

# THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

## SAYING GOODBYE TO Ms. BOYLE

BY GINA RYU & ALEX ZOU

It is with great sadness in our hearts that we say goodbye to our Head of School, Ms. (Mitrovich) Boyle, who has faithfully led our school for so many years. Despite the challenges that faced our community, from the pandemic to hybrid learning, the BASIS Scottsdale family forged ahead, invigorated by Mrs. Boyle at the helm. Her peerless leadership and tireless work ethic ensured that the transitions from year to year remained smooth and with the least disruption to the students. But all good things must come to an end, so we asked Mrs. Boyle for one last interview, detailing her illustrious journey at BASIS Scottsdale from the beginning to the end.

*You have been the head of school for three years and a key part of the school for even longer. Could you please take us through your journey at BASIS Scottsdale?*

**Ms. Boyle:** Absolutely! So I was not looking to work in a secondary setting originally. I was on the college and university side, working in student conduct as well as academic advisement at the University of Minnesota when one day, I received a phone call from a good friend and graduate school colleague Elizabeth McConaughy (Former Head of School). As she moved into the Head of School role, she asked me if I would be interested in the college counseling position at BASIS Scottsdale. After learning more about BASIS Scottsdale and seeing the

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Ms. Boyle

### SAVE THE DATE

**Oct. 31:  
Halloween**

**Nov. 2-4:  
Basketball  
Tryouts**

**Nov. 11-12:  
Veteran’s Day  
Break**

**Nov. 24-29:  
Thanksgiving  
Break**

### FEATURED

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**Italian Heritage  
Month  
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excellent opportunity of applying what I had learned with college students, I really felt a calling to be a part of BASIS and made the decision to move. At the time, BASIS was a much smaller community, so over the four years that I stayed in the college counseling position, I really helped build the college counseling curriculum across all the BASIS schools. That's really been one of the most rewarding things I've been able to do because our students are so incredibly talented and passionate and giving them the tools they need to succeed was something I very much enjoyed, especially during my tenure as Upper School Director. When I stepped into the Head of School position, I expected to be at the helm during "normal" years which, by BASIS Scottsdale standards, would make them extraordinary. Certainly, no one anticipated the pandemic, and navigating those years of online and hybrid learning has been quite a challenge but also something that has shown me time and time again how remarkable our community has been in persisting with learning despite major obstacles. To be so fortunate to be part of such a great community that aims to learn, communicate with teachers, and even join online clubs was really something that I'll always reflect upon.

*As the school has grown over the years, how have you overcome the challenges of managing this rigorous high school?*

**Ms. Boyle:** I don't know if you ever truly overcome every challenge. There are always curveballs, some anticipated and some not, so you do your best with the pieces of the puzzles in front of you. What we really want to prioritize is obviously health and safety, but we also want to balance this with the academic rigor and opportunity that really make the BASIS experience so unique for students. And so, we've implemented numerous measures to get a feel of where this balance really was. From receiving feedback surveys from students and teachers, asking other Heads of School about different approaches, to getting expert counsel on preventative measures, we aimed to mitigate risk and prioritize public safety. While doing so, we also kept academic opportunities open for students and this is where the adaptability of many clubs really shined, ensuring that students still had major opportunities as part of the BASIS education.

*What are your most prominent memories from our school?*

**Ms. Boyle:** Some of the milestones and rites of passages, especially during my college counseling years while

learning about the student's backgrounds and understanding them as individuals has been something that I have so appreciated. I have worked here long enough that many of my past students have been able to build their own professional networks and being able to connect with them at the Alumni Reunion made possible by our Boosters is one of my favorite memories. I've also been able to see our sports program expand quite a bit, from our basketball team to our track team. Being able to see the growth of these programs is really quite special. Our school has also grown. From the move from the smaller campus to our current building to the growth of diversity to the vast list of clubs we have, I think that these are all fond memories. But most of all, being able to witness the growth and development of every student will always be something that stays with me.

*As a long-standing pillar of our community, what do you think is your greatest accomplishment at our school?*

**Ms. Boyle:** I feel like the default answer of anyone in any organization right now is leading that organization through the pandemic. And obviously, it was a team effort, not the result of any one person's individual efforts, but I think that is a lasting legacy that we made through that time. Seeing how we grow into the future as we return to in-person learning along with the relationships that I forged over the years with many of the faculty is definitely part of it. In terms of an accomplishment, working as a college



Ms. Boyle in her college counseling days

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counselor and creating the curriculum through a top-down approach to understand each students' goals and background at BASIS by applying my past experience with college students, is what I am most proud of.

*How has your time at BASIS Scottsdale impacted your life?*

**Ms. Boyle:** BASIS Scottsdale has been a focal point of my life. I got married last year, and I often joke that it was my second marriage because my first marriage was to BASIS Scottsdale. So, I think it has really shaped the decisions I have made and changed my viewpoint on issues I have experienced both inside and outside of school. Within the last eight years, BASIS Scottsdale really has been a community that I have grown and developed with and like a "hometown," it's shaped everything that I've done and been unbelievably rewarding.

*Can you explain how your new position will work to recruit faculty members for BASIS Scottsdale?*

**Ms. Boyle:** BASIS has such a unique curriculum so it's important to find faculty members that can take complex courses and impart the lessons of each course with energy

for our kids. As a hirer for the school and someone that has formed some deep relationships with the faculty at our school, I'm really thinking on how prospective faculty will fit into the amazing community as not just a teacher but also a club advisor, coach, and good member of the team.

*Are there any pieces of advice or wisdom that you have for our school community?*

**Mrs. Boyle:** I have learned so much from our school and continue to learn so much. A good piece of advice is to continue to be open, to learn, and to absorb. These are challenging, even divisive times, and something our community does well is showing respect and tolerance and seeking to understand others' perspectives. Continue challenging yourselves, seek out your interests, take (intelligent) risks, and to stay passionate and committed to your values.

At BASIS Gazette, we would like to extend our deepest thanks to Mrs. Boyle for this interview. Though her departure from the Head of School position at BASIS Scottsdale is bittersweet, we wish her all the best in her new role as a University Relations Specialist at BASIS.ed. On behalf of the students, parents, and faculty of BASIS Scottsdale, thank you for your wonderful leadership.



Source: BASIS.ed

# CAMPUS COMMENTARY

## PHYSICS: PHUN OR PHRUSTRATING?

BY CALISTA WILK

*In the 2017-18 academic year, around 480,000 undergraduates enrolled in introductory courses for physics, only 4% of which continued to become physics majors, the American Institute of Physics reports.*

From universities to high schools, the tendency to drop out of physics as soon as possible has dominated the mindset of students across the nation—even at our very own BASIS Scottsdale. It's almost a tradition for BASIS students to put off taking the required physics course until their junior year and never think of it again. But why exactly does this phenomenon occur? Is it because people believe physics is too difficult? Too boring? Too abstract? As it turns out, the reason may be rooted in the fundamentals of how we individually perceive the world.

“I think the reason that most people try to avoid taking physics is not really because they dislike it but mostly because they might not totally understand it,” Daryl D. (11) realized as she reflected on her experience taking AP Physics 1, 2, and now C. Ms. Proctor, who teaches several courses in physics and computer science at BASIS, finds that the most significant challenge in fully comprehending physics stems from the fact that it uses math. Yet understanding the math behind physics isn't what “actually scares [students] off,” she observes. Rather, it's “taking a real world [event] and being able to connect it in your mind to math...that's a lot harder than just doing math.”

Viewing the world through a mathematical lens can at times contradict what we would expect to be true, leading some to find it difficult or impractical to learn physics. The hypothetical situations students are required to solve, for example, can often be unrealistic or even misleading, especially when many “tell you to just neglect air resistance or friction, but that's...almost never what actually happens in real life,” Catherine J. (11) noted. Indeed, physics can be frustrating since it requires students to forget what they know about the way the world works and start from scratch. But because they know that factors like friction and air resistance exist, they grip onto their

beliefs and keep their sometimes bad habits of thinking, causing physics to seem obscure and daunting.

When comparing physics to other sciences, Nikki K. (11) mentioned how “physics is not as straightforward as chemistry and biology...because you can't just memorize facts but have to have a really strong conceptual understanding of things like energy, forces, and projectiles.” This is why Ms. Proctor “love[s] using demos” to showcase any concept or, when she can't be in person with students, simulations to emulate topics such as the behavior of particles. This method helps her “start at what [each student's] experience is with the topic and then try to pull the physics out of it,” which has notably improved students' ability to grasp and stay engaged with what they are learning.

Teaching physics like this, where it is presented in an accessible, relatable manner rather than as a collection of dry, complex equations, can help students build a fundamental understanding of how the world works. It is an easier way for students to transition from their beliefs to ones that align with those of physics, setting them up well to tackle problems that seem counterintuitive. Perhaps, if physics were taught this way, the trend of graduating physics majors would increase at the university level. Because, truly, it's the frustrating aspects of physics that make it fun.



Source: NBC News

# HOMECOMING?

BY ALLISON LI

Homecoming is a dance or event used to celebrate the varsity football team that usually occurs in September or October. However, BASIS Scottsdale's football team is nonexistent. Therefore, so is BASIS Scottsdale's Homecoming Dance. Recently, one of my non-BASIS friends discovered our lack of a homecoming dance and asked me, "Do you guys have any dances?" I nodded and proceeded to explain to her that we had Hoopcoming. Naturally, she was a bit shocked by the fact that we actually had a basketball team, but it got me thinking, *why don't we have Homecoming?* BASIS Scottsdale does not have a football team, but that doesn't mean we can't have a dance. In the place of football, I propose we hold dances that are more unique, things that no other schools celebrate: Academics, Lunch, and Stress.

The first amazing theme for a BASIS Homecoming is to celebrate our mutual love for academics. As everybody knows, BASIS is a liberal arts school with a heavy STEM focus. Instead of banners, we would hang large posters of cellular energetics, periodic tables, Newton's three laws, and drawings made by the 5th grade art class from the ceiling. The sciences would be celebrated on the first floor because of the convenient location of the fume hoods. Chemistry in the science rooms, Biology the lower school MPR and gym, and Physics in the supply closet. Chemistry students would perform supervised experiments using (mostly) non toxic chemicals, students in the MPR would perform dissections or look through microscopes at cells, and in the supply closet, students study physics by . . . Oh, wait, nobody likes physics. Those who wish to celebrate Technology and Engineering could roam the different areas on the first floor applying the sciences to their own inventions and machines. Food would be provided in the upper school MPR and educational science songs would be played across the intercoms.

For a second option, imagine our gym, decorated with green banners all emblazoned with "HOMEWORK," with loud music in the background as students attempt to finish fifty-page packets within fifty minutes. It would be glorious. At the event, the gym would be split into several different sections symbolizing the different topics covered at our school. The stage would be reserved for the humanities, of course, given our significant focus on those subjects, and the bleachers reserved for those who simply wish to eat food. Food and drink would be provided just outside the gym to celebrate the concept of "No Eating in the Classrooms" (poor Jorge) and the music playing in the background would be entirely instrumental to not disrupt



the thought processes of our hardworking students. The night would end, of course, with an exam testing the students on excuses and escape strategies in which students would be heavily advised but not required to analyze the pros and cons of their chosen excuse.

Finally, one of our core values is the stress our school has to offer. One of the reasons our school is so unique is that our students embrace the feeling of stress and use it to fuel our ambitions. So, why don't we celebrate such a unique BASIS trait? During the dance, there will be tables in the gym where students can sit and practice filling out those outrageously long bubble sheets with their personal information, breaking the seal on the test booklet and sealing it back up, or practicing different AP test problems on their computers. No matter what students choose to do, there will be proctors walking around in the gym, observing closely what they do, putting even more pressure on the students. Additionally, students will also practice their procrastination skills by stressing over what they wear to the dance especially because they won't be told whether this dance is formal or informal. During this event, the Jeopardy! theme would play on repeat to contribute to the stress the students already feel and to represent the idea that there is never enough time to study. At the end of the night, study guides for all the AP tests would be laid out on the bleachers so that students can grab them and put them on their bookshelves to keep the stress going all year long.

With all these amazing things to celebrate about BASIS, why don't we have Homecoming? The actual definition of the word according to the Oxford Dictionary is "high school, college, or university game, dance, or other event to which alumni are invited" So why don't we allow our alumni to relive those stressful days? Are they not still a part of the BASIS community? I know no alumni actually attend Homecoming, but it's the thought that counts right? BASIS may have a horribly underfunded dance, but that would just make the experience all the more memorable!

# FANTASY FOOTBALL: TEACHER LEAGUE UPDATES

BY SAHIL SUD

In today's digital world, fantasy football has taken on a new life. It has even spread to the doors of BASIS Scottsdale, where a league has sprung up amongst our teachers. Like many of us, some teachers have become engrossed in the league. In fact, BASIS Gazette's own faculty advisor, Mr. Witz, is 2nd in the league through six weeks. As the fantasy football season rolls on, some teams may continue to thrive, while others flounder. I spoke with Mr. Flores, who teaches AP U.S. History and Capstone: British Monarchy Capstone, for information about the league and its effects on teachers.

*What is awarded to the winner of the competition?*

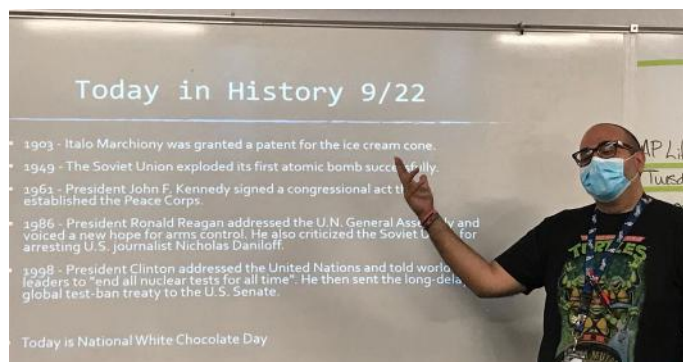
**Mr. Flores:** There is a trophy that has been passed around for many years, through the existence of this competition, before I even joined the school. It is gold in color, and seems similar to an antique and is around 4 feet tall. Unfortunately, I've never actually held it, so it's difficult for me to say whether it is heavy or not. I've wanted to change it to a championship belt, but... maybe next year. But most importantly, the prize is bragging rights.

*What is your team name, and how did you choose it?*

**Mr. Flores:** My team name is Flintstones Vitamins. The name was chosen due to a lack of time, creativity, and my having recently given my daughter vitamins of the same name.

*What is your record so far this year?*

**Mr. Flores:** I am 2-4. It is a misleading 2-4, however, since 3 of the defeats have been by very miniscule margins.



Mr. Flores with his signature "Today in History"

*How are you liking your chances this year?*

**Mr. Flores:** As long as the season is ongoing, there is always hope, always a chance. I think as long as certain players live up to their potential, I like my chances going forward.

*Who is your biggest rival?*

**Mr. Flores:** My biggest rival is Sr. Garcia, because we have a longstanding friendship inside and outside of school. We have a rapport and can interact very easily in a joking manner.

*Is there anything unique about this year that you've had to focus on?*

**Mr. Flores:** I have tried to focus less on the receivers, and prioritize running backs and quarterbacks. I've also decided to use objectivity when it comes to my beloved 49ers. In years past, I've shown too much favor to my team, and I've tried to create a balanced team.

*How has the league affected the culture amongst the teachers?*

**Mr. Flores:** It has created a closer relationship between those of us who are in the league. We have more reasons to interact with each other, and we have more topics to discuss with each other. It also gets us interacting with teachers from different grade levels and subjects that we might not interact with professionally, and we can develop more of a personal kinship with one another. Finally, for new teachers, it gives them an opportunity to be able to interact with faculty members in a more casual way, which facilitates their integration in the school culture, earlier in the school year. Overall, it's had a positive impact.

*Final question, do you have a message for other teachers in the league?*

**Mr. Flores:** May the best man win... ME.

It is clear from Mr. Flores's responses that the league has been an enjoyable experience for the faculty involved. It has positively impacted teacher interactions and facilitated smoother integration with newer teachers. As observers, it will be entertaining to watch how the league unfolds, and which teacher can come away with the trophy.

# BASIS BASICS: HAUTE HAIR ON CAMPUS

BY MINTRA WARAM

Let's talk hair. BASIS Scottsdale Hair, in particular. Some classic hairstyles at our school are trending right now. Among girls, the two main looks on campus are classic long locks (the Rapunzel) and the shoulder length (Scottsdale Shoulder Stalking) style. These two seem to be predominant currently, though ways of combing them up and styling vary amongst students, as do hair colors and highlights. A few students seem to break that trend and do very short hair, which is rare but it looks great.

## THE RAPUNZEL - aka Looonnnngg LOCKS



Everyone looks great on campus with these locks of Rapunzel-like hair. It's one of those classic hairstyles that never gets old, though I wonder how much of the current trend is due to post-pandemic hair growth. Loosely defined, long hair is where the hair is at least 3-5 inches below the shoulder blades, in the back. On our campus, the back view has a U or V shape to the hair in the back, while the rest is cut stylishly, with tons and tons of layers.

Many of our Rapunzels have colored their locks, via highlights or balayage - which adds tons of dimension to this style. A balayage is a more natural looking highlight. Others put their hair up into a bun or opt for the ever practical ponytail. Braids are also in: styled regular, fish or french! Often the loose or otherwise styled hair is decorated with cute clips. Hair texture can also be varied: pin straight, wavy, or curled. I even saw someone with a design cut in. The many options with this length makes it very versatile, but it takes a lot of work!

## Scottsdale "Shoulder Stalking" Style:



Those who want more manageable hair seem to opt for this style. Tons of students on campus have hair of varying lengths about their shoulder—hence the title “shoulder stalking.” Most admit, this is because this style is easier to maintain than the Rapunzel. A much more modern hairdo, it looks very stylish when tied up or put into a claw clip. Some students weave in tiny side braids to add accents. Many students who have highlights and hair color enjoy the dimensional effect given by the illusion of shadows in their hair. A few people like to straighten their hair, while others do a beachy wave. Others use a flat iron to make tighter curls, like croissants, which for some reason I noted mostly among those with light brown hair. In the Scottsdale “shoulder stalking” look at our campus, the back side is often cut flat across, but the front has bangs and face-framing layers.

A very common hair trend, with shoulder length hair, is curtain bangs and face framers. Most people that have their hair until their shoulder, have face frames right after curtain bangs to make the curtain bangs smoothly transition in front with the rest of longer hair. If they don't want to style the bangs, they just pin it back with cute pins. You don't even need to maintain it as much because it looks good when it's grown out! One person with this hair said that “I like the length of my hair now that it has grown a bit more and how it now frames my face.”

No matter the hair, our students wear it with flair!

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# CURRENT EVENTS

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## MONTHLY AWARENESS:

BY DERRICK KANG

## ITALIAN HERITAGE

Every year in October, Americans celebrate the achievements and valuable contributions of Italian immigrants and Italian Americans. First celebrated in 1989, Italian American Heritage Month was designated as an official American national holiday by President George H.W. Bush. A wide variety of cities and towns each year host large Italian cultural celebrations in honor of the national holiday. Many of these celebrations are centered around food. Italian American citizens take advantage of the month to share their diverse regional cuisine, which extends far beyond dishes like pasta and pizza. Other observances may celebrate Italian art, from the Renaissance era with artists like Michelangelo to the modern age with skilled individuals like Arcangelo Sassolini.

The celebrations of Italian Heritage Awareness Month in the United States should be better highlighted. Initially coming to the U.S. as tradesmen and artists, Italian Americans have played a major role in the formation of our nation today. In the late 1800s, Italian Americans helped lead the industrial boom in our country with the construction of roads, tunnels, and other infrastructure in our nation. And in World War II, around 2 million Italian-

Americans served in the U.S. military, with fourteen of them earning medals of honor. And today, over 26 million American citizens are of Italian descent, making up the 7th largest ethnic group in the United States.

Various organizations across the United States celebrate Italian Heritage month with online events and resources. However, Arizona also has its own Italian community that promotes Italian heritage, not just during the month of October, but also year round. The Italian Association of Arizona promotes Italian businesses and prominent Italian individuals in Arizona. They also host numerous events associated with Italian culture during the month of October and you can learn more about them by reading their website.

Italian enclaves are present all across the United States in cities like San Diego, Chicago, New York City, and Boston. Every year, one can find cultural observances in celebration of Italian heritage in each of these cities and more. And yet, many do not celebrate such a national observance. Some view the month with indifference while others advocate for more awareness. In the eyes of some individuals, Italians discovered, named, and built America, and that alone is a source of great pride for those of Italian heritage.



Source: *We the Italians*

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# SPORTS, ARTS, AND ENTERTAINMENT

## HALLOWEEN COSTUME IDEAS: *SQUID GAME*

BY ANDREW KANG

Reaching nearly 111 million viewers worldwide since its September debut, *Squid Game*, a South Korean drama, is currently one of the most popular shows on Netflix and even the world. The psychological drama depicts a deadly competition where 456 players, all desperate for some money to sustain themselves, compete in merciless childhood games--for example; Red Light, Green Light and tug-of-war--for a total cash prize of 38.6 million USD. Each time a player loses a game, he or she is executed and 84,000 USD is added to the prize pool. The show's stunning plot combined with its immense popularity has drawn many fans that want to dress up as characters from the show for Halloween this year. Fans of the show are struggling to find costumes as official costumes are either pretty expensive or sold out entirely. Luckily for our wallets, all of these characters' outfits can easily be made at home.

tracksuit with a little craftsmanship. Use green and white paper, fabric, glue, and or number patches. If you want to add a little more flair to your costume, you can sew the numbers into the outfit. You can also base your numbers on your favorite characters from the show (no. 456 for Seong Gi-hun, no. 218 for Cho Sang-Woo, 001 for Oh Il-nam) to add in some extra detail.



Squid Game Guard Costumes, Source: californiajacket

The guards in *Squid Game*, on the other hand, wear a hooded red jumpsuit and a black mask that has either a circle, triangle, or square shape on the front. Although more complex than the player's costume, they are still pretty easy to make. Look online for a red jumpsuit along with either a fencing or ghoulish mask. You can then paint in the shape on the mask or use white masking tape to create your preferred symbol. Finally, put on a black belt and you're all set.

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Squid Game Player Costume, Source: popsugar

The players in the show are seen wearing a white t-shirt displaying their assigned number, topped with a white-trimmed green tracksuit. So, all you really need to make this costume is a white shirt and a green tracksuit. You can add the numbers to the shirt and the stripes to the

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The most complicated costume of them all is the front man in *Squid Game*, who controls the guards and monitors the competition. He wears a long black coat, gloves, and a mask that has geometric shapes. Find a black coat and gloves and then buy the front man's mask from artist websites such as Etsy. If you have a 3d printer at home, you can make the mask yourself by finding the 3d print pattern for it. Wear the whole outfit and you have successfully assembled the costume. Now go out during Halloween to show off your awesome *Squid Game* costumes!



Squid Game Front Man, Source: *heart*

## A DEFINITIVE RANKING OF HALLOWEENTIME MOVIES

BY MIKYLE HAMIDI

October has come, and that means that no matter how hard you try to avoid it, Halloween and its related festivities will be everywhere. But really, what better way to celebrate the end of October than to engage in the spooky season and binge the wide variety of spooky season films? Here are the (very) objective and definitive top ten movies to watch during the Halloween season.



Source: *thenounproject*

10. *The Addams Family* (2019) [Rated PG]  
- Available on Netflix
9. *The Exorcist* (1973) [Rated R]  
- Available on Netflix
8. *Saw* (2004) [Rated R]  
- Available on Hulu
7. *Annabelle* (2014) [Rated R]  
- Available on Netflix
6. *Jaws* (1975) [Rated R]  
- Available on Netflix
5. *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993) [Rated PG]  
- Available on Amazon Prime

4. *Coraline* (2009) [Rated PG]  
- Available on Amazon Prime
3. *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (1975) [Rated R]  
- Available on Hulu
2. *The Conjuring* (2013) [Rated R]  
- Available on Netflix
1. *It* (2017) [Rated R]  
- Available on Hulu

It's worth mentioning that this list is merely a suggestion of what the top 10 list of Halloween movies truly is and you are encouraged to make your own list to celebrate. Of course, if you aren't a fan of scary movies, there are other fun things to do on Halloween. So this October 31st, stay safe and have lots of spooky fun!

# HOUSE OF GUCCI: HIGH HOPES BUT HALF-HEARTEDLY DONE

BY STEPHANIE  
LOBODANESCU

Ever wanted to read a book that promises excitement, mystery, and a sensationally thrilling set of twists and turns? In that case, "House of Gucci" wouldn't be the book for you. Sara Forden begins by drawing in the readers with the tale of the sudden murder of Maurizio Gucci, husband of Patrizia Reggiani and grandson of the Gucci founder himself, Guccio Gucci. The only eyewitness is left dazed and wounded, and experienced detectives find themselves clueless as to the details of the crime, leaving us to wonder-- what will happen next?

While the opening seems to live up to the advertised tale of "glamour and greed," the next 100 pages are full of the minute details of business transactions and design choices made by Guccio. We learn quite a bit about the genealogy of the family-- perhaps more than is necessary for a book that should've been *much* more fast paced. To summarize the most important members for our readers, Guccio had 6 children, two of which were Aldo and Rodolfo; for context, Rodolfo was the father of Maurizio, our aforementioned murder victim.

With effort, we can see the main "plot" interspersed throughout the book, though it really starts long after the death of Guccio. The company has taken off, and stores are being opened in locations around America and Europe, but the shares of ownership of the company are constantly changing hands. Aldo and Rodolfo have majority possession of the shares, yet the way they intend to pass along their shares to their children diverges after Maurizio's marriage to Patrizia Reggiani. Suspicious of Patrizia's true intentions for marrying his son, Rodolfo decides to wait until his death to relinquish his shares. In the meantime, Maurizio, stiffed of his due, attempts to bargain with Paolo for Aldo's shares, minimal though they may be. Maurizio is able to swindle Paolo out of the stock in the company by guaranteeing him ownership of some other prospects produced under the Gucci name (all fake, of course), and Paolo loses respect in the eyes of the rest of the family.

In the meantime, Maurizio's marriage to Patrizia is failing, reportedly due to Patrizia being controlling and manipulative, but likely because of their media presence. Maurizio struggles to balance the expansion of the Gucci empire and his personal life, and ends up divorcing Patrizia-- by sending a courier with a letter while he was on

the opposite end of the country. Seeing his chance, Paolo, unpredictable and spited, brings evidence of tax fraud to light, causing Patrizia to receive less money in the settlement and Maurizio and Patrizia's children to lose their titles as heiresses to the company. Disaster strikes Patrizia once more, as she learns she has a brain tumor, and Maurizio offers no support (neither does his new girlfriend).

Patrizia is devastated and enraged, with years of neglect from her husband and intense scrutiny from press and investors culminating until she reached her breaking point. With the help of a psychic friend named Pina, she contacts a hit man and arranges for the murder of Maurizio.

It is at this point that we are back to the opening scene that the book started with-- a scandalous murder with not a clue as to the identity of the culprit. Two years go by, and nearly no progress has been made, until an anonymous tip comes in and reveals the identity of the hit man and his getaway driver. The two confess to everything, incriminating Patrizia and Pina, and everyone involved is given more than 25 years in prison (Patrizia's pleas of insanity from the brain tumor did nothing to sway the jury). Patrizia was dubbed "Black Widow" by the media, and ended up serving only 16 years in prison due to good behavior. When questioned after her release, she said "I don't think of myself as innocent, just not guilty."

Forden is by no means a bad writer-- just a bad storyteller. The murder took the world by storm when it happened, and yet none of the suspense and mystery of the whole scandal was conveyed in her work. There was no real emotion behind the writing-- almost as if it was a chore to put effort into it. Her attention to detail was focused on everything that the readers didn't come to see, and it could've had serious potential had it been applied the way it was in the beginning. Thankfully, this was a prospect that directors decided to develop, and the true story has been made into a dramatized film, releasing on November 24th (Adam Driver and Lady Gaga play Maurizio and Patrizia, while Jared Leto will be Paolo). I, and many others, have high expectations for the film, and hope that unlike the book, it will live up to the tale of "madness, glamour, and greed" that was the murder of Maurizio Gucci.

# GOSSIP WELL TOLD: THE ELECTION OF 1828

BY TRISTAN CLARKE

Halloween — one of the most unique celebrations in our modern society. The holiday is known for the strange, odd, and downright spooky. Among the stiff competition of such spooky sensations as vampires, ghosts, ghouls and gremlins, there exists one topic still more terrifying than any other: politics!

Gather 'round my children, for today I present to you a tale of horror; a tale that will shock you, mystify you, and possibly even shake the entire foundation upon which you view the history of your country (no promises). Today, I will tell you the story of the Election of 1828.

Despite common misconceptions, this story does not begin in 1828, but instead, finds its origin over four years earlier with the Election of 1824. Allow me to set the stage: it's the tail end of the Era of Good Feelings. There's only one major political party: the Democratic-Republicans (the spiritual and literal successors to the Anti-federalists), and there is little rivalry — that is until the presidency of James Monroe comes to an end and competition is thrust upon the lone party. Five candidates competed for office in the election of 1824: John Quincy Adams, John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay, Andrew Jackson, and William Crawford. Leading up to the election, Crawford, the spiritual successor of Thomas Jefferson, won the party's official nomination. From there, tradition would dictate that all the other candidates would drop out and Crawford would be crowned without contest, but tradition is only so strong. Despite Crawford's nomination, the others, besides Calhoun, continued to pursue the office until the election finally came and resulted in a stalemate. The dark-horse Andrew Jackson came out on top, but lacked enough votes to secure the victory automatically, and was followed

closely by John Quincy Adams, who was himself trailed far behind Crawford and Clay. Now, here's where the fun begins. Rules dictated that if no one won the House of Representatives instead chose their pick of the top three candidates. Sadly, Clay was nae-nae'd by this rule, being in fourth place, leaving the contest to be decided among the other three men. But in his fall from candidacy, Clay was forced into a new role: a kingmaker!

Essentially, Clay commanded a large amount of support in the House because he was the Speaker at the time, and so he decided to cook up a plot that could yet see him seated in the Oval Office. Clay promised his support to Adams should Adams kick a little back the speaker's way in the form of the office of the Secretary of State (a position which traditionally led to the Presidency). And just like that, we had our sixth President: JQA himself, and just like that, the conflict which would pull apart the dominance of the Democratic-Republicans was upon us.

You know who wasn't too fond of Clay and Adams' little 'corrupt bargain'? Andrew Jackson. Over the next four years, as Adams served out his term, Jackson and his Little Magician Martin Van Buren took every possible measure to undermine the new administration — from criticizing tariffs that would help their constituents simply because they were made by Adams, to openly campaigning against Adams. The spurned Jackson wouldn't rest until he sat in the Oval Office, and more importantly, Adams was evicted.

Flash forward to October 31, 1828: the day has finally arrived for the rematch of the century! In one corner, we have the president, John Quincy Adams, and in the other, we have the returning challenger — Old Hickory himself — Andrew Jackson. Long story short, Jackson destroyed Adams; combined economic and political discontentment simply proved too much for the sixth President, and accordingly, we chose our seventh.

The Election of 1828 itself was fairly straightforward, however, its consequences were felt across history. For the first time, our nation selected a self-made man, a relative nobody from birth, to lead the country. Popular politics spread across the nation, and more than ever, the national divide due to slavery is painfully clear. The geographic lines of the Civil War are taking shape and only one thing remains sure in our young nation: the world will never be the same!



Source: *billofrightsinstitute*

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# PUZZLES, RIDDLES, AND MORE

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## MONTHLY MUNCHIES

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### THE CONVENIENT DELICACY: BY ZAINA JASSER ELEVATED MAC 'N' CHEESE

Your locker was butterflied, your dog actually ate your essay due today, and you forgot the difference between transcription and translation during your AP Bio test. All you want to do is go home and eat an easy-to-make, delicious snack. Well, look no further, starving BASIS students. The local Fry's sells a four-pack of microwavable mac 'n' cheese for just \$4.99. Now, let me show you how you can turn this dollar meal into an after-school delicacy and a boast-worthy steal. This recipe is an ancient family tradition, passed down since its creation by my great-grandparents in the Middle East in the 1940s. My friends and I gather around the table after school, our elevated macs in front of us, and we all enjoy the taste of delicious and cheap macaroni & cheese. Please enjoy.

What you'll need:

- A cup of microwavable mac 'n' cheese, preferably Velveeta or Annie's brand.
- Half a cup of water
- A spoon
- Pepper
- Italian spices
- Bread crumbs
- Parsley for garnish
- Your fanciest plastic china
- A cup of lemonade on the side
- A smile :)
- Optional: a blow torch

Instructions:

1. Open up the cup of mac by peeling back the film. Take out the cheese packet inside and set aside.
2. Fill with water to the fill line inside the cup. Do not mix!
3. Check the side of the cup for how long the noodles should be microwaved (usually 3.5 minutes) and microwave away.
4. After the microwave beeps, open up that cheese packet you set aside and pour it into the cup of cooked noodles. Stir well.
5. Measure a teaspoon of pepper and Italian spices into the cup and stir.
6. Sprinkle bread crumbs over the top of the noodles. (*Optional:*) use a blow torch to crisp the top of the crumbs and some of the cheese. Do not mix!
7. Garnish with a few leaves of parsley in the center.
8. Grab a cup of lemonade and a spoon and dig in!



A delicious cup of VELVEETA® Mac and Cheese

# TIS THE SEASON: FALL EDITION

BY ALLISON LI

Ah, October. The temperature has dropped and the holiday season has unofficially started, but most importantly, people are legally allowed to hand out candy to little children. On the single night where chaos reigns and October wanes, what kind of candy giver are you?

- Do you ever dress up for Halloween?
  - Yes, of course! I love dressing up (4 pts)
  - I only dress up when friends force me to (2 pts)
  - I'll dress up if I go trick-or-treating (3 pts)
  - I usually don't dress up (1 pt)
- What do you normally dress up as?
  - Something generic/cheap I got online (3 pts)
  - I make all of my costumes myself-it's really fun (4 pts)
  - I dress up as an athlete or just put a suit on and say I'm FBI or something (2 pts)
  - I don't dress up (1 pt)
- What's your favorite thing about October?
  - It's just October (1 pt)
  - The temperature is always a lot cooler (2 pts)
  - Haunted Houses and Trick-or-Treating for sure (4 pts)
  - The State Fair is pretty fun (3 pts)
- What is the best part about giving out candy?
  - Scaring the children before they get the candy (4 pts)
  - Staying at home and not having to walk (2 pts)
  - Seeing how happy the children are with candy (3 pts)
  - Getting a good night's sleep (1 pt)
- What's your take on Pumpkin Spice?
  - It's yummy (4 pts)
  - It's overrated and it literally doesn't even taste like anything (3 pts)
  - What's pumpkin spice? (1 pt)
  - It's okay (2 pts)
- How do you carve your pumpkins?
  - Scary jack-o-lantern (4 pts)
  - Smiley face (3 pts)
  - A picture of something random (2 pts)
  - I DON'T CARVE PUMPKINS (1 pt)
- How do you decorate your house?
  - Fun orange lights and cobwebs, nothing scary (3 pts)
  - Super scary horror decorations (4 pts)

- I DONT.(1 pt)
  - I turn off the lights and send spooky vibes (2 pts)
- What's your favorite kind of candy?
    - Chocolate: Snickers, Twix, KitKats (4 pts)
    - Gummy Stuff: Gummy Bears, Gummy Snakes (2 pts)
    - Candy Corn (3 pts)
    - I.HATE.CANDY. (1 pt)
  - When do you get home?
    - 9 PM (2 pts)
    - 3 AM (4 pts)
    - I.NEVER.LEFT.HOME. (1 pt)
    - 12 PM (3 pts)
  - Do you enjoy Halloween?
    - Of course, duh! (4 pts)
    - NO! (1 pt)
    - It's fun sometimes (3 pts)
    - I like going to halloween parties but that's about it (2 pts)

**The Sleeper (1-10 pts):** On Halloween night, you usually turn off all your lights, put a sign out on your door saying “**DO NOT RING DOORBELL NO CANDY**” and go to bed. You are the Scrooge of Halloween and you own it in the most creative ways you can think of.

**The Bowl Leaver (11-20 pts):** Because you're not a big fan of Halloween, you don't try hard for the holiday. However, you do leave a bowl of candy outside the door for trick-or-treaters. You really don't care if someone just takes all the candy or the bowl itself, you just want some peace and quiet on Halloween.

**The Candy Giver (21-30 pts):** You're a pretty big fan of Halloween for the free candy and haunted houses. Every year, you decorate your house with all your old inflatable pumpkins or ghosts and then the next day your Christmas lights are on. It's not that you don't like Halloween, it's just that Christmas is better, and I gotta say...I have to agree.

**The Scarer (31-40 pts):** Halloween is just your thing. You go all out on decorations so that your house looks like an actual haunted house. Additionally, to add to your already scary house, you often hide in the bushes waiting for the brave trick-or-treaters to grab candy just so you can scare them before they get there. Of course, then they're rewarded with all the candy they could possibly want because you tell them to grab a handful of candy and you've bought fifteen Costco bags of candy.

# MATCH THE TEACHER TO THE QUOTE

BY RAHUL JAHSTI

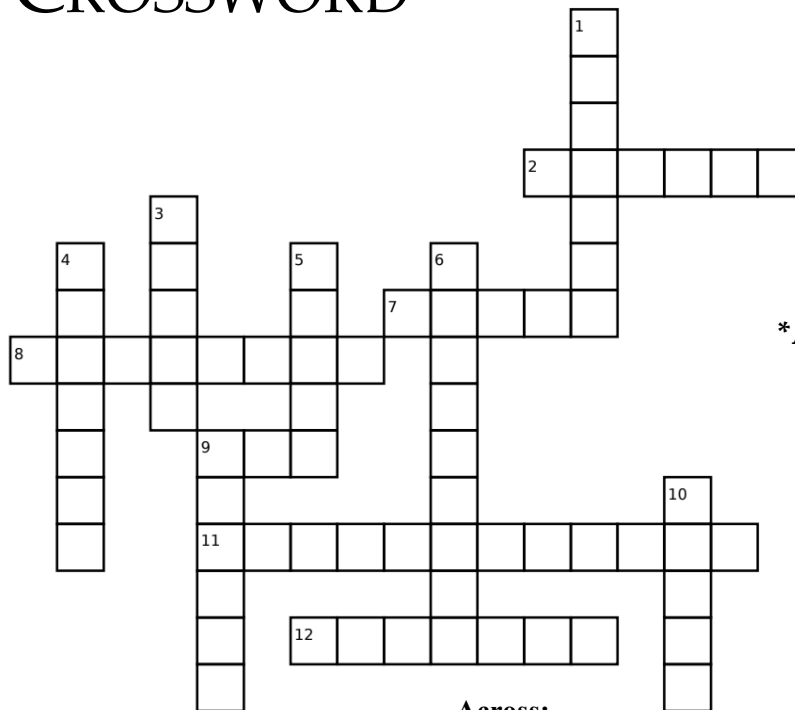
1. "Tell that to Cox Communications."
2. "Meowntain"
3. "The janitors keep taking my donuts."
4. "People thought I was a CIA Agent."
5. "My best friend up until I was fifteen was a goat."
6. "Hey, stop kissing up to him."
7. "Librarians are my heroes."
8. "They keep dying around 12 minutes in."

**Teachers:**  
 Ms. de Blas  
 Mr. Garcia  
 Mr. Jorge  
 Ms. James  
 Mr. Madler  
 Mr. Mascio  
 Mr. Solari  
 Ms. Yanashima

\*Answers on Page 17

# OCTOBER CROSSWORD

BY GAZETTE STAFF



\*Answers on Page 17

**Down:**

1. Plant commonly used to make jack-o'-lanterns
3. Hamlet holds one of these up in his famous soliloquy
4. For 10 points, name the titular monster in Bram Stoker's 1897 novel
5. Luigi's mortal enemy
6. Spooky holiday on October 31<sup>st</sup>
9. A wooden box
10. Exactly four of them live in the Land of Oz

**Across:**

2. Eight-legged monstrosities sent to torment the insects of the world
7. The subject of a famed poem by Edgar Allan Poe
8. "Double, double toil and trouble;. Fire burn and \_\_\_\_\_ bubble"
9. A dread omen to come across on Friday the 13th
11. 1818 novel written by Mary Shelley
12. A spooky house

# THE RULES ARE SIMPLE:

- 1. PLAYERS CANNOT STOP PLAYING
- 2. PLAYERS WHO STOP PLAYING ARE SENT TO DM
- 3. A PLAYER MAY STOP PLAYING IF A MAJORITY OF THEIR FAMILY AGREES



1. THE SKY IS FALLING!



6. RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT (NO BATHROOM PASS EDITION)

# THE BASIS SQUID GAME



2. DALGONA (BULLDOG EDITION)

3. EIGHT SHORT YEARS OF ENDLESS WORK!

4. SHEA RACERS



5. TUG OF WAR (BTJN RESPONSIBILITIES)





# PUZZLES, RIDDLES, & MORE ANSWERS

## MATCH THE TEACHER TO THE QUOTE

1. Mr. Garcia
2. Mr. Solari
3. Ms. Yanashima
4. Mr. Madler
5. Mr. Mascio
6. Mr. Jorge
7. Ms. de Blas
8. Ms. James

## OCTOBER CROSSWORD

### Down:

1. Pumpkin
3. Skull
4. Dracula
5. Ghost
6. Halloween
9. Coffin
10. Witch

### Across:

2. Spider
7. Raven
8. Cauldron
9. Cat
11. Frankenstein
12. Haunted

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