

VOICE OF THE HIGHLANDER

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The student newspaper of Robert T. Hill Middle School in Dallas, TX.

Hill STEM Robotics team wins



The 8th grade STEM Robotics boys won 2nd place for teamwork, and 1st place for design. 8th grade STEM Robotics girls won the Top all Around Excellence Award. Both teams have now qualified for the state championship. Congratulations!

What is Halloween?

By Ian Marchand



Halloween is a holiday celebrated by most people in the United States. It falls on Thursday, October 31st.

To many Halloween involves dressing up as something and going out to get candy which is called trick or treating.

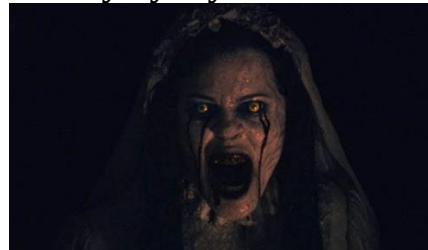
“I think it is not very good,” said 8th grader Kaylon Edwards, “The free candy is good and all, but you do not get multiple days off.”

“I don’t like that people ask me the next day for candy,” added Edwards, “It’s kind of annoying.”

If you do decide to dress up we have some ideas later on in this edition of the newspaper, plus we will tell you some great neighborhoods to trick or treat in too!

The Story of La Llorona

By Ty’Liyah Smith



The story of La Llorona is about a woman who drowned her kids and then drowned herself because her husband left her. Since then the story of her spread all over the US and Mexico. No one knows if the story is true or false, but people claim they have seen her lurking near rivers and lakes.

Many people say that they have never seen La Llorona.

"I've seen her," says 7th grader Azalea Gonzales.

"I've never seen her, but I've seen the movie," said 8th grader Andrew Sivess.

Many people claim that they have seen La Llorona, many say she's not real. The only way to find out is for yourself. Will you ever go looking for the ghost of La Llorona?

Ben Russell visits Hill



By Cody Fulenwider

You have probably seen a guy on the news that looks like the picture above, that's probably because he is our local news reporter for NBC 5 News. Russell recently visited the journalism students at Hill Middle School.

Ben Russell was born in the small town of Springfield, Massachusetts. Ben went from a boy in the middle of nowhere to a very successful and well-known reporter in the state.

We asked Ben what his most memorable stories were, and he said, "The Sago Mine incident, thirteen people were trapped in a West Virginian coal mine. There was a terrible miscommunication. The initial word to the public was that everybody was alive, but the truth was

that twelve people died and one was still alive."

He added, "That story taught me a lot, but my biggest professional takeaways is that now, I always ask," how do you know this. Being a reporter not only informs the public, but also allows him to know a lot about a lot of different things."

We asked Ben what his favorite part about his job as a reporter is and he quotes, "My favorite part about being a reporter is telling stories, I enjoy the little challenges that every story brings."

Challenging or not, one things for sure, Ben does a great job at his career. It is truly impressive to watch him do a report about something going on in our lives today and see how well he covers it.

A fair day to remember

By Julissa Gomez



As if every year there is the State Fair of Texas, a lot of people go each year. Everyone that goes enjoys going, but do they really enjoy it? We interviewed 7th grader Emily Garcia to see how her experience was this year.

"This year fair was fun," said Garcia. She went with her parents and her siblings, she mostly enjoyed the two rides she got on and the food.

“I would totally recommend somebody to go going,” said Garcia.

As a conclusion Emily enjoyed her day at the fair, she would love to go again. The state Fair of Texas made Emily have an amazing day.

Halloween Candy Top 10

By Katie Dotson



Hershey's (Most picked)

Ten people picked Hershey's chocolate as their favorite candy! Most of them picked milk chocolate but some picked dark or white. Most people liked it because of the way it tastes. You can buy it at almost any store.

Kit-Kat (Second most picked)

Eight people picked Kit-Kat as their favorite candy. Most people like it

because of the crunch. You can buy it at Walmart.

Sour Patch Kids & Reese's (Tied for third most picked)

Six people picked each of these candies. Most people picked Reese's because of the peanut butter and Sour Patch because they like sour gummies. You can buy them at 7-11.

Skittles & Jolly Ranchers (Tied for fourth most picked)

Five people picked each candy. People like the chew of Skittles and the hardness of Jolly Ranchers. You can buy at Walmart.

Gummy Bears & Lolly-Pops & M&M's (Tied for fourth most picked)

Three people picked each candy. They like the candy because of the taste and texture. You can buy them at Walmart.

Mexican Candy (fifth most liked)

Two people picked this candy as their favorite. They like it because of their culture and the taste. You can get them at any store.

Costume trends for Halloween

By Hillary Martinez



It's that time of the year to start thinking of costumes because Halloween is right around the corner. What are some Halloween trends?

8th grader Corlynda Malvern shared with us some of her costume ideas for this year.

"I'm going to be an M&M," said Malvern.

We also asked her what are some of the best Halloween costumes? She said, "Toy Story are some of the best Halloween costumes."

She also asked her if she has other ideas for other people. "Maybe try a group Costume," she said.

Malvern is not set on being a piece of candy and might dress up from a character from the movie Mean Girls.

Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Smajlovic

By Corlynda Malvern

We wanted to find out why Mr. Smajlovic, an 8th grade social studies teacher at Hill, wanted to start student council.

"The students needed a voice in the school," said Smajlovic.

The members of student council include Corlynda, Gaby, Makayla, Isabell, Rozalyn, and Pilar.

Smajlovic says he enjoys sponsoring student council.

"The changes and impacts the kids can make," he said, "Some of the changes we have seen is in the dress code."

Smajlovic says the student council members are very strong.

Fright Fest

By Emely Rodriguez



It's around Halloween which to much it means trick or treating, haunted houses, or going to Fright Fest at Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington. A lot of people enjoy and look forward to going to Fright Fest. We wanted to know what people think about Fright Fest.

8th grader Jamie Gaeta said, "I like going to Fright Fest with friends or family." Everyone experiences are different, but Gaeta was not scary. "It's not scary in my opinion," he said. "I

found it funny sometimes.”

You still have time to go if you want to go to Fright Fest. It's fun, everything from workers to decoration is made to be frightening. We encourage you to go the entrance is \$29.99 plus tax or visiting one house costs \$14.99.

Hill science teacher loves traveling

By Moo Paw

Mr. Odum is a 7th grade science teacher. He also teaches pre-college preparation. Mr. Odum has been teaching at Hill for three years.

“This is year three,” said Odum, “First year was 8th grade, second and third is 7th grade.”

When Mr. Odum is not in school he likes to travel. “I like travel,” he said, “Currently I travel every month.” He will be going to China in November.

We are excited to learn more about Mr. Odum and if you want to go say hi you can find him in room 220.

Coulrophobia

By Jaime Batista



Coulrophobia, also known as the fear of clowns, affects 12% of adults in the U.S as of today. The symptoms of Coulrophobia can cause sweating, nausea, fast heart rate,

crying and screaming. This usually only applies to “evil clowns.” especially the clowns roaming on the street trend around 2016.

We could not find anyone who feared clowns specifically, but phobias in general is for sure a thing kids have.

Expect clowns to be here this Halloween and all the other “horrifying.” costumes to be seen. Remember no one is old enough to celebrate Halloween, unless your middle-aged boomer who only uses reddit.

Cross country update

By Yuridia Rojas



Students at Hill are not really informed with the cross country meets. We wanted to know how the team is doing. They usually have their meets on Saturday.

8th grader Cody Fulenwider is on the team. “There is the heat at the meets that I dislike,” said Fulenwider, “Since it’s been hot lately we understand and appreciate that they still try their very best.”

As well as pros to cross country there is also some cons to it.

“I get to run with my friends and that is cool,” said Fulenwider.

We look forward to how they do in district and we will have an update.

Movie Review: Abominable

By Andrew Sivess



If you went to the movie theater with a five-year-old, you saw the movie "Abominable". While everyone else was watching better movies, others were watching "Abominable".

We only found one person that saw the movie, so we asked them about their favorite part.

"My favorite part is when they meet," says 7th grader Ty'Liyah Smith.

I personally thought the movie was ok, but I'm no critic. If you want to see the movie, go to your local Redbox and rent it.

Soccer season is here



By Savannah David

We are extremely excited to announce that soccer season is finally here. Hill soccer athletes have been waiting for our season to begin. As many of you know open tryouts started October 21. We are

excited to announce Ms. Dinka as our new head coach.

We are happy to hear what our soccer athletes had to say. 8th grader Jocelyn Shombert said, "I am happy to see what soccer season will bring to us."

7th grader Aliyah Rodriguez said, "I hope we make it to districts and win it."

If you are interested in girls soccer please go see Ms. Dinkas.

Best places to trick or treat

By Evaristo Hernandez



Halloween is one of the most celebrated holidays of the year, and some of our most dedicated trick or treaters have their places where they trick or treat that give out some of the best candy. We asked where they felt were the best places to trick or treat this is what they said.

8th grader Ian Marchand said. "White Rock is the best place to trick or treat mostly because the amount of rich white people in the area."

We asked around and many people agreed with Ian that this is a very popular place to trick or treat.

Another person we asked was 8th grader Angela Tapia. “I trick or treat near North Park,” said Tapia, “That’s were all the big houses are”.

Where do you trick or treat?

FALL FASHION

By Breanna Bailey



Yes! Fall has finally arrived in Dallas. Of course, that means fall fashion is here. At Robert T Hill on Fridays we occasionally wear regular clothes, or a fancy way Hill likes to say it “swag’ for five dollars. During this time, it is confirmed that people spend a lot of money shopping during this fall season.

We want to tell you about what a 6th grade student Skyla Bailey had to say about fall fashion here at Hill.

“I’m going to really enjoy this fashion season during this season,” said Bailey, “I spend the most money, most of it is from the Browser.”

Bailey added, “I can’t wait to wear this new jacket to school that I just ordered!”

It is amazing to think about all the new things you can buy online and at local stores for this season.

Fall fashion is here! Most importantly at Hill, so students please stay on budget.

Two little girls at Six Flags

By Jocelyn Shoumbert



They are so many scary stories in areas in Dallas. But there is one place that many people don’t think is haunted.

Six Flags Over Texas is known to be haunted because many avid ghost hunters consider this location to be one of the most haunted places in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

“I’ve never really experienced any ghost, but I would freak out and go crazy because I wouldn’t know what to do,” said 8th grader Alexis On, “If I had seen a ghost and told somebody about it they wouldn’t believe me and think I was stupid.”

“I don’t have time to believe in ghost stuff,” said 8th grader Jayden Rucker.

One of the most famous ghosts in the park is a little girl named Annie, who spends her time at the candy store in the park. According to stories, another ghost died at eight when drowned in Johnson’s Creek.

Her ghost visits the Farmhouses, she is known to walk along local railroad tracks.

This experience would be creepy if you spot something supernatural at Six Flags. Try not to be touched by the little girls and get cold spots when your visiting those areas!

Soccer is about to start

By Ceferino Cruz



Soccer season is starting on October 21, and I am exiting to play!

I am happy to play on the team because it is fun playing soccer and I have fun in practice.

This year the soccer team is going to try hard to go to the finals.

If you are interested in boys' soccer see Mr. Fuentes.

Hill football team improving

By Azalia Gonzales

The Hill football team has been struggling to get a win this season. They have not been

able to score in the first seven games they played. We wanted to find out what they would do to improve.

"We can help each other out because you learn better from your peers," said 8th grader Damarion Wreh. Wreh says they are practicing even harder to make sure they win.

We hope that more students would go to the games to show encouragement for the team.

DAY OF THE DEAD



By Angel Tapia

The Day of the Dead is a day where families gather to honor and remember their loved ones that have passed away. It starts October 31 and goes until November 2.

"My family and I always light up candles and put sweets next to their photos," said Hill student Kayla Camacho.

Camacho says she feels this day shows that we still care for those who passed away.

"Part of the reason we celebrate it is because it is part of Mexican culture," she said, "It's something I grew up doing."

Do you celebrate Day of the Dead?

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