



Graphic by Alyson Danielson

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Southwestern High School's Student Newspaper

PHONES BANNED

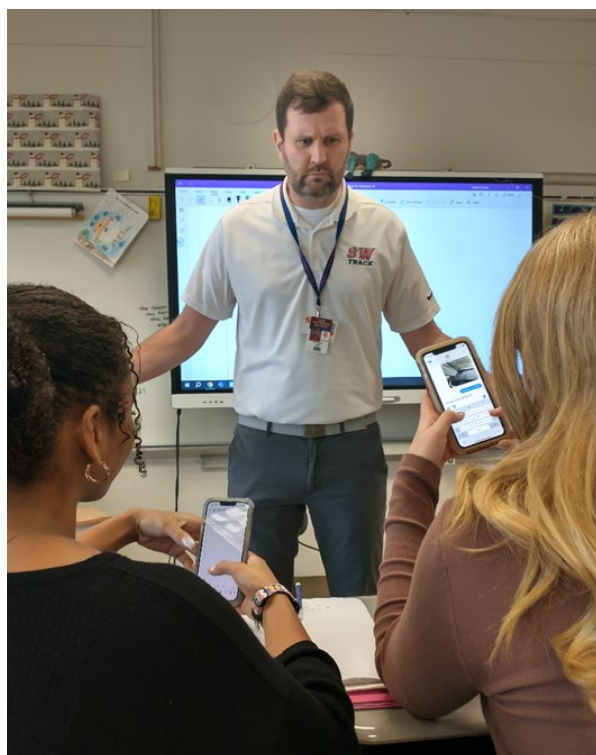
Upperclassmen Want Them Back

By Kenji Walters

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. - Upperclassmen call for their phones back, while the school leaves them on read.

Over the summer, school administrators enacted a new phone policy for the entire campus. High schoolers now must leave their phones by the door as they enter a classroom, in an attempt to decrease distractions and increase interactions with other students and teachers.

See CELL PHONES, page A2



Mr. Frisbee looks disapprovingly at students on their cellphones.
Photo by Kenji Walters

MEET JOAQUIN

Our Beaming Brasileiro

By Jonas Gesing

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. - Say "olá" to our newest exchange student, Joaquin Caparroz!

Joaquin is a senior exchange student from São José do Rio Preto, Brazil.

Joaquin is a member of the

boys' varsity soccer team and enjoys hanging out with friends and snowboarding.

"I came here to improve my English," Joaquin said. "I want to make new friends, meet new cultures, have a new year while here."

See JOAQUIN, page D1



Photo by Mrs. Lefler

Key



Mrs. Kennedy with her Halloween décor.
Photo submitted by Mrs. SaGurney

HALLOWEEN TRENDS

By Kayla Witruke

JAMESTOWN N.Y. - What are you gonna do, boo?

Halloween is nearing and for years, people have had their own take on it. Many intriguing ideas got The Trojan Times to take a deeper look as to what Southwestern's students and staff do to celebrate All Hallow's Eve.

See HALLOWEEN TRENDS, page F2

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NEWS

CELL PHONES

Continued from page A1:



Cell phone pouches found in every classroom.
Photo by Kenji Walters

According to Superintendent Mrs. Donahue, this new phone policy is a result of feedback from parents, students, and staff, with extensive research on the topic. "Increased interaction has been critical" for the students and staff, Mrs. Donahue said.

Upperclassmen take the greatest issue

with this new phone policy, as they have dealt with the greatest change. Senior Lauren Cotter claims her phone was never a distraction.

"Upperclassmen should have their phones, especially in AP classes," Cotter said.

This new policy may be popular for some and unpopular for other, but it is here to stay. Mrs. Donahue simply replied "Yes," when asked if this policy would continue for years to come. She continued, saying the school staff have the same policies for their meetings.

Underclassmen are not as concerned, based on the previous middle school policy of keeping phones in lockers. Freshman Emma Lewis said the policy is fair, but also said phones should be "accommodated to the person's situation."

Teachers across every grade level have supported the policy. Spanish teacher Mrs. Dejoy said both students and teachers are "focusing more on real interactions." She also said upperclassmen should be able to have their phones as a resource.

Mr. Frisbee added that students now "don't have the ability to be distracted."

We See Him Rollin' and We Ain't Hatin'

By Ebaad Meer

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. – Highly decorated Paralympian Trevon Jenifer recently visited the heart of Western New York at Jamestown's Northwest Ice Arena, where he inspired both high school and middle school students alike with his journey from immense adversity to athletic excellence.

While visiting Jamestown, Jenifer was accompanied by his close friend Harsh Thakkar. Thakkar was a victim of a violent crime which led to the permanent paralysis of his legs. Despite the adversity faced by both Jenifer and Thakkar, the minds of students and teachers were captivated by the powerful message of using adversity as a stepping-stone to greatness.

"This man isn't just influencing children, but he's also impacting his peers and others who have experienced paralysis," said Mrs. Cresanti, when asked about the most significant takeaway from Jenifer's speech.

Jenifer has consistently served as a beacon of inspiration for everyone, with many individuals "thriving in their new environment because of Trevon," according to Mrs. Cresanti. Furthermore, Jenifer unintentionally imparts a valuable lesson in gratitude.

"How often do we take for granted our ability to walk, without even considering the simple act of putting one foot in front of the other as we navigate this building?" Mr. Kindberg said.

Additionally, the freshmen at Southwestern have used Jenifer's message as a source of motivation.

"Jenifer's message significantly influences our mindset, especially as many of us are undergoing substantial changes in our attitudes and behaviors," freshman Dorian Weaver said.

Together, the message of Jenifer and Thakkar have not only motivated the student body but have also resonated with the broader world.



Photo from Jenifer's Instagram.

New Bell Schedule



Senior Jose Martinez poses at dismissal time.

Photo by Chase Kartesz

By Chase Kartesz

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. — An updated bell schedule creates 2.2 more days of school? Well, not exactly.

Southwestern's high school and middle school have been on contrasting schedules for years, and it seems to have come to an end now with an updated bell schedule this school year. Administration implemented this change at the start of the 2023-2024 school year with the hopes of unifying the schools, while

maintaining structure and organization.

The change has made the bell ring at times of multiples of five, with five minutes between classes instead of the previous four. School also starts at 7:45 a.m. instead of 7:48 and ends at 2:40 p.m. instead of 2:38.

The high school principal, Mr. Cooper, was a big advocate of the new schedule. He said that the updated bell schedule would "align the middle school with the high school," allowing for faculty to collaborate with each other and to be able to share faculty between the schools.

Senior José Martinez explained that it was hard to get used to leaving school at 2:40 p.m. instead of 2:38 and "was going to walk out two minutes early" on the first day of school, just to get corrected by a staff member. Martinez stated that he has a torn ligament in his foot and wears a boot cast. This makes it hard for him to navigate through groups of middle schoolers, since they end the day at the same time as the high school.

However, many others appreciate the new schedule.

"Since the bells always end in a five or zero, the schedule is easier to follow now," said Mr. Frisbee. "We have a very workable bell schedule right now."

The updated schedule creates a school day that is five minutes longer, adding roughly 2.2 days to the school year; nevertheless, it seems to be working.

Construction Leads to Parking Pass Enforcement

By, Matthew Lefler

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. — The student parking application says, "students parked illegally will be issued a ticket by local law enforcement," but is that really the case?

The Parking pass has "always" been here according to Mr. Cooper, but with construction closing off part of the high school gym parking lot, having a parking pass may be the difference whether a student is able to park. "There have been no problems said for," said Mr. Cooper.

Mrs. Siglar and seniors Neves Hoose and Landen Cramer all agree.

Cramer, while having a new pass, has yet to display it, in favor of an older one. Hoose doesn't even have one in the first place, and neither has gotten in trouble.

"We wouldn't ticket anyone until we've talked to them multiple times," said Mr. Cooper.

Though the issue may still arise, Mr. Cooper says that as Christmas approaches, more juniors and seniors will be getting licenses and parking. This will decrease the amount of space and possibly using up more space than there is available.

One idea proposed by Mrs. Siglar is "to start with the seniors, give them a parking spot, and then if they have open spots left, open it up to the juniors. Then do the lottery system for the juniors."

The parking lot is smaller due to construction to renovate the high school cafeteria during the summer of 2024.

While the parking pass has been brought into the spotlight, the parking pass seems to be of no concern for the time being.



High school parking lot.
Photo by Matt Lefler

FINANCIAL COLUMN**with Southern Chautauqua FCU****It's Giving Season!**

By Sophia Segrue

John D. Rockefeller Jr. once said, "Think of giving not as a duty, but as a privilege."

The fall season is the perfect time to give back to the community. Whether the giving consists of volunteering, donations or even fundraising, it all counts. Make sure you consider the source of who you are donating to, because there can be frauds out there. Stop by our school-based branch and talk to Mrs. Parker about how you can give back to the community.

There are so many ways you can give and help others. Volunteering your time, giving blood when you're able to, or even checking on neighbors and family members who live alone or have health issues can make a huge impact on someone's life. Something so small can lead to a very beneficial change.

One may ask: what does the Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union (SCFCU) give to the community? Our local federal credit union provides financial literacy to our area, which many Americans struggle with. Another way SCFCU gives to the community is frequently sponsoring events in our community to help raise money for organizations.

Be like the credit union and start your giving journey today!



A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Canadian Orange Day

By Mackenzie Beachner

CANADA – Canadian Orange Day was started in Canada because a First Nation young child, Phyllis Webstad, was a victim of the Indian Act that was passed in 1920. Under this act, it was mandatory for every Indigenous child to attend a residential school. This was a school with the goal to kill all Indigenous culture and wash it out.

These children were forcefully removed from their families and were forced to cut their hair, abandon traditional clothing, and to give up any of their beliefs and even their names.

They were abused and sometimes killed if they used anything that had to deal with their culture, such as talking in their native language and practicing their beliefs.

On Friday, Sept. 29, Southwestern high school students wore orange shirts in memory of Webstad and to honor native citizens.

The reason for people to wear an orange shirt was because Webstad was excited for school, and her grandmother had gotten her a new outfit. Part of it was an orange T-shirt. However, this was taken from her when she arrived at the residential school. Every time she saw orange, she would think about that school.

"I was really proud of the kids who participated, because they recognized how important this day is," said Madame Mazzone, who helped organize this event.

So remember: a memorial and a way to honor the lost First Nation members on Sept. 29 is to wear an orange shirt. Stand together and be proud.



Phyllis Webstad when she was of school age. Promotional photo from Orange Shirt Society

Senior Season

By Faith Hamilton

JAMESTOWN, N.Y.—The seeds of activities are being scattered throughout the school season and the seniors can't wait to make their final year fun and memorable. The final memories of the class of 2024 have slowly begun to sprout.

The seniors have been up to activities like senior sunrise and jean decorating. Despite the senior class worrying about waking up before the sun, the turnout for senior sunrise was fantastic.

Food was provided by class advisors and parents. Many treats such as muffins, donuts, and coffee were enjoyed.

"It was nice how the entire grade got to hangout," senior Brady Leach said. "The sunrise was very beautiful." He also expressed that he's excited for end of the year senior activities such as graduation preparation and other fun ideas. Ideas of a senior snowball fight and senior slip 'n slide have been brewing, and the seniors don't intend to let them die. There's no doubt the final months of this class's high school career will make a mark.

Class advisor Mr. Burkholder reminisced on the best parts of advising the class, such as setting up for prom and getting to watch the class come together. Burkholder expressed that the senior class is a core group of kids who lead the school. "They definitely bring a lot of energy to the school," he said. "Their presence is going to be a hard one to replace."

Junior Bella Sirianni stated that the senior activities "leave everyone with a good view of high school and allow everyone to enjoy their final year." Bella also mentioned how many of the senior activities will leave inspiration for upcoming classes when it comes to planning a fun filled senior year.

The senior activities have just begun, and we can't wait to see what the rest of the year entails.



Senior sunrise.



Senior Brady Leach enjoying the sunrise.

Taylor Swift: Life Lately

By Abbey Galati

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. — Taylor Swift's music never goes out of style. Swifties are waiting restlessly to get their hands on Swift's re-recorded album, "1989 (Taylor's Version)," releasing on Friday, Oct. 27, 2023, exactly nine years after the original release date. Along with that, "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" movie recently became available in theaters Friday, Oct. 13, 2023.

New romantics are overwhelming the media with Miss Americana now dating the boy on the football team. Kansas City Chiefs' star tight end, Travis Kelce, has figured out how you get the girl.

Even Swifties who are not Chiefs fans, such as fourth-grade teacher Ms. Becker, are invested in the love story among us. Call it what you want, but all Swifties can agree: no matter if the couple is end game, "the next album is going to be fire."

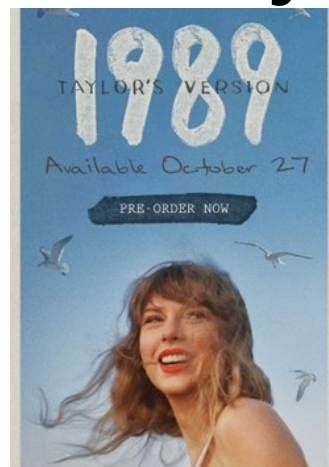
This is simply another example of Swift's influence as fans are obsessed with everything she does. Ms. Becker said, "I love how Taylor Swift eating a chicken tender at a football game has become the biggest part of my weekend."

Fans are pumped about Swift's movie, as many feel it has made the concerts more accessible for those unable to attend in-person. The movie has been added to a list of films on Swift including Netflix documentary "Miss Americana" and Netflix film "Taylor Swift Reputation Stadium Tour."

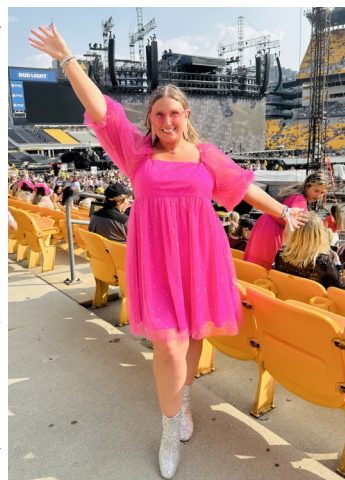
The media has been infiltrated by Swift and her fan base as she has been producing her re-recorded albums to have ownership of her own music. Her reputation is purely timeless.

By pursuing this mission to own her music, Swift has made her music new again, expanding her audience to include a new generation. Loyal Swifties from the past have been able to listen to their favorites all over again. Swift has provided her fans, such as senior and hardcore Swiftie Declan Kennedy, with the ability to "let loose" when singing in the car. It hits different.

Look out for Swift's next album release as the mastermind drops clues. Will it be Reputation? Debut? Are you ... Ready for it?



"1989 (Taylor's Version)" album cover.



Ms. Becker's Eras Tour outfit.

HOMECOMING

Cookin' Up School Spirit

By Heidi Swan-Leuze

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. — You may have spotted Snookie in the halls or smelled the sizzling scent of burgers the week leading up to Homecoming. No need to be alarmed. Tis the season for Trojan spirit week, where everyone is reminded they're "Kenough."

Spirit week encourages students to express school spirit in preparation for upcoming events. During the week of Oct. 2 through Oct. 6, Southwestern high school students displayed their school spirit leading up to the Homecoming weekend.

Friends, teachers, administrators and more lined the halls, spreading school spirit. Each participant was uplifting the excitement for Homecoming, increasing communication amongst students and igniting the fun train, according to student council advisor Mrs. Seiberg.

From the youngest freshman to the oldest senior, spirit week means something different to everyone. For senior Rachel LeRoy, this was her last-ever Homecoming spirit week. Being able to participate in guaranteed fun events with acquaintances will be the hardest to leave behind, come her graduation.

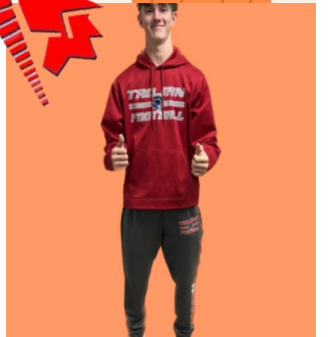
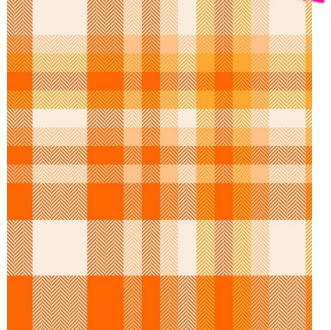
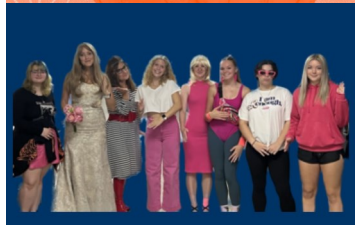
Freshman Makenna Johnson shares her alternate perspective. She is extremely excited to participate in her very first high school spirit week. As a middle schooler, she had always heard people rave about the abundance of Trojan Pride spreading throughout the high school. As a freshman, she finally gets to see what all the excitement was about.

"It is fun to see everyone participating together," Johnson said.

No matter the grade, spirit week is not something that should be taken for granted. Spirit week is a time for every student to express their creativity and associate with new people.

Whether it be wearing pajamas or dressing like a soccer mom, students have the opportunity to grow closer together, make new friends, and boost overall Trojan Pride.

Photos By Heidi Swan-Leuze



Homecoming Court: King and Queen Crowned

By Alexis Grijalva

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. – Spirited, involved, kind, and respectful; all qualities Homecoming court nominees should possess.

Wednesday, Oct. 4 we the students voted on our Homecoming court nominees. The senior class voted Abbey Galati and Sam Kautzman, Declan Kennedy and Faith Hamilton, and Avery Caselman and Jameson Walsh. The juniors nominated Ellie Pearson and Chase Hartnett. The sophomores chose Lucy Brown and Alex Watkins. The freshmen voted Margaret Carlson and Oliver Stump. At the Homecoming game, Galati and Kautzman were officially crowned the senior class king and queen.

After interviewing students and Student Council supervisor Mrs. Seiberg, the general consensus is that Homecoming court nominees should be spirited individuals who are involved in extracurriculars and represent what it means to be Trojan proud.

“Homecoming court nominees should possess school spirit; be positive inside and out; someone that goes to the games and gets the student section hyped,” Mrs. Seiberg said. “People look up to them.”

Junior Connor Young added he thinks it should be people with clean social media accounts and people that reflect good qualities of Southwestern. Senior Joslyn Brown believes that Homecoming court nominees should be kind and leaders of our grade.

“[Candidates] should be active in our school community and nice people to be around,” Brown said.

For example, this year’s queen, Galati, is a leader of National Honors Society (NHS) and captain of the soccer team, and the king, Kautzman, is also a leader of NHS and is a captain of the cross-country team.



The Southwestern 2023 Homecoming king and queen.
Photo by Alexis Grijalva

Before the vote occurred, Mrs. Seiberg said she had no idea who the Homecoming king and queen would be, but she hoped for two spirited and positive individuals: “When you all look back 10 years from now, 20 years from now, you’ll be proud that those are the people that were recognized as your Homecoming king and queen.”

SENIORS SHOCKED Sophomores Win Fence Contest

By Declan Kennedy

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. – Medieval madness, fiery fun, musical magic, and creative competition.

On Oct. 7, the sophomores were announced as the annual fence contest winners. A successful night for the Trojans, on and off the field, saw a mix of flaming sports and Trojan jams as kids ran around winning candy and having fun at the fences.

Now winning the competition is no easy task: Judge Anderson said in order to win the competition, the winners needed a “clever saying, artistic talent” and “got to show effort.” These were features the senior class knew all too well after taking home the crown last year.

When asking key member of the senior class Reece Beaver her goals and aspirations for this year’s competition, she wanted to “hold that title” of fence champs and “stick to what we know.” Beaver is very aware of the competitive nature of the event but has never been one to shy away from it.

The newcoming freshmen would experience a disadvantage from the start simply because they were freshmen. That fact did not discourage freshmen member Marlana Cresanti, however, who said, “We have a good group of class officers.” She believed they had as good a chance as anyone else.

In the end, though, the sophomores found a method to the madness: and a successful one at that. Between their battle-ready drawings and intriguing games, they won over the judges and claimed a hard-earned victory.

Will this head start propel them to victory in battle?



The top two winning fences. Photos by Kenzie Anderson

SPORTS

NEVES HOOSE

Dual Sport Athlete

By Sophia Segreue

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. - The king of the fall does it all! Transitioning focus between honors courses, clubs, and athletics does not seem to be a challenge for one of Southwestern's finest. From starting center back on the soccer field, to the football team's number one kicker: what can't he do?

Neves Hoose is an honors student at Southwestern who manages to be a dual sport athlete in the fall. Hoose is a key component to both sports teams, while also managing to keep his grades intact. Hoose goes from one practice to the next daily.

"Neves usually comes right from soccer practice to football," said Mr. Burkholder, Hoose's football coach. "He is always ready to work. He never looks drained."

One may wonder how Hoose keeps up with soccer and football, as well as being a student scholar. According to Hoose, his practices are usually at different times during the day, so there is no need to panic for him.

"There have only been one or two games where football and soccer interfered," Hoose said. "My schoolwork will always come before my athletics, but I feel like I manage my time well to complete my work and study for tests."

It seems to the captain of the soccer team, Connor Young, that Hoose does well balancing soccer and football at the same time. Young oversees a lot of the practices and has been playing soccer with Neves since he was young.

"Neves makes sure he is always at our team dinners," Young said. "I'd say he keeps the connections strong with the soccer team and never seems distant."

From all the activities Neves is involved in, one may wonder: what motivates him the most?

"I am highly competitive," Hoose said. "My main goal in sports is to do better than my siblings did when they were in high school."

Due to Hoose's competitive edge to surpass his siblings, he strives to do the best he can while playing high school sports.



Hoose on the soccer and football fields. Submitted photos.

FALL

SPORTS

PHOTOS

See B2 for team records & more photos



FALL SPORTS

Current Standings

Varsity Football

League: 4-1

Overall: 5-2



Boys Varsity Soccer

League: 10-0-0

Overall: 14-1-0



Girls Varsity Soccer

League: 10-2

Overall: 12-3-1



Boys Varsity XC

League: 13-2

Girls Varsity XC

League: 5-0

Overall: 10-3



Girls Varsity Volleyball

Overall: 9-4



Girls Varsity Swim

League: 10-0

Overall: 10-1

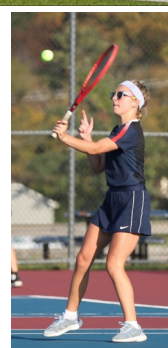
Headed to CCAA
Championships!



Girls Varsity Tennis

League: 4-2

Overall: 8-4



Photos submitted by Shelly Phillips

PERSONAL PROFILES

JOAQUIN

Continued from page A1

However, being an exchange student isn't without challenges.

"I have no friends, no family, I have no one. I'm building a new life," Joaquin said.

Luckily for Joaquin, he's starting off with an experienced host family. The Yaggies have been a Rotary host family since 2007 and had 13 exchange students, including Joaquin.

Joaquin has been able to teach lots of Brazilian culture to his first host family. "He's taught us to try salami with lemon juice," Mrs. Yaggie said, Joaquin's current host mom.

Joaquin hasn't only been educating his host family, he's educating his friends too. "He's taught a lot about life and culture in Brazil," said senior Neves Hoose, a friend and teammate of Joaquin.

And Joaquin isn't only teaching, but learning, too. His teammates on the soccer team have been teaching him about life in America.

"We introduced him to American culture and what it's like to be a student athlete," Hoose said.

Joaquin has fit in perfectly with the soccer team, at team bondings and supporting other Trojan teams. And although it's early in his time here, Joaquin and the soccer team may have created their favorite memory. Both Hoose and Joaquin agreed that riding home with other teammates and blasting Brazilian funk has been a major highlight so far.

So, if you want to find out more about Brazilian funk, feel free to ask Joaquin. He'll gladly talk



Joaquin playing soccer.
Photo submitted by Mrs. Lefler

Meet the New SWCS Staff!

Story and photos by Philipp Meyer

JAMESTOWN, N.Y.- Have you met the four new teachers in the high school?

This year at Southwestern, we have a plethora of new and returning teachers throughout the school. The new gym teacher, Jenna Clauson, is taking over the position that Mrs. Beck previously held; Mrs. Eimiller is returning as a teacher in the English department; Mrs. Liddell is the new living environment teacher; and Mrs. Jayet is planned to be the alternative learning program teacher.

Jenna Clauson

Ms. Clauson has moved from being a middle school gym teacher to our new high school gym teacher. She moved to the high school to start coaching varsity sports and get more involved with the teams. She did her student teaching at Southwestern and wanted to return once she was done. "This school values sports so much," Ms. Clauson said. She has also taught high school gym at Chautauqua Lake and says she enjoys teaching at the high school level.



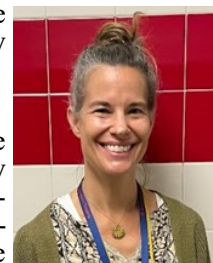
Junie Eimiller

Mrs. Eimiller started her student teaching here in the English department 25 years ago. Before she was a teacher, Mrs. Eimiller got her English degree and worked at an insurance company but went back to college and got her teaching certificate. "I love English and I like kids," Mrs. Eimiller said. She took a leave of absence for two years and has now returned to the English department. Mrs. Eimiller said that she just loves the kids and "the energy that they bring."



Anastacia Jayet

Mrs. Jayet is expected to become the alternative learning program teacher. She has previously been an excellent and helpful aide here at Southwestern. She worked as Mr. Muirhead's teacher's assistant and assisted in his classroom. She has helped and connected with many students here at Southwestern and become many people's favorite teacher.



Kaitlyn Liddell

Mrs. Liddell is the new living environment teacher, taking over the position that Mrs. Cares previously held. She became a teacher because, as a child, she had many great teachers and wanted to do the same for other children. Before working at Southwestern, she worked at West Seneca East, which is a much larger school near Buffalo. When asked about her favorite aspect of Southwestern she responded, "I like the community."



Stop and say hello to all the new high school teachers!

Joaquin's favs



Favorite color: Black

Favorite food: Rigatoni

Hometown: São José do Rio Preto

Sport: futebol (or soccer)

FOOD & DINING

Best School Lunch?

By Brayden Haaksma

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. - A portion of people often believe the sentiment that school lunches are low-quality. At Southwestern, some students may share this sentiment, yet have failed to try any of the cafeteria lunches in quite some time or even at all.

In a survey conducted from 35 randomly selected students at Southwestern, who have tried school lunches recently, there became an extremely apparent trend of which lunches were favored and which ones were not.

Because of the simplistic nature of it and common availability, pizza was voted the favorite school lunch. However, chicken patty did manage to only be one vote shy of pizza, and considering chicken patty is only available once or twice a month, this is astoundingly high.

Havanna nachos was the other lunch that was high in the rankings, which came in third place. After that, however, there was practically no consensus, and the favorite lunches were scattered.

No lunches were disliked in the survey except for fish sticks, and sweet and sour meatballs over rice. However, there were multiple critiques saying that the macaroni and cheese would just be better without the breadcrumbs. Some students wanted to bring back certain lunches, such as Isaac Pope, who said we should “bring back French Toast Sticks.”

If you have any thoughts such as these on ways the school lunches could be improved, Sandy Paden, the school's food service director, said “I love comments from kids.” That way she can work with the school to improve the lunches.

Not all school lunches are perfect, but there are many beloved ones. And the school is always trying to improve: so give a suggestion if you have any good ideas!

Fall Drinks Are Back



Sophie Kreinheder and Jaidyn Newhouse enjoying their fall drinks!

By Madelyn Wakeley

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. - Let's take a sip of fall! Add a little pumpkin spice to your drinks this season and enjoy Starbucks fall menu.

With a variety of yummy drinks to choose from, some Southwestern students were interviewed in order to get their opinions on these seasonal favorites.

Senior Jaidyn Newhouse can be found at Starbucks almost every day before school. You may see her walking the halls with her favorite fall drink, iced chai with pumpkin cream cold foam.

“The sweet, creamy, pumpkin flavors are the best way to start my mornings,” Newhouse said.

As a special treat, you may find another student, senior Trey Faulk, enjoying an iced pumpkin spice latte. When asked about the fall beverages, he states,

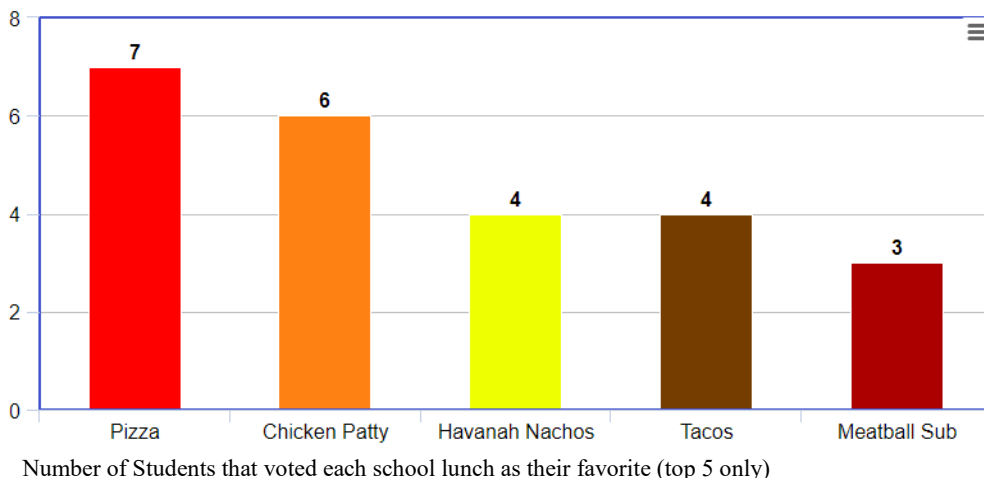
“I love them,” Faulk said. “I enjoy the spice.”

Although these drinks can get a bit pricey, Faulk believes that they are definitely worth the money.

The majority of students at Southwestern seem to be in favor of the fall menu, but some are not. Senior Lexi Wilder loves a good Starbucks drink. Yet, the seasonal beverages are not at the top of her list. The fall flavors will not be added to her drinks. Instead, she prefers to stick with her usual order of iced coffee.

As an insider, a local Starbucks employee was interviewed. She said, “I love the fall menu, and so do the customers.” Being able to taste all the new flavors is always her personal favorite. From an employee perspective, she believes that the fall beverages add a little excitement to the regular hustle and bustle of everyday.

Allow the aesthetic of the fall season overwhelm you as you drink from Starbucks' limited time menu!



SEASONAL

MINI MONSTERS

SWCS Shares Halloween Costumes

Story and photos by Joslyn Brown

JAMESTOWN, N.Y.- From college students to kindergartners, spooky season has everyone smiling this year. One question continues to linger in the air: "What are you going to be for Halloween?"

Halloween falls on Tuesday, Oct. 31 this year, so Halloween spirit will be all around Southwestern. The Trojan Times hit the halls to discover the hottest costumes throughout the district.

Living-dead costumes were among the most popular choices in the elementary school, with third graders Becca Carter and Riley Landy each being their own variation.

The kindergarten class was also filled with wonderful costumes. Vivianne Babcock and Emma Miranda told the Trojan Times how they both planned to be princesses, specifically Elsa and Rapunzel. Other haunting Halloween costumes from the elementary include Ethan Beichner, who plans to dress as a tarantula; Landen Kelly-Walker dressing as Optimus Prime, and Avery Emerling going as "Ghost Face."

The costume craziness doesn't stop there, as our paper ventured into the high school to hear the latest Halloween trends. Ms. Beichner-Miller adds, "I go all out," as she spoke about her three costumes, some of which include Disney Villains and crazy circus performers.



Sophomore Myles More is ready for Halloween at Southwestern

Halloween isn't complete without candy, and the Trojan Times also set out to find Southwestern's favorites. Sophomore Myles Moore said, "It's got to be Sweet Tarts. Sweet Tarts are so good."

Halloween 2023 will go down in the books, with many costumes going above and beyond — and Southwestern is bound to make the cover.



Ms. Beichner-Miller has three Halloween costumes planned



Left to Right: Ethan Beichner, Emma Miranda, Becca Carter, Landen Kelly-Walker

Not Pictured: Vivienne Babcock, Riley Landy, Avery Emerling

GHOSTS AND GHOULS
A History of Halloween

By Sam Kautzman

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. - Ghosts and ghouls will soon be upon us... but where did they come from?

Everyone loves trick-or-treating, but where did these traditions originate? Haven't you ever wondered why we hand out candy and dress up in our spooky attire? The Trojan Times delved into the haunting history of Halloween to find these answers.

The holiday was started in ancient times by the Celts (those of Celtic culture from Indo-European locations), who were commemorating the end of summer and the beginning of harvest. The celebration was called Samhain.

During Samhain, the Celts dressed in costumes in hopes of blending in and avoiding the dead spirits believed to be roaming the earth.

In the year 835, Pope Gregory III designated Nov. 1 as All Saint's Day. The night before, Oct. 31, was called All Hallow's Eve, which later became known as Halloween.



Stock Image

Many of today's traditions find their roots in the ancient Samhain festival. Jack-o-lanterns were originally made of turnips and were carved into scary faces in order to ward off evil spirits.

Evil spirits also prompted the costumes that are widely known and loved. According to the Library of Congress, "the Celts donned disguises so that they would not be mistaken for spirits themselves and be left alone."

There are many theories to explain the tradition of trick-or-treating. One of these is that kids would wear costumes, and if the adults participating couldn't guess their identity, the kids would win some candy or treats. This sparked the popular handing out of candy that so many children look forward to in the fall.

These many traditions may spark nostalgia for some as they remember the excitement of wearing costumes and traveling around collecting bags of candy to later sort out and trade. Senior Lukas Svenson referenced this fun, saying, "My favorite memory would be going Trick-or-Treating with my brother, and at the end we would exchange candies and pick out our favorites."

This spooky fall season is approaching rapidly, so as the skeletons and ghosts arrive, keep in mind the history behind this ancient holiday.

Halloween Trends

Continued From A1

One Halloween tradition within our community is the Kennedy's haunted house, where the family decorates their home inside and out with Halloween décor.

"I was a little bit overwhelmed with the thought, but we embraced it because it's such a huge tradition," Mrs. Kennedy said. She is occasionally a part of the house herself, but it mainly consists of her kids and their friends being the "scarers."

Every year, the Kennedy family thinks of new additions for their haunted house. Mrs. Kennedy states: "When it comes to the inside, I have to switch it up cause I don't want it to be the same... I think about doing different paths."

After everything is thought through, they begin decorating roughly around Oct 1. Overall, the amount of thought and detail that goes into this house is spooktacular.

But what is Halloween without dressing up? This year we asked some students what they thought the most common costume would be. Freshman Rachael Cramer-Belic had no hesitation when she replied with "Barbie." Belic listed "trick-or-treating, getting candy, going out with my friends, and dressing up" as her favorite activities and commented on how they were her favorite as a child.

There are many creative activities to do during the holiday season. Junior Meredith Kimball's favorite part of Halloween is when she is creating and designing her own costumes and props. Kimball comments how "putting everything together at the end is just so rewarding."

There is an endless amount of things you can do to get into the Halloween spirit. So, go have fun! The Trojan Times hopes your Halloween is a total scream.



The Kennedys haunted house shining bright at night!
Photo submitted by Mrs. Kennedy

Sponsored by the Trojan Times: SPOOKY SHORT STORY CONTEST WINNER!



Donshay Denson

Name: Donshay Denson

Grade: 10

Story: "Creepy Eating Contest"

Q: What is your favorite part of spooky season?

Donshay: Probably the dressing up. This year, I'm thinking about going as a historical figure. My favorite costumes I've done so far have been a steam-punk scientist and a plague doctor.

Q: What was the inspiration behind your story?

Donshay: I've never done any writing contest before! I just thought, why not? ... The inspiration was "The Simpsons." There's an episode where Homer enters an eating contest, and it got me thinking about this story.

WHAT JUDGES LIKED:

"Includes classic horror mythology."

"I love the irony."

"Such an interesting premise!"

Read the winning story on F3!

The Creepy Eating Contest

By Donshay Denson



Once, in the year 1932, there was a man named Ty Hughes. He was always in eating contests, and he always won.

One day, Ty couldn't find any more competitions to enter. Nobody wanted to face him because he would always win, and recently, competitors in the competitions had mysteriously been killed shortly after the competitions were over. Nobody could figure out how or why, just that the bodies had one thing in common: each body's eyes had turned completely black.

One day, Ty found a flier for an eating contest in a creepy town. The town had a pier, and the town was extremely foggy. Ty has been there for a day before the competition and noticed that the buildings were run down and that the town's people acted weirdly. But the strangest thing was that there were barnacles all over the town, even the furthest buildings from the pier.

Ty tried not to think about it too much and headed back to his hotel room to prepare

for the competition. The next day, he noticed the town was still foggy; not even the sun pierced through the fog. It was time for the competition. The whole town was gathered, but Ty realized that he was the only one in the competition.

Suddenly, Ty felt rumbling from underneath the pier. He looked out into the water and saw what could only be explained as a big, green, humanoid creature, with an octopus for a head. Ty realized that the monster in the water was the Eldritch being named Cthulhu.

Just then, Cthulhu spoke to him.

"You were not here for an eating contest," Cthulhu roared. "Those competitors that have been dying? I have been feasting on their souls. And you are next."

And the mouth of Cthulhu was the last thing Ty Hughes ever saw.

