutely hilarious as well. It also is really funny but a little weird when you walk in them (but super funny). It goes whish whir, whis whir. It sounds the same as an inflatable (not the one you wear)

Sadly, the costume will make you hot, sweaty, stinky, smelly and gross, despite the fan in the costume. The battery may rip through the pocket of the suit, and the battery may die quickly. The costume also requires a lot of batteries, which do cost money. Plus, your feet may drag and the costume may pop. They are quite expensive.

Last Halloween, my mom dressed up as an inflatable person riding a unicorn. It was hilarious. But, it died before we finished trick or treating. In my opinion, Halloween inflatable costumes are great and all, but I wouldn't spend an hour outside in it. It may not be for me, but it could be for you.

So, what do you think, to wear or not to wear? Yay or Nay?

Also in this issue: results of our candy survey, a music review, poetry, and a scary story!

Spanish Heritage 2019



October 5 was our Spanish Heritage celebration at the Lower Campus. We were fortunate to have beautiful weather for this lively event. Many people came and celebrated with food, music, dancing, and crafts. Some crafts include making piñatas, and maracas; some toys they sold were llamas, castanets. There was plenty of delicious and traditional Hispanic food such as paellas, churros, rice, and much more. There were also outstanding dances by our Spanish track students! It was a very festive event.

School uniforms— unity at the expense of individuality?

By Rachel S., 8th Grade

Another day, another uniform

Another day, another polo shirt, another pair of khaki shorts. Many American students get to wear whatever they want to school, but there are a few exceptions. What about the kids who wear uniforms? Uniforms are a controversial topic. Some people love them because they promote unity and limit individuality. Others oppose uniforms for their lack of unity and individuality.

In order to discuss this topic, one must understand the meaning of the words unity and individuality. Unity, according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, means "the quality or state of not being multiple" and "a condition of harmony". Unity brings students together as one community instead of remaining separate and disconnected. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines individuality as "total character peculiar to and distinguishing an individual from others". In schools, showing individuality is an important way for students, especially the older they get, to express who they are.

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HALLOWEEN CANDY SURVEY

BEST CANDY

According to the survey that most middle school students took, the most enjoyed candy is Skittles™, with candy corn not far behind. 39.7% of students that took the survey agree with this statement. 28.4% of students that took the survey agree that candy corn is their favorite candy. Did you know that the first Skittle was made in 1974 in Britain? It later moved on to America in 1979. Another thing that's really interesting is that there is a whole day dedicated to candy corn. National Candy Corn Day is on October 30th.

WORST CANDY

According, again, to the survey, licorice is the most disliked candy. 48.6% of the surveyed agree with this. The second most disliked candy is Almond Joy™, with 28.9% of the surveyed agreeing. A fun fact about Almond Joy is that it was invented in WW2 when sugar and coconuts became popular. Another fun fact is that licorice is black because that is the color of the root for the licorice plant.

www.candyblog.net › [blog](#) › [item](#) › [almond_joy](#)

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Skittles>

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Voices from inside a uniformed school

Teachers and administrators at the International Charter School of Atlanta, a "uniformed" school in Alpharetta, Georgia, were interviewed for an inside look.

Nicole Bomeli, ICSAtlanta Instructional Lead Teacher, spoke at a recent press conference at the school. When asked if she thought uniforms were important and why, she answered that she believes that everything has a time and place. Wearing a school uniform reminds students that it is time to be in a "learning mode".

Math teacher Grethel van Epps responded to questions via email. She was asked for some pros and cons about uniforms. Van Epps answered that having uniforms promotes unity in the school because everyone dresses the same. She believes this is a good thing because the "bragging about 'brand name' clothes is not as bad." It prepares students for the future too, because "when you go to work most of the places have a dress code so it helps you to get used to it". She also pointed out that uniforms could help families financially because you do not need to buy as many clothes if you wear a uniform.

Several ICSAtlanta students were also asked for their opinions. Many of the students said they think the uniforms make them too similar. One student replied that uniforms are too unified in a negative way, and they take away the ability to express their personality. Another replied that she believes that the school thinks if students "Dress the same" they will "act the same" and "be the same". Other students complained that their uniforms are uncomfortable. One of the ICSAtlanta students expressing negative opinions added that she has been to schools without uniforms and has "seen both worlds" so she understands both perspectives. Even though she can see both sides, she completely disagrees that uniforms are valuable in a school.

Lacking individuality and unity

Suzanne Moore and Emma Jacobs have shared their opinions on uniforms in the Guardian. Moore argued that uniforms are not about unity. She thinks they are for "compliance" and "zero tolerance". She observes that when students are required to wear uniforms at school, individuality is "knocked out" early on. Jacobs also believes uniforms do not promote unity, but rather conformity. She says that uniforms do not prevent bullying, as bullies "will find their motive and means". She suggests that unity comes from shared interests and bonding over them. Sports fans are an excellent example of unity. Jacobs states, "Take football fans. As it gets nippy, they may choose to don the team scarf but it's the chants and shared hatred of the opposition that unite them."

Combining unity and individuality

Instead of requiring uniforms, which is not necessarily the best option for schools and students, schools should encourage students to be individuals who are part of the community. One way to have unity is to make sure there is a little bit of friendly competition with other schools. If students have pride for their school, they will be more united. Another way to have united schools is to offer a variety of interesting activities during lunchtime and after school, and to really encourage and motivate students to take part. Schools need to find ways to be more united without uniforms because although unity is important, individuality is equally important as students grow into young adults.

Jacobs, Emma. "Wearing a School Uniform Doesn't Help Us Learn | Emma Jacobs." *The Guardian, Guardian News and Media*, 7 Nov. 2014, www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/nov/07/wearing-school-uniform-doesnt-help-us-learn.
Moore, Suzanne. "School Uniforms: Turning Our Kids into Soulless Conformists | Suzanne Moore." *The Guardian, Guardian News and Media*, 29 Aug. 2012, www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/aug/29/school-uniform-kids-soulless-conformists.

Nirvana's 30th anniversary— Their Impact, Legacy and *Nevermind*.

- Yeats B., 8th grade

As Nirvana meets its 30th anniversary, many critics look back on their sophomore album *Nevermind* as one of the most important albums of the 90's and one of the greatest albums of all time. The album wasn't just a bright light in Alternative Rock, but it paved the way for it in the mainstream; taking Hair-metal out of the spotlight and making the way for the distorted and thrashing driven sounds of grunge, inspiring millions across the world.

Nirvana came from Seattle and consisted of vocalist/ guitarist Kurt Cobain, bassist Krist Novoselic, and after many drummers they landed with Dave Grohl (who later formed the Foo Fighters in the late nineties). Their ideas about music were a true mixture of The Beatles, Black Sabbath, and Black Flag, a combination of punk and metal with pop music tendencies. Nirvana defined the sound of Alternative rock in the 90's, helping inspire many musicians for years to come. They eventually started a movement with "Smells Like Teen Spirit," which became recognized as the hit song that brought grunge into the mainstream. *Nevermind* also includes the iconic songs "Lithium" and "Come as You Are" with lyrical themes of melancholy and depression, while most other songs such as "In Bloom" or "On a Plain" allow you to give it a meaning from the lyrics. . The album itself charted amazingly, knocking off all the top ten and even Michael Jackson. Change was occurring, and not for being a distorted, thrashing sound, but because it spoke to people, their songs were for anybody.

Nirvana did create a truly amazing album with *Nevermind*, and to this day, their impact is felt. Although sadly they didn't last long enough to see their influence on music, as Kurt Cobain's body was found on April 8th, 1994 in his Seattle home. Even for such a short discography of just three albums, Nirvana changed the musical landscape forever and inspired millions all over the world. Teens who enjoy Green Day, The White Stripes and Foo Fighters should check out Nirvana and their discography, as they became

3 one of the most defining musical acts of all time.



Counselors Corner

Dear Ms. Keller,
I have a ton of homework and not much time! How can I better manage my time to do homework?
Sincerely, Buried in Homework

Dear Buried in Homework,
I like to write out my time that I have available and rank the most important homework to the least important homework. Then I would do the homework that have the closest deadlines so that you do n miss them.
Sincerely, Ms.Keller, Your Counselor

Dear Ms. Keller,
There are so many people in the way! How do I get to my locker without shoving people and being rude?
Sincerely, Lame Locker

Dear Lame Locker,
There are two options that you can use to figure this out: Get two classes worth of supplies so you don't have to go back twice and so it is faster to your classes, or you can figure out a time to talk with your locker buddies about making room and figuring out your situation.
Sincerely, Ms.Keller, Your Counselor

Dear Ms. Keller,
my locker is a mess and I don't know what to do!
HELP!
Sincerely, Messy Mess

Dear Messy mess, come talk to me and we can figure out a time to organize your locker together. I am always here to help and would be glad to help you organize your locker.
Sincerely, Ms.Keller, Your Counselor

What is a VSCO Girl?

By: Amelie B., 8th grade and Jayla S., 7th grade

VSCO is a company that stands for Visual Supply Co. On Instagram, it is short for VSCOcam, a very popular photo editing app. VSCO is usually a white woman that edits her pictures on the app VSCO. VSCO girls have a very specific look; Long t-shirts, Vans, Birkenstocks, Crocs, Scrunchies, Hydroflasks, Metal straws, Mario Badesci, Polaroids, Fjallraven Kanken backpacks, and they always carry around Starbucks and Carmex.

The term "Skksks" and "And I Oop" are also associated with the stereotypical VSCO girls. The formal is meant for an expression of excitement or awkwardness. The latter is a playful way to acknowledge a mistake. Both of the terms have been tracked back to Black females, drag, and/or LGBTQ communities. A lot of VSCO girls are found on apps called Tik Tok and Instagram.

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Just Desserts



Mariah D., 6th Grade

Kris was an ordinary 12 year-old girl with mid-length brown hair and azure blue eyes. She had always loved Halloween. She lived in a small town in Alabama with her mom, her dad, and her dog, Daisy. Her town was like one of those towns a student would write about in a story where everyone knew each other. On one cold Halloween, Kris went to Mr. Antonio's pumpkin patch to get a ripe pumpkin so she and her mother could make their infamous pumpkin pie for the family's annual Halloween party. Kris was especially excited to make the pie with her mom this year considering she missed making it last year. She had decided to go to a sleepover with her friends from school instead. After the sleepover, she felt really guilty that she couldn't attend the Halloween party and promised her mom she would be there to help this year. On the way to Mr. Antonio's pumpkin patch, Kris felt really excited about making the tasty pie and sharing it with everyone.

"Hello Kris, I can't wait for your family's Halloween party tonight! Feel free to pick out any pumpkin that you'd like except for that one over there." Mr. Antonio said pointing to the corner of the pumpkin patch.

He pointed over to a golden-orange pumpkin. It was a perfect sphere shape and it looked like one of those photoshopped pumpkins you would see on a billboard or on a poster. Kris figured Mr. Antonio just wanted to attract more customers considering the season, so she tried to figure out a distraction so she could take the pumpkin and run home in time. She noticed there were teenagers breaking and smashing pumpkins that were out of Mr. Antonio's sight. Kris alerted him and he ran off towards the teenagers and started chasing and yelling at them. Kris quickly grabbed the pumpkin and ran back to her house as fast as she could with her hair trailing behind her. As she was running away, Kris felt a feeling of guilt sweep over her—it was the same guilt she felt after that sleepover.

Once she got home she put the pumpkin down on the counter, greeted her parents and Daisy, and headed upstairs to her room where she changed into her costume for the Halloween party. This Halloween she was a black cat. She had on a short, puffy black dress with a tail sewn onto it. She also had on a matching cat ear headband with pink glitter on the inside of the ears. She painted on whiskers and a little pink nose with face paint.

Kris went back downstairs and began to prepare the pumpkin pie with her mother. Her mom got the ingredients from the cabinets and the refrigerator.

"Kris I forgot to buy some flour from the store, I will be right back, will you be alright being alone while I'm at the store and while your father will go and get some more decorations for the party? Also could you get started on cutting the pumpkin while I'm gone?"

"Yeah, I can do that." Kris replied.

Kris' mom left the house and got into the small car and drove off. Kris headed back to the kitchen to get started on the pie. Kris prepared to cut the pumpkin into sections. The blade of her knife hovered over the pumpkin which began glowing. She hesitantly lowered the knife and the light grew even brighter. Soon enough the extremely shiny light flooded in the kitchen and Kris had been turned into a pumpkin.

When Kris' mother came home, she discovered Kris was gone. She assumed Kris had gone upstairs to her room. When she arrived in the kitchen she was greeted with a pumpkin on the counter. She was surprised that none of the ingredients had been touched. She figured Kris didn't want to make the pie this year considering she didn't do it last year either. So, she baked the pie without Kris. An hour later, the guests started arriving but, Kris was nowhere to be found. Her mother figured she had gone to her friend's sleepover again. The guests gave compliments toward the pie like how especially how rich the pumpkin flavor tasted. Little did they know the pumpkin was little 12-year old Kris.

The end.

Note: This story was inspired by *The Chronicles of Harris Burdick* by Chris Van Allsburg.

9/11, on that day

The sky was dark
and grey
9/11, on that day
Dark and smoky,
like a dreadful survey
9/11 on that day
Citizens in New York
were scared,
unlike everyday
9/11, on that day
Knowing that lives
could fade away
9/11 on that day
Listening to the last
'big bang!', I knew
nothing was okay
9/11, on that day
Smelling soot,
smoke, and haze
9/11, on that day
The taste of dread
blocked what I say
9/11, on that day
Nothing will ever be
as shocking
As 9/11, on that day
-Gabby K., 7th grade

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VSCO girls originated a very long time ago but became popular in 2019. An instagramer posted a picture saying, "VSCO is back!!!" Wearing a long T-shirt, Short shorts, Birkenstocks, holding a Hydroflask and Carmex. It got a lot of likes and people started to take after her and post pictures and videos on social media of them being VSCO. The app VSCO costs \$19.99 a year, but it is well worth it for the huge choice of filters that you can use.

A VSCO girl's favorite car is a Jeep. VSCO girls are actually relatively rich, obsessed with social media, and conformed. A lot of people say that girls from nowadays copied the girls from 2011. That is what a VSCO girl really is.