



Central Scoop
October 2019
Edition 01

Editor's Note
by Lilly

This year, we completely revamped and redesigned the system and design of the Central Scoop. From news to comedy, you're sure to find something to suit your interests. We hope you enjoy---happy reading!

think about it...

“Even if you **fall** *on your face ...*

... at least you're still moving forward.”

- Victor Kiam

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Laugh. Out. Loud.

Comic Corner

by Aaron



Silly Stories

by Renee

Once upon a time, there was a little girl named Princess Lolly. She lived in a land called Candyland. There were many lovely places, like the lollipop forest she lived in and the ice village her mother, Queen Frostine, lived in. But in the middle of it all, there was a dark, evil swamp where the most evil person in the land, Lord Licorice, lived. No one had ever seen him, but everyone knew of the terrible things he had done. Lolly's mother had warned Lolly endlessly not to ever mess with him. The princess had paid great attention as her mother told her of all the horrible stories of things Lord Licorice had done. Or so it seemed.

One day, Lolly was taking a nice, pleasant stroll through the woods to her Gramma Nutt's peanut brittle house when all of a sudden, there was a loud noise in the woods.

"Who's there?" Lolly yelled. She crept curiously into the woods, peering around the trees for the source of the noise.

"Aha!" shrieked a man, jumping out from behind the trees. Lolly stared in bewilderment at the man dressed in old-fashioned red and black clothes. "Face the wrath of Lord Licorice!" he screamed, whipping out a candy cane staff from behind his back. "Never will you see the light of day again!"

Lolly screamed and tried to run away, but Lord Licorice stuck out his candy cane staff and dragged her back with it. Lolly whipped out her lollipop wand and tried to perform a spell like her mother always did with her snowflake wand.

"Abracadabra, leave me alone!" she shouted in terror. But it was too late. Lord Licorice had already bonked her on the head with his staff, murmuring under his breath as he did so. She could hear a ringing in her ears and see a blurriness in her vision. She felt nauseous and distant from the world. Suddenly, everything went black.

When she woke up, her head was throbbing. But something even weirder was happening. As she looked around, she saw no candy cane forests, no chocolate rivers, not even a single piece of candy lying on the ground. Instead, she saw trees, not of lollipops and candy canes, but of green bushy things. There were roads, but they weren't lined with licorice or littered with lemon balls. Rather, they were black with yellow dashed lines. She even saw a river, but not a chocolate one, one that was filled with rushing, blue-green water. "Is this a dream?" she asked herself, not expecting an answer.

But someone replied, "No!"

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!" Lolly screamed, scrambling to her feet to run away. But the person, who must have been a giant because he was so big, reached down a large hand and plucked her from the ground. She stared,

baffled, at his dull clothes, lacking even a single speck of glitter or piece of candy!

“Come with me!” he said in a high pitched voice. “Mommy!” he called, toddling into the house. “I found the fairy from Candyland!”

“Silly Max, come back inside,” said an extremely tall woman from inside a nearby house. The giant came outside, took one look at Lolly, and let out a scream so loud it made Lolly drop to the ground from her spot in the middle of the air. “What in the world is going on?” the woman, who must have been Max’s mother, asked. She grabbed Lolly from the ground and took her inside. Lolly stared around in bewilderment at the plain decorations and lack of candy. *Is this a dream?* she wondered. But it must not have been, because when she pinched herself, a peppermint shaped bruise formed on her arm, just like usual. *This can’t be happening!* she thought.

Mirroring her thoughts, the boy’s mother said, “This can’t be happening!” She started pacing back and forth, muttering under her breath, when she turned and saw Max standing in the doorway holding a board game called Candyland. To Lolly’s confusion, it was adorned with pictures of her, her family, and their land. Was she a celebrity in this strange world?

“Mommy, Mommy, let’s play!” Max squealed.

“Okay, if you insist,” Mommy said.

“I don’t know what you’re playing, but can I play too?” Lolly’s high pitched, sing-song voice drifted over from where Mommy had set her down on an avocado on the counter.

“Yes, yes!” Max jumped in circles, running over to Lolly and bringing her to the spot where the board was set up on a soft, purple rug. After listening to Mommy explain the rules of the game, Lolly understood how to play. “You go first, Lolly,” Max told her. She drew a card.

“Purple!” she announced, moving her blue gingerbread man to the first purple square.

“Yay, Lolly!” Max shouted. “You’re winning!”

“Well, I’m the only one who’s gone, but that’s still true! It’s your turn,” Lolly replied. Max drew a double blue, and then Mommy drew a pink card with a popsicle on it.

“Yes!” she crowed. “That means I get to move all the way up to Queen Frostine’s ice village!”

“Hey, that’s my mom!” Lolly realized.

“Sure, of course,” Mommy said doubtfully.

“It really is!” Lolly assured her. They kept playing for a while until someone called Daddy arrived.

“Daddy!” Max squealed, jumping into his arms. “Come see who I found!” He brought Daddy into the living room where they were playing and showed him Princess Lolly.

Daddy's face grew white. "What in the world?" he asked in a shaky voice. "B-b-but fairies don't exist!" He ran off to the bathroom, making odd hacking noises.

"Eh, he'll be fine," Mommy said. "Let's continue playing!" Lolly drew a green, followed by Max drawing an orange and Mommy drawing a double red. Then, Lolly drew a pink card with a lollipop on it.

"What do I do now?" she asked. But before Mommy or Max could answer, she felt herself slipping away into a rainbow-colored, glittery pile of candy. *What?* she thought. *This can't be right! There are only rainbow, glittery piles of candy back home in Candyland!* As glitter started to cloud her vision and candy closed over the top of her head, she heard footsteps. Maybe it was her mom!

But then, a loud voice that was definitely not her mom's, said, "There you are, Miss Mango! I've been looking for you!" A large potato brushed aside the candy covering her. When he saw her, he stared at her for several seconds before saying, "You're not Miss Mango!"

"And you're not my mom!" Lolly replied. She ran from the stranger, wondering what to do when she realized with every step she took, a low, loud noise sounded. She paused to check her shoes and see if they were making the noise.

"Are you wondering what the sound is?" the potato, who must have been following her, asked, as if reading her thoughts.

"Yes!"

"Didn't you know? It's Bass Drum Island!" The potato skipped off into the distance, calling, "Miss Mango? Where are you?"

Lolly stared around in wonder, realizing that the sea around the island was made up of music. Even as she breathed, the air was thick with music. She dove into the sea of music, overcome with amazement. But when she was fully submerged, the music spit her back up on the land.

"What?" Lolly cried. "I just wanna go home!"

"Well, then, take a look around!" said a voice. Lolly turned around to find her older brother, Mr. Mint, standing there. Lolly looked around to find she was back home in her lollipop forest.

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh! I can't believe it! I'm finally back home! Hooray!" Lolly yelled, running in circles around the lollipops. Running to King Kandy (her dad's, candy castle to have some candy and tell him all about her adventures, she realized that she had really liked the worlds she had visited. Maybe Lord Licorice wasn't so bad after all!

Just as she was thinking this, a voice from the woods said, "Face the wrath of Lord Licorice! Never will you see the light of day again!" Lolly

considered her options. She could stay home and lead a long, boring life, or she could go to Lord Licorice and travel the universe. For her, the choice was obvious. So, she stepped into the clearing where Lord Licorice stood, changing the course of her life forever.

THE END

The Punnies

by Lexa

Dear Cheese,

I'm quite fondue you, but our relationship must come to an end. I used to think you were grate, but I can't take it anymore. I just want to scream, Cheese.

Remember the night we met---when we were at that cheesy nerd party a year ago? We were inseparable. You gave me a pizza your heart, and I gave you a pizza mine - or so I thought. It has come to my attention that you cheated on me with that spicy, Pepper Jack girl who told me, "He is nacho cheese." That night, when you asked me if I was okay, I told you I could be cheddar, but you did nothing to cheer me up. Then, last week, I saw you two together, holding each other's hands and laughing at cheesy jokes I used to tell you. Me - as in your now ex-girlfriend. That isn't the worst of it, though. The next day, you said if I wanted to brie your girlfriend, I would have to cheddar a few pounds.

I am a Swiss, loving girlfriend who is holey and believes in Cheez-Its, and you have turned me into blue cheese. You betrayed me and you are an inconsiderate, selfish, cheesy block of cheese that has no right to be in my cheesy life. And to think we were going to have a cottage, Cheese. I guess I was never

gouda enough for you, so I am feta with you.

I'm not sure what I will do without you. You were a shredding hot block of cheese, and I hope you have a grate life, even though you were never the pun for me.

Sincerely,
Your Cheesy Ex-girlfriend

Jokes

by Kaitlyn

Joe: What's a vampire's favorite sport?

Steve: Casketball

Bob: Who turns off the lights on Halloween?

Kate: A light's witch

Stewart: What's a mummy's favorite kind of music?

Kevin: Wrap

Walter: What is the most important subject a witch learns in school?

Jane: Spelling

Tom: What do ghosts use to wash their hair?

Ann: Shamboo

Sam: What does a rooster say on Halloween morning?

Louis: Cockadoodle-Boo

Erin: What do you get when you cross a duck with a vampire?

Jill: Count Quackula

Dan: What is an optimistic vampire's favorite drink?

Alisha: B positive

Dora: Who was the most famous magical detective?

Diego: Warlock Holmes

Bert: Where did the ghost go to get its hair done?

Earnie: The Boo-ty shop

Source: <http://halloweenjokes.com/>

Brain Games

Riddles

by Layla

1. I have no feet to dance, I have no eyes to see, I have no life to live or die, but yet I do all three. What am I?

Fire

2. This place has hardly any lights, but a lot of creaking floors. There are all kinds of strange noises, and some random slamming doors. What am I?

A haunted house.

3. A king has no sons, no daughters, and no queen. For this reason, he must decide who will take the throne after he dies. To do so, he decides that he will give all of the children of the kingdom a single seed. Whichever child has the largest, most beautiful plant will earn the throne. At the end of the contest, all of the children come to the

palace with their stunning, enormous plants in hand. After he looks at all of the children's pots, he finally decides that the little girl with an empty pot will be the next queen. Why did he choose this little girl over all of the other children with their plants when she had none?

The king gave them fake seeds and the little girl was the only one who didn't switch her seeds.

4. Mr. Smith has four daughters. Each of his daughters has a brother. How many children does Mr. Smith have?

5 (because the girls have the same brother).

5. No matter how much it rains, I never get any wetter. What am I?

Water

Did You Know?

News

by Ethan

GENERAL

1. Hurricane Dorian hit Florida. It went from a level five hurricane in the Bahamas down to a three before it hit Florida.
2. There are fires in the Amazon.
3. A woman took in ninety-seven rescue dogs to save them from Hurricane Dorian.
4. The tropical depression/tropical storm Imelda hit Texas.

SPORTS

1. Ben Rothlessburger is out for the season due to an injury.
2. Drew Brees is out until week ten.
3. It is the final week of the regular season for baseball.

4. The pennant race for the World Series is on.
 5. At the end of week three, there are seven teams that are 3-0.
 6. Aaron Jones's status is questionable because of an injury.
 7. Cam Newton is out due to an injury.
-

Fun Facts

by Mariam

1. 80% of the US' canned pumpkin comes from Morton, Illinois.
2. For Halloween in 2018, Americans spent around 2.6 billion dollars on candy and 2.7 billion dollars on decorations.
3. Out of all the months, October has the most presidents born in it, including Chester A. Arthur, John Adams, Jimmy Carter, Dwight David Eisenhower, Rutherford B. Hayes, and Theodore Roosevelt.
4. The Jack-O-Lantern was first carved into turnips instead of pumpkins.
5. People used to dress in costumes to ward off ghosts.



Sources:

- <https://gizmodo.com/80-percent-of-americas-canned-pumpkin-come-s-from-one-il-1644094674>
 - <https://nrf.com/media-center/press-releases/halloween-spending-reach-9-billion>
 - <http://www.indepthinfo.com/articles/presidential-birthdays.shtml>
 - <https://www.parents.com/holiday/halloween/traditions/fun-facts-about-the-history-of-halloween/>
 - <https://www.parents.com/recipes/baby-food/how-to-make-pumpkin-puree/>
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National Days

by Renee

October 1: National Eat Fruit at Work Day
October 2: National Produce Misting Day, National Name Your Car Day, National Coffee With a Cop Day
October 3: National Boyfriend Day
October 4: National Taco Day, National Body Language Day
October 5: National Get Funky Day, National Rhode Island Day, National Do Something Nice Day
October 6: National Mad Hatter Day, National Noodle Day
October 7: National Chocolate-Covered Pretzel Day, National Frappe Day, National LED Light Day
October 8: National Fluffernutter Day
October 9: National Moldy Cheese Day, National Bring Your Teddy Bear to School/Work Day
October 10: National Angel Food Cake Day, National Handbag Day
October 11: National Sausage Pizza Day
October 12: National Vermont Day, National I Love Yarn Day
October 13: National Train Your Brain Day, National Yorkshire Pudding Day
October 14: National Dessert Day, National Be Bald and Be Free Day
October 15: National Cheese Curd Day, National I Love Lucy Day, National Grouch Day
October 16: National Take Your Parents To Lunch Day, National Dictionary Day
October 17: National Pasta Day, National Get to Know Your Customers Day
October 18: National Chocolate Cupcake Day, National No Beard Day
October 19: National Kentucky Day, National Seafood Bisque Day
October 20: National Confidence Day
October 21: National Pumpkin Cheesecake Day, National Reptile Awareness Day, National Clean Your Virtual Desktop Day
October 22: National Make a Dog's Day Day
October 23: National TV Talk Show Host Day, National Boston Cream Pie Day
October 24: National Food Day, National Bologna Day
October 25: National Breadstick Day, National Greasy Food Day, National Frankenstein Day
October 26: National Financial Crime Fighter Day, National Tennessee Day, National Make a Difference Day
October 27: National Black Cat Day
October 28: National Chocolate Day
October 29: National Cat Day, National Oatmeal Day
October 30: National Candy Corn Day

Extra-Curricular Update

by Corinna

The Speech Team started last month and the students are working hard to prepare their skit for the contest in November. Mrs. Woolard and Mrs. Davidshofer coach the 105 students participating in Speech this year. The fifth- through eighth-grade students have practice on Tuesday or Thursday, depending on their grade, and are preparing to perform in front of other participants. They will be judged based on their skit. This month, I interviewed an Anonymous Speech Member and Ethan.

Me: What skit are you doing?

Anonymous Speech Member: A duet, possibly improv.

Me: What year are you in?

Anonymous Speech Member: Fourth year of speech.

Me: What advice would you give to someone joining Speech?

Anonymous Speech Member: Don't push it off until the last minute.

Me: Why did you choose to join Speech?

Anonymous Speech Member: To do a skit.

Me: What is your favorite part of Speech?

Anonymous Speech Member: Performing.

Me: If you could change something about Speech, what would it be?

Anonymous Speech Member: How many things you can do.

Me: What skit are you doing?

Ethan: I'm doing the skit "Totally Sauced".

Me: What year are you in?

Ethan: This is my third year in speech.

Me: What advice would you give to someone joining Speech?

Ethan: It is fun. Just have fun, and don't stress about the contest.

Me: Why did you choose to join Speech?

Ethan: My mom made me do speech because it is a family requirement. I found it fun and continued doing it.

Me: What is your favorite part of Speech?

Ethan: Being able to talk to friends while having fun learning about public speaking.

Me: If you could change something about speech, what would it be?

Ethan: Probably that all grades could do improv not just eighth grade.

How To...

Recipes

by Erica & Addyson

To get us in the Halloween mood, we have two delicious and spooky recipes to start our Halloween season! First, we have fluffy Pumpkin pancakes followed by adorable allergy-free mummy cookies.

Pumpkin Pancakes

Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of buttermilk
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted
- 5 tablespoons canned pumpkin
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup granulated sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon allspice
- A few drops of orange gel food coloring (optional)
- Add chocolate chips or nuts of your choice (optional)

To make the pancakes . . .

- Preheat a skillet over medium heat. Coat the pan with a non-stick spray.
- Combine buttermilk, eggs, pumpkin, salt, sugar, and butter in a large bowl.
- Use a mixer to blend the ingredients.
- Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients and blend together with the mixer until smooth.
- Add a couple of drops of food coloring gel until you get a nice orange. (optional)
- Pour/scoop the batter onto the hot skillet, using $\frac{1}{2}$ cup for each pancake.
- When the batter is done bubbling and edges start to harden, flip the pancakes. They should be golden brown. This will take one to two minutes.
- Flip the pancakes and cook the other side for the same amount of time until golden brown.

Mummy Cookies

Ingredients:

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup semi-sweet chocolate chips and a few additional for eyes (I, personally, used Enjoy Life Mini Chips for this recipe)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon coconut oil or non-hydrogenated shortening
- 12 allergy-friendly crunchy sugar cookies (I used 1 box of Enjoy Life Sugar Crisp Crunchy Cookies, but any sugar cookies should be fine)
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 4 teaspoons unsweetened dairy-free milk beverage (I used coconut milk, but almond milk works similarly)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla extract

How to make the cookies . . .

1. Melt the chocolate chips with the oil or shortening. Then put them in a bowl and whisk until smooth.
2. Take the cookies and drench them in the chocolate chip mixture drip. Put the excess back into the bowl. Let them dry (I put them on a wire rack).
3. Place the cookies in the refrigerator while you make the icing to coat the cookies with.
4. Drizzle vanilla or powdered sugar into a mixing bowl.
5. Add milk to the bowl (teaspoon by teaspoon). The amount you add will vary. You could probably use anywhere from two to four teaspoons. For reference: I use around three and a half teaspoons.
6. Place the mixture icing in something with a narrow opening for decorating the cookies. I went old-fashioned and used a plastic bag with a hole in the corner of the bag for my cookies.
7. Take the cookies from the refrigerator once the chocolate is set. It took mine around half an hour to become ready.
8. Decorate! I used two dots for the eyes and a straight line for the mouth, but feel free to get creative here. Don't forget the mummy bandages to give a Halloween feel!
9. You're done! Store these in a single layer container (or, for travel, place parchment paper in between each layer).
10. Finally, serve and enjoy!

The final product...

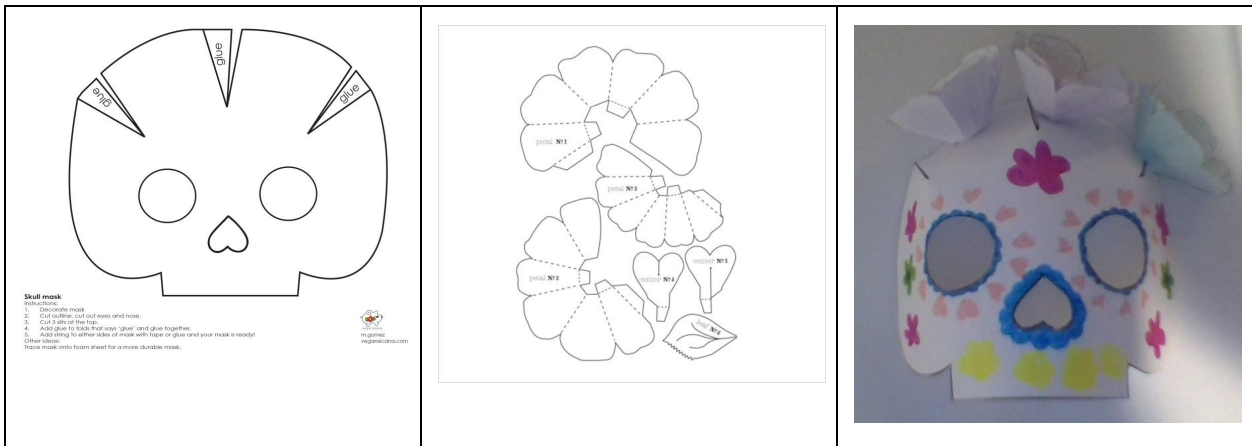


Sources:

- <https://tidymom.net/2012/halloween-pumpkin-pancakes-with-black-cinnamon-syrup/>
- <https://www.godairyfree.org/recipes/mummy-cookies>

Crafty Corner

by Lillian



Instructions:

1. Print out the skull printable pictured above. Cut out and glue together as instructed. To easily cut the eyes and nose out, fold that section and cut a slit.

2. Draw a desired pattern on the mask with markers and/or pencils. If you want, you can use printables, too.
3. Print out the flower printable on colored paper OR color on white paper.
4. Cut out the flowers on the plain line.
5. Use a glue stick to glue the flowers together (number three on two on one).
6. Then, glue the arrangement of flowers onto the mask and tie some strings to hold the mask on your face.

Sources:

- <https://happythought.co.uk/day-of-the-dead/>
 - <http://www.sclance.com/printable/skull-printable/view-page-2.htm>
 - <https://www.template.net/design-templates/print/flower-petal-template/>
-

Life Hacks

by Brianna

Want to go all out for Halloween (but don't want to break the bank)? If so, follow these simple, easy Halloween hacks!

Halloween Lanterns

What you'll need . . .

- One mason jar
- Printer
- Paper
- Orange paint
- Paintbrush
- Glue
- LED candle

First, you will want to find the silhouette image of the character you want to print out. This can be a monster, a ghost, a pumpkin, a bat, or anything else you can come up with. Then, you'll want to print it out and cut around the outside of the

silhouette. Glue the image to the inside of the mason jar, but make sure to use a lot so it will stay. After the glue hardens, you will want to paint the inside of the mason jar orange. Try to avoid the getting paint on the picture, but if you do, that's okay. Now, you can add an LED candle for a finishing touch. You can now display your new lantern around the house!

Tootsie-Pop Ghosts

What you'll need . . .

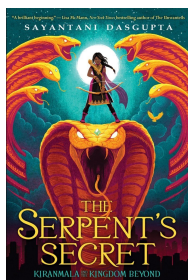
- Tootsie-Pops
- A roll of paper towels
- Thin ribbon
- Sharpie

First, you'll want to cover the Toosie-Pop with the paper towel, and tie it together using the ribbon. Then, draw a face on your ghost using the Sharpie marker. You can draw different faces and expressions onto each of them. These are perfect for passing out to trick or treaters on Halloween!

Student Suggestions:

Book Recommendations

by Annabelle



Book Title: *The Serpent's Secret* by Sayantani DasGupta

Reading Level: 5.2

AR Points: 10

Audience: Middle Grade (MG)

Summary: On her twelfth birthday, a girl named Kiranmala comes home from school to find her parents gone and a giant, stinking demon from Indian mythology trying to kill her. After being saved by two mysterious princes, she is whisked off to the Kingdom Beyond, a giant world that houses all sorts of creatures, people, and monsters from Indian mythology. However, it's not all fun and games in this new land. After only being in the Kingdom Beyond for a few hours, Kiranmala finds herself accidentally unleashing a demon and is thrown into a quest to save her parents (and the whole world) from an evil king.

Review: Personally, I found this book impossible to put down. This is the first book in the series, and it is kind of like Percy Jackson, except with Indian mythology. If you like adventure and magic, this is definitely the book for you. One of the aspects I liked about this book is that every so often, the author will include a small, half-page picture of a character or setting that is extremely helpful in understanding and imagining the book. These proved extremely helpful due to the fact that I was not very sure about most of the mythology and religious references made in the story. Overall, it was an amazing, exciting book with just the right amount of humor. If you're looking for a new book series that'll have you glued to your seat, *The Serpent's Secret* is the book for you!

Movie Recommendations

by Nick

Title: *Goosebumps*

Release Year: 2015

Reviews: 77% Rotten on Rotten Tomatoes

Age Rating: PG

Duration: 1 hour 43 minutes

I saw this movie in theaters around Halloween, and I'd say this is the second cheesiest Halloween movie I've ever seen. Overall, this is a family comedy that's stuffed with corny jokes based around a book series lots of people have read. It has great advertising, but it didn't give me the same experience as reading the books. I would like it better if the story was more like a story in a book than about them (*Monster Blood III* would make an amazing movie). At least it's not *Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation*; the way they animated it made it look like the characters didn't have bones. Besides, at



least it's not a rom-com. The whole practical joke that the ventriloquist doll is their leader was kind of cringy. None of this made any sense to me, and you have to have the background knowledge to really enjoy it. Jack Black does make a good creepy dude, though.

Student Surveys

Poll

by Kaitlyn

Link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6Nkm8wJrZbe08m5q-gL58v00yEs5aul7lNeR2MmxefnNosQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Staff Spotlight

by Ethan

My survey found that the majority of 8th grade chose Mrs. Lowry for the staff spotlight this month. They said she challenges them, pushes them to learn, and lets them show their true potential while still encouraging them at the same time. Congrats!

Thank you for reading! We hope you enjoyed. :)

The next edition will be published on November 1st, 2019, on the [Central Scoop Website](#) under the “The Paper” section.