

Black Cat News

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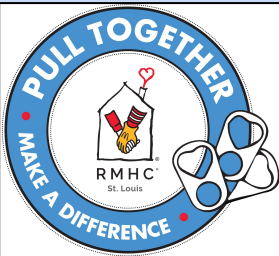
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Update on last month's front page story. WSMS collected 219 pounds of pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House charity..



Black Cat News is written and designed by 7th grade Panther Time students. Do you have ideas or pictures for future issues? Let a 7th grader know!



Homecoming

by Will C.

Homecoming is an American tradition. It's held at high schools and universities all over the country. Homecoming began at colleges and high schools as a celebration for the first game of the season.

Homecoming at West Salem was held from October 5 - 9. The middle school held two competitions. One was decorating the pod. Grade levels competed against each other. The other competition was held between Homerooms. A tally was kept each day for the number of people who dressed up. Mr. Mahlum, Mrs. Meyer, and Ms. Serres were the winning Homerooms and were treated to donuts. These were the dress up days:

Monday- PJ day and bed head

Tuesday- Sports day

Wednesday-Fancy day

Thursday- Decade day

Friday- Black and Orange Day

West Salem played Tomah this year for Homecoming. We won 53 - 6.





Homecoming 2021



Fall Blows In

BY: Aliana H

As the colder months blow in, our summer activities must come to an end. No more running outside, no more campfires and s'mores. Less time outside all together. But even though we can't enjoy the outdoors as much, there are still plenty of things we can do inside. Some hobbies you can try throughout fall are...



Reading

As we start spending more time inside we might be doing more lying around. But while we're lying down, we can read! There are plenty of books that are good for all ages during the icy months. Some examples are Matrix by Lauren Groff, Beautiful World, Where Are You by Sally Rooney, and Five Tuesdays in Winter by Lily King. All these books include wild plot twists, heartbreak, grief, loss, and love. All for you to wrap your mind into and enjoy some quiet time to yourself with some fictional characters.



Nature Hikes and Drives

Another thing about fall is everything is changing color. This makes everything look like it's vintage, which is super cool and pretty! So bundle up cause we're going for a drive. We'll see pretty colored leaves, little animals running around, smell the fresh air, and still get some outdoor time!



Cooking

Now, if you get really bored you can cook some fall treats, like cobbler, pies, cakes, cookies, pumpkin spice cupcakes, and apple fritters. All these sweet desserts will keep you busy all through fall and winter. And you can cover them in all kinds of decorations and candy!

Halloween Traditions

by Kayleigh W.

Some people celebrate the holiday Halloween and do different things on that night. One common tradition is Trick or Treating. Kids dress up as something else, like a character from a movie, etc. Some other Halloween traditions are carving pumpkins and putting a candle in the pumpkin and setting it on your porch. One common thing is Halloween parties. Many Halloween parties include bobbing for apples, dancing to Halloween songs, and watching horror/Halloween movies.

Trick or Treating

by Bode H.

The village of West Salem starts its trick or treating on the 31st at 4:00, and it ends at 8:00. If you don't want to walk through the whole town but still want to go trick or treating, businesses will set up in Village Park as well as downtown West Salem and hand out candy so people don't have to walk as far. This is on the 29th and starts at 3:00 and ends at 5:00.

If you live in Sparta it is on the 31st from 3:00-7:00 pm. If you live in LaCrosse, downtown trick or treating is on the 30th from 11am-2pm. According to the website www.hauntedwisconsin.com, Onalaska does not regulate its trick or treating times.

The state of Wisconsin recommends that you never trick or treat alone and have at least two friends to go with you. Wisconsin also recommends that you plan out your trip before leaving so you have an idea of where you are going. Also make sure to bring a flashlight with you in case you get lost in the dark.

Most Popular Halloween Costumes Every Year

by Henri S.

Dressing up and going trick or treating is a Halloween must. Kids dress up as heroes, figure out which house has the king size candy bars, and eat so much candy they get a stomach ache.

But what is the most popular costume? Well, let's find that out. These are the most worn Halloween costumes each year since 2010.

To start off the new decade the most popular costume of 2010 was Lady Gaga. A year later it was Snooki and The Situation from *Jersey Shore*. In 2012 dressing up as an Avenger was popular after the release of *The Avengers*. In 2013 the most sold costume was teddy bears. A year later one of the top grossing movies came out, *Frozen*, so dressing up as the gang was very common. After coming out as a trans woman on the cover of *Vanity Fair*, Caitlyn Jenner's white leotard was the top selling costume of 2015. During the 2016 election dressing up as one of the candidates, Donald Trump, was the most sold costume. The Sanderson sisters from *Hocus Pocus* was the most popular costume of 2017. For the next two years Fortnite Halloween costumes dominated the market. For 2020, although many people didn't go trick or treating, the most sold costume was an inflatable dinosaur.



Source:

<https://www.theactivetimes.com/most-popular-halloween-costume-every-year-1983-2019>

Hidden Trails Corn Maze

by Noah W. and Evan C.



The Hidden Trails Corn Maze is one of the oldest corn mazes in Wisconsin! It was established in 1998. It has been here for 24 years. The corn maze has four mazes. There are two shorter mazes for kids and two large mazes more advanced. Before you go in the maze, they give you a map of the maze with fourteen checkpoints on it. At each checkpoint, you can get a hole punch which will give you something (like a discount) from a local store. The maze is GPS planted. They have a concessions stand. At the concession stand they have candy apples, mini donuts, pizza, and hot dogs. They have a kids' area with three culvert slides, rat races, a corn pit, large scale Checkers, Connect Four, and Memory. They have wooden tracks, bean bags, ring toss, and a tire jungle gym. They also sell pumpkins. They have a haunted maze too. They have a variety of animals. They have weekend wagon rides and fall decor.



Fall Hunting Season

by Drew M and John M

We both enjoy hunting and are going to tell you a bit about deer and duck hunting. The Coulee Region provides great locations for both. Deer hunting is very calming and rewarding. Duck hunting is more action-packed but also rewarding. Deer and duck hunting require different types of weapons.

Deer Hunting

In 2020, 85,340 bucks and 103,372 antlerless deer were harvested in Wisconsin. The state sold 569,203 deer licenses. These numbers were up from 2019. (www.jsonline.com)

Hunting seasons in fall

Bow season: September 18- January 9

Youth Deer Hunt- October 9-10

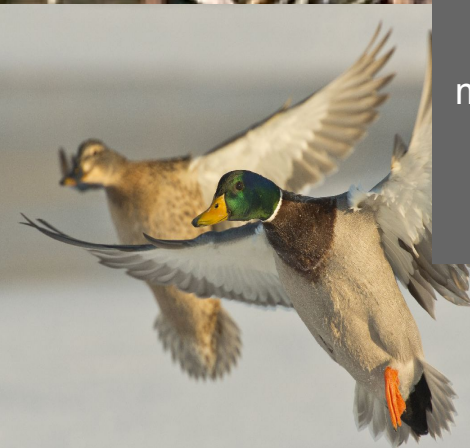
Gun season- November 20- 28

Muzzleloader season- November 29-
December 8

Antlerless deer hunt- December 9- 12

Duck Hunting

According to www.peta.org, more than 31 million ducks are killed each year. Surprising the most ducks are killed in California and Wisconsin doesn't even rank in the top five.



Fishing

by Cade W.

I've been fishing for many years, and have tried out different lures/baits. These are some of the best to catch different types of fish.

Walleye: crank baits, paddle tail, minnows

Black Crappie: tube jigs, minnows, worms

Largemouth Bass: crank baits, whopper plover, spinners

Bluegill: worms, grubs, minnows

Northern Pike: jerk baits, big spinners, crank baits

Yellow Perch: worms, minnows, crayfish

Smallmouth Bass: jigs, jerk baits, spinners



Fall Sports at WSMS

Cross Country

by Graham S.

Cross Country is a great sport. If you want to know what happens in Cross Country here at West Salem, I will tell you.



During a regular week we will have practice every day of the week except for Tuesdays. Tuesdays we have a meet. The coaches are Coach Piersma and Coach Friell. At practice every day we start out meeting in Coach Piersma's room to talk about what we are going to do. Usually we start with a dynamic warm up. Then after the dynamic warm up we go on a 20-25 minute run. We either run on the trail or on the lake road. After we go on a run we stretch in a circle so we don't get hurt. Sometimes we do an ab workout. When we are done stretching, if we have time, we will play a game. The team's most favorite game to play is kickball or Sharks and Minnows. Now, if you want to know what happens at meets this is what happens at meets.

Every Tuesday we have a meet. Right after the bell rings we meet in the commons and get our jerseys on and fill up our water bottles. Then we get on the bus and leave and go to the course. When we get to the course we walk the course and do an 5-6 minute warm up run around the course. The boys normally run first and girls run second. Sometimes the boys run second and girls run first. Whoever is is not running cheers on the people who are running. The people who are running will line up in the chute. The ref will count down from 10-9-8-7-6-5 and then there's silence before the ref shoots the gun. The race is on. Lot of people are cheering and all of the runners are happy to be done with their race.

Team Members:

Kokab A, Ryan A,
Noah B, Tiegen D,
Grayson G, Carter
H, Colin H, Amelia
K, Owen H, Ethan
Q, Kendrick S, Brock
T, Anna W, Anna B,
Reece B, Samuel C,
Ava J, Anna K,
Andrew L,



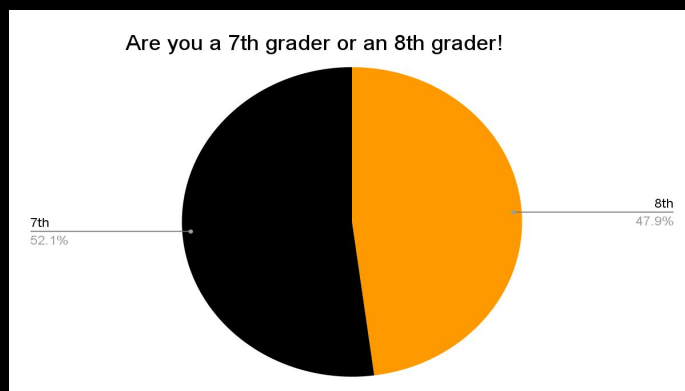
Team Members:

Lexi M, Mayumi M,
Gavin R, Henri S, Ava
S, Graham S, Addy F,
Emma G, Carson G,
McKenna M, Oliver M,
Ella O, Nathan P,
Bennett R, Sawyer S,
Hayden S, Cayden S,
Cooper Y

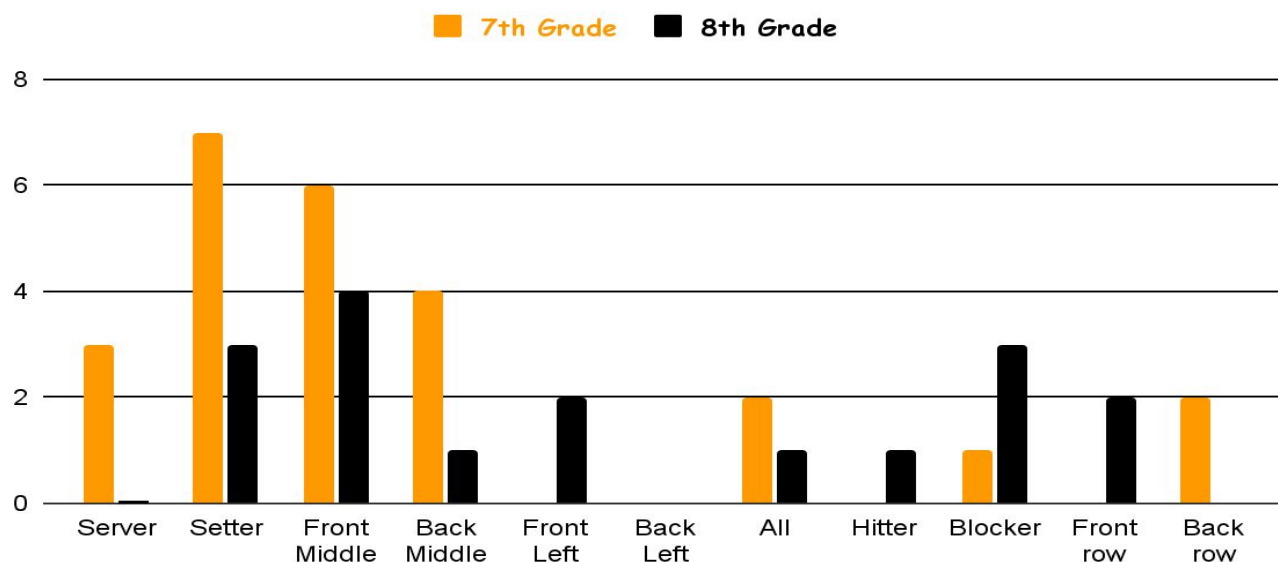
Volleyball

by Jayda M. & Airreyanna C.

We wanted to know how many 7th and 8th grade girls play volleyball and their favorite position. We surveyed and got 45 results.



Whats Your Favorite Positon?



West Salem Volleyball

by Averie G.

Our team is a great team, and there are so many people that make up a team.

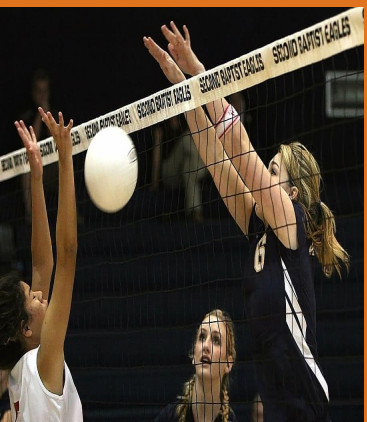


Volleyball is a great sport and the most important thing is the team. The team has to work together to get points. You have to call the ball so you don't let the ball hit the ground. You have to make sure you and your teammates trust each other. You have to have good communication and teamwork with your team. It's very important to have good friendships with your teammates.

There are a lot of different drills that are in volleyball too. Bumping is a big part of Volleyball. When you bump the ball you have to have your arms flat which is a good platform. You can not swing your arms or the ball will fly in the wrong direction. You have to use your legs and that will help the ball go in the right direction.

Setting is very important for the setter. For setting your hands need to be above your forehead. You need to spread out your fingers and push the ball up. You hit the ball with your fingertips and your fingertips need to be soft but firm.

Spiking is one of the hardest things to do in volleyball. You have to make sure you have a good approach. You also need a powerful hit. Most spikers hit the ball to the back middle or back right or left. You need good defense when they're about to spike or tip the ball over. You should always have a blocker and someone who can be behind the blocker to save the ball. That's a lot about Volleyball.





Coach Pederson Interview

by Briauna M., Jayda M., Mara M.

1. How long have you been coaching volleyball?

"This is my 5th year coaching, all of them at West Salem."

2. Who/ what inspired you to be a coach?

"I had some really great coaches growing up, and their influence inspired me to coach as well. I wanted to encourage a love of volleyball in my players like my coaches did for me, and also to be there to help them to grow in their skills and become the best students and athletes they can be."

3. What made you chose volleyball over all of the other sports?

"Ever since I started playing volleyball when I was younger, I have enjoyed everything about it. It's a fast-paced team sport, and you can't successfully play without all of the pieces of your team really "clicking." Everyone has the opportunity to make an impact on the team and its success".

4. How long have you been playing volleyball?

"I played competitively for eight years from the time I was 10 through 18 and I have coached and played for fun since then, so 17 years total."

5. Any advice for new players?

Always put in your best effort, be coachable, and have fun!

6. Favorite position?

I played libero, so that will always be my favorite!

7. Favorite volleyball memory?

My favorite memory as a player would have to be when my team took 1st place at a local tournament. It was the first time we had ever won all of our games in one day and it felt so good to have our hard work pay off! As a coach, I don't think I could pick a favorite, but meeting my players and seeing them progress throughout the season every year is always memorable!

Mrs. Burdick Interview

By: Lily Twite

1. How long have you been teaching at West Salem? *35 years*

2. What are your favorite hobbies?
Road biking, reading, traveling

3. What inspired you to be a teacher? *I was undecided in college on what I wanted to do. I had worked at a summer camp and I worked with kids and I loved how kids act, learn and how they are so curious. I realized that I wanted to help kids learn and grow, so I decided to be a teacher.*

4. What is your favorite part about teaching? *Getting to know the students and watching them grow.*

5. What college did you go to? *UW Madison*

6. What is your favorite movie? *I like sci-fi and fantasy I also like Aliens and A Quiet Place*

7. What is your favorite quote or motto? *"there's some good in this world," "And it's worth fighting for." -Sam Baggins*

8. What is some advice for middle school students? *Don't be so quick to judge, be flexible with your thinking and accept other ideas and people.*

9. What is your favorite season? *Fall*

10. What is your dream vacation? *Going to Ireland*

11. Who is your favorite packer player? *Reggie White*

12. What is your go-to snack? *Buttered popcorn*

13. What is your favorite kind of cookie? *A warm chocolate chip cookie.*

14. What is your favorite book? *Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens.*

15. Is there anything you would like to add? *There have been a lot of changes in teaching with technology and other things but what hasn't changed is the kids, their joy of life and wanting to learn.*



Get to know Mrs. Schultz



KARI SCHULTZ

by Kahlan D

How old were you when you started teaching?

I was 24 when I started teaching.

Did you want to be anything else other than a teacher?

I always knew I wanted to work with kids in some way. I originally wanted to be a child psychiatrist.

What is your favorite unit to teach?

My absolute favorite unit is the Greek Drama Fest. I love how creative students can be.

How long do you spend grading each assignment?

Homework and quizzes are pretty quick but assessment are longer.

What do you want to do when you retire?

My husband and I would love to retire to a cabin on a lake somewhere in the great Northwoods.

What is your favorite part of teaching?

My favorite part of teaching is helping students find passion for reading.

Can you tell when a student is having rough time?

I would like to think I can. I try to get to know the students I work with and find out a little about each student.

What do you think is better? The book or the movie?

Book! There are so many more details that you just can't put in a movie.

Teacher Feature: Mr. Waldhart

by Briuana M

General Questions

How long have you been teaching? 23 years

What is your favorite part of teaching? It's rewarding when students grow so much in the first year of band.

What's your favorite thing to do outside of school?
Golf and travel.

What's the funniest thing that has happened in any homeroom? Long ago, we tried to take a photo with me on a band locker and the locker broke.

What is your favorite homeroom memory? -
Watching my students do a great job with the community clean-up project.



Questions about Band

What is your favorite instrument? Tuba

What is your least favorite instrument? Kazoo

What instrument did you play in middle and high school?- I started with trumpet but mostly played the tuba.

What is your favorite band memory? Playing at a halftime show at the Packers/Bears game at Lambeau Field as a freshman.

Teacher Feature: Ms. Serres

by Samuel C.

How long have you been teaching here? Two years but I was student teaching here before that.

Where did you go to high school? Cannon Falls, MN

Where were you born? Red Wing, MN

Why did you come to West Salem Middle? The amazing students!

What did you do before coming here? Attended college at UWL

Who invited you to come here? The Healthy Living staff

Where did you come from to here? La Crosse

When will you retire? Never!!!

What is your favorite color? Blue

What is your least favorite color? Tan

Which is your favorite subject? PE :)

Which is your least favorite subject? Math ~ numbers are hard!

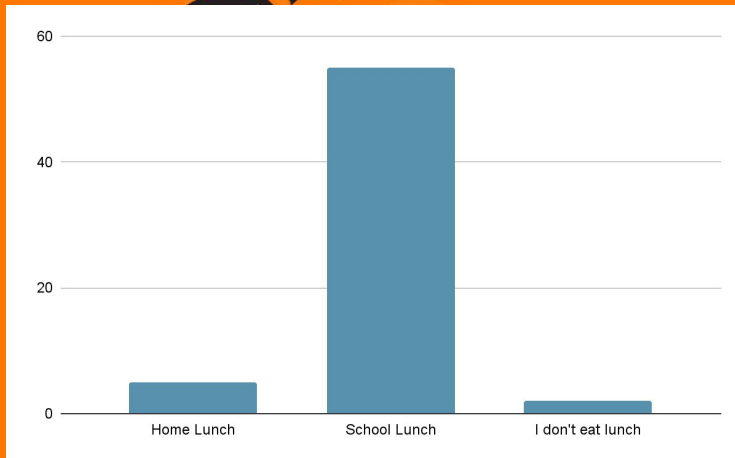
What is your favorite food? Chicken

What Is your least favorite food? Brussels sprouts

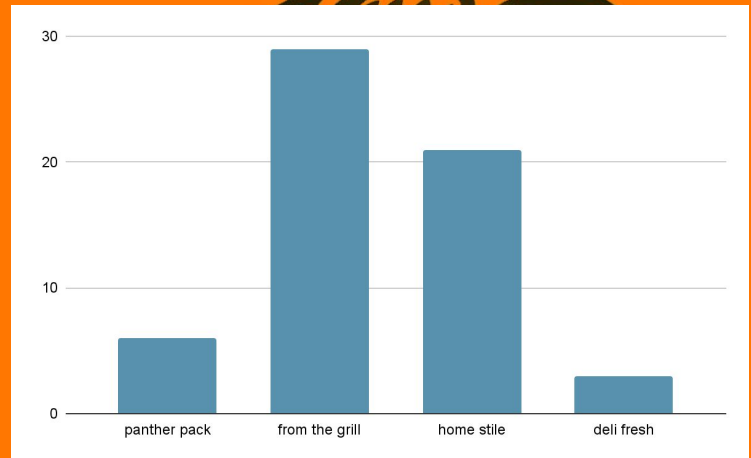


Do 7th Graders Get Home or School Lunch?

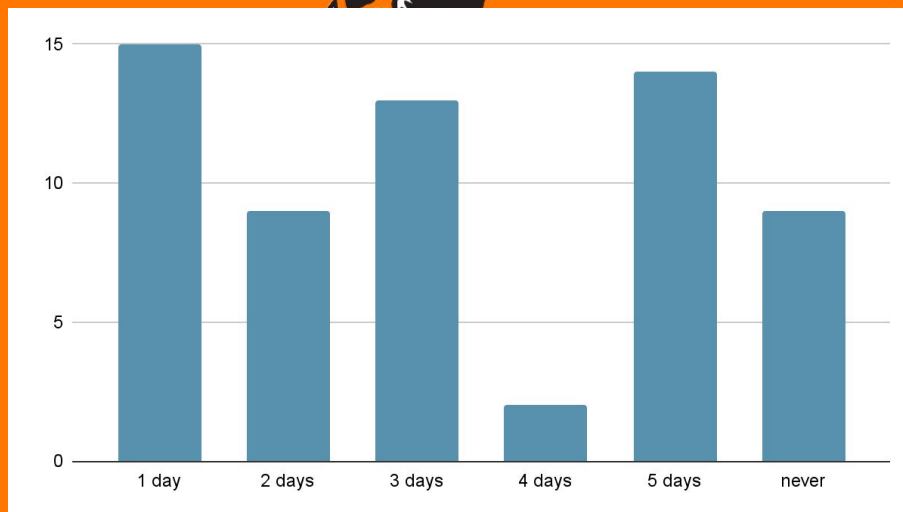
by Lily O.



Lunch



Line



Ala Carte

According to my data, most 7th graders get school lunch, with 59 votes for it. Home lunch got five votes and two people said they don't eat lunch. There were 66 votes total. Out of the 59 people who chose school lunch, *From the Grill* is the most popular with 29 votes, close behind is *Home Style* with 21 votes. In third is the *Panther Pack* with six votes, and in last is *Deli Fresh* with three votes. *Ala Carte* is a popular choice for lunch. But most people only go there one time per week, with fifteen votes. Nine people go to *Ala Carte* two days a week, thirteen people go three days a week. Two people go four days, fourteen people go five days. Nine people never go to *Ala Carte*.

Fall Jokes and Riddles

by Kennedy E. & Lydia R.

Jokes:

1. What did the tree say to autumn?
2. How do you fix a broken pumpkin?
3. How do trees get on the internet?
4. Why did the scarecrow get the Nobel Prize?
5. Why do trees hate tests so much?
6. What is a tree's least favorite month of the year?
7. What happens when winter arrives?
8. Who can jump higher: a pumpkin or a scarecrow?

Answer Key

1. Leaf me alone!
2. A pumpkin patch
3. They log in
4. He was outstanding in his field
5. They get stumped on all the answers
6. Oc-timber!
7. Autumn leaves
8. Neither, because neither of them jump

Riddles:

1. You're a bus driver on an autumn tour through the park. At the first bus stop two people get on, at the second stop four people get on, at the third stop one person gets off and at the fourth stop everyone gets off. The question is, what color are the bus driver's eyes?
2. Two men are walking in a graveyard. The first man walks to a grave. The second man says, "Who is in that grave?" The first man points to the grave and says, "Brothers and sisters I have none. But that man's father is my father's son. Who is in the grave?"
3. A zombie, a mummy, and a ghost bought a house. It has all the usual rooms except for one. What room won't you find?
4. In a hotel, a man was sleeping when he heard a knock on the door. He shifted the blanket and stepped down from the bed. He walked to the door and opened it to find a stranger standing outside. Upon opening the gate, that stranger said, "Pardon me, I must have made a mistake. I thought this was my room." The stranger then walked the corridor and climbed down the stairs. The man closed the door and immediately called security. He asked them to arrest that stranger immediately. Why did he ask them to arrest that stranger? What made him suspicious?

Riddle Answers:

1. Your eye color, because you are the bus driver
2. "That man's father is my father's son" refers to the speaker. Since he's pointing to the grave, it means he's in the grave.
3. A living room
4. The stranger said that he thought the room was his. If so, he would have had the keys to the room, and thus he not have knocked.

						
					1 National Black Dog Day	2 National Name Your Car Day
3 National Techie Day	4 National Taco Day	5 National Do Nice Things Day	6 National Noodle Day	7 National LED Light Day	8 National Hero Day	9 National Motorcycle Day
10 National Cake Decorating Day	11 National Sausage Pizza Day	12 National Farmers Day	13 National Fossil Day	14 National Dessert Day	15 National Grouch Day	16 National Sports Day
17 National Pasta Day	18 National No Beard Day	19 National Kentucky Day	20 National Chicken and Waffles Day	21 National Reptile Awareness Day	22 National Nut Day	23 National Mole Day
24/31 Halloween National Food Day	25 National Greasy Food Day	26 National Pumpkin Day	27 National Black Cat Day	28 National Chocolate Day	29 National Oatmeal Day	30 National Candy Corn Day

