

The Spotlight

Vol. 70 Issue 1

Articles

Election Opinions

Mask Experiment

New Faces in OF

Halloween: Dead or Alive

Roasted Favorites

Blue Moon

Interview with Devontae

Sports Recap

Decision 2020: The Student Perspective

By Katie Gareau

As November quickly approaches, one topic occupies many people's minds: the election. Throughout this past year, our country has faced many challenges in the midst of this global pandemic. The Democratic candidate is Joe Biden, age 77. His main issues include criminal justice reform, climate change, healthcare, and immigration. The Republican candidate is Donald Trump, age 74. His main issues include the economy,

foreign relations, immigration, and defending the second amendment.

One of the most important functions of our democracy is to create a government that best serves the people who live within the country. Several Olmsted Falls students answered questions regarding the importance of political activism, the upcoming election, and the most relevant political topics. Find their responses on page 4.



Halloween: Dead or Alive

By Casey Schmidt

2020 sure has been a year of surprises, which is why the topic of Halloween festivities is up in the air. The coronavirus has canceled many things, but contrary to popular belief, trick-or-treating is, in fact, happening in Olmsted Falls this year. Many news networks, including Fox 8, have confirmed this, so now the question is: how can we trick-or-treat safely? Some people have suggested candy chutes made from pipes or toilet paper rolls so that the trick-or-treaters can hold their bags below and not have to make any contact. Another idea is to leave goodie bags at the end of the driveway to keep a more-than-six foot distance. Obviously masks and gloves can/will be worn, and they can even add a spooky touch to your costumes. No matter how you celebrate this year, make the most out of it, keep the health of others in mind, and have a Count[Dracula] of fun.

Pumpkin Spice Up Your Life with these Favorite Fall Specials

By Hadley Allen and Katie Cleary

Fall is the time for sweaters, scary movies, and overpriced pumpkin candles from Bath and Body Works. It's also the time for fall drink classics, such as the pumpkin spice latte. If you're up to trying some delicious festive fall coffee, we definitely recommend Roasted coffee shop on Bagley Road. We tried all four of their new fall specials and decided to rank them as well as ask the baristas themselves which one they like the most. Here are our results:

The fourth place on our list is the Pumpkin Spice Latte, the most well-known seasonal drink. This brew features classic fall spices such as nutmeg, cloves, and cinnamon. This is a great option for someone who is looking for a drink that isn't too sweet but will fulfill your sugar cravings.

Coming in at third place is the Maple Pancake. This unique brew keeps a classic coffee taste while including sugary sweet flavors of maple syrup. This drink also includes a pile of their tasty whipped cream with authentic maple syrup drizzled on top. Whether you drink it iced or hot, it'll still taste amazing! We would recommend this drink to anyone looking for a new and unique flavorful drink.

At second place is the White Pumpkin. This drink shares similar flavors to the pumpkin spice latte but with the addition of a delicious hint of white chocolate. This drink was also the favorite of baristas Laurie and McKayla. This is a great choice for someone looking for classic fall flavors but with a twist.

Finally, our winner for the best fall special at Roasted would be the S'mores Latte. This blend is a mixture of coffee and rich chocolate drizzle to sweeten it up. Toasted marshmallow syrup with mini marshmallows on top brings together the comforting flavor of a s'more. We would recommend this coffee to anyone who has a sweet tooth and prefers a more subtle coffee taste.

It's now more important than ever to support local business, and why not get a delicious cup of coffee while you're at it!



Blue Moon to Steal Halloween's Show

By Samantha Poore

October! A month filled with pumpkins, rustling leaves, apple cider, haunted houses, and, of course, Halloween itself! This Halloween is sure to be unique, and Covid isn't the only reason why. Ever heard of a blue moon? A blue moon happens approximately every 2.5 to 3 years. This means that instead of the usual 12 full moons in a year (one per month), 2020 will have 13! But beware, its title is deceiving. This particular full moon will not actually be blue; it is simply just a name to reference this bizarre occurrence. Nevertheless, CNN Space and Science contributor Ashley Strickland explains how rare this event is. This blue moon will be making its haunting appearance on October 31st! On average, a full moon illuminates Halloween night every 19 years. On top of that, this daunting blue moon will be viewable across all time zones, something that hasn't happened since 1944 amidst WW II. In other words, the moon will rise on October 31st at approximately 10:49 EST (our time), meaning multiple areas across the world will be able to see it as well. For example, the moon will rise in Paris at 3:49 pm ECT (their time) which is 10:49 am, our time. No matter your plans for this Halloween, be sure to catch a glimpse of this remarkable event.

Pssst, don't forget to set your clocks back an hour for Daylight Savings too!

Clubs and Their Codes

Masquers:
tb67hs2

Key Club:
h7bng6r

Multicultural
Club: qdmawbx

ASL: 4j257ur

French Club: See
Mr. May

Helping Hands:
See Mr. Y and
Mrs. D in room
202

Environmental
Club: orkrqnx

Ultimate Frisbee:
See Mr. Zrenner

Ski & Snowboard
Club: See Mr.
Zrenner

Pen Ohio: dw4d2fr

Mindful
Mornings:
rp4dwjv

Academic Team:
zinls66

Speech and Debate
Team: itcndap

S.A.D.D.: Contact
Mr. Lintner or Ms.
Shapiro

Cute Masks: How Well Do They Really Work?

By Claire Wiggernhorn

In an effort to balance fashion and protection, we decided to conduct an experiment. Everyone is wearing all different types of masks and we were wondering if one type works better than others. Even though they might look nice, how effective are they?

In this experiment, we are testing how well a mask can keep a flame alive while trying to blow it out. In a closed room, with no other wind force to blow out the flame, we blew at the flame with the same amount of air each time and got the following results:

Medical Masks- Unable to blow out flame

Homemade two-layer masks- Able to make the flame move but not completely put it out

Neck Gaiter- Immediately put out flame

Cotton Masks- Able to make flame move but not completely put it out

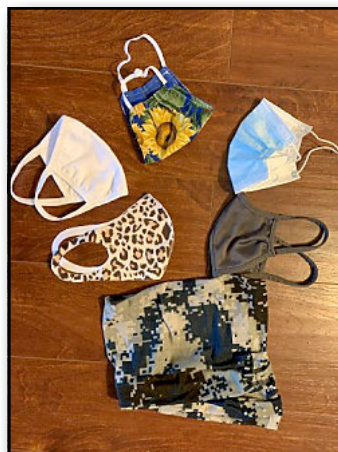
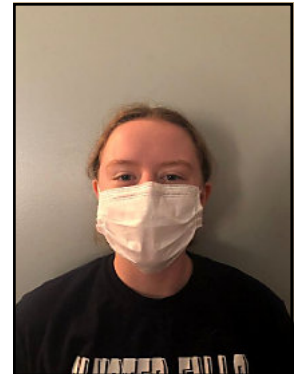
Polyester Masks: Able to put out flame after two big blows

No Mask- Easily put out flame

It shouldn't be a shock that the medical masks work best. However, if you don't have access to a medical mask, a two-layer mask or a cotton mask is your next safest bet! Kim Schive from [Medical.mit.edu](https://www.medical.mit.edu) says, "The short answer is that other mask options are probably better than a single-layer neck gaiter in many situations, but a gaiter, even at a single thickness, is almost certainly better than nothing."

The CDC wants to remind you to "wear masks with two or more layers to stop the spread of COVID-19, wear the mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin," and the "CDC does not recommend the use of gaiters or face shields. Evaluation of these face covers is ongoing but effectiveness is unknown at this time" (published August 27, 2020).

So the next time you are trying to pick out a cute mask, please keep this information in mind, stay safe, and don't forget to wash your masks!



Election Article Cont.

1) Why are politics so important to be involved in?

Doug Kukura: "Those running our branches of government are supposed to reflect the national opinion. It's why we hold elections. We are responsible for choosing who represents and makes decisions on our behalf. The first step in becoming part of this process is to become informed. Develop political views and opinions of your own. Then get registered to vote. Get involved with political campaigns. Support and vote for the candidates you think will make our country fairer, more free and more equal."

Katelyn Kapusta: "I think politics are important to be involved in because they directly relate to our quality of life. It's our civic duty as Americans to contribute to policy making by voting; after all, we know what is best for us as individuals, and we can represent that by voting."

Marissa Kuehn: "The personal is political. Every policy affects someone somewhere. Politics affect everyday things: how we get to school, what we eat, and the quality of the air we breathe. The rules that govern our lives are written by politicians that we get to choose. We need to understand politics so we can elect the right individuals to represent and serve us in public office at the local, state, and federal levels of government. As an informed voter, you can directly affect your community and how it's run. There are many resources out there to get informed, such as ballotpedia.org and procon.org. Even if you don't see an immediate change in your own life for the policies and

politicians you support, your vote can still help someone else and make a huge difference."

Tori Phillips: "Politics, whether we like it or not, cannot be escaped. Federal, State, or local—they control almost everything. The biggest enemy to the people is someone who is uneducated on politics walking into the voting booth."

2) What makes you think that your preferred candidate in the upcoming election would be the best president for our country?

Doug Kukura: "Joe Biden is the President that America needs right now. There is so much hate and division in our country. That hate and division is being fueled by a president who embraces it. Our country also faces a global pandemic. While 215,000 Americans have died, the President continues to hold massive rallies without masks or social distancing. It's unconscionable. He defies scientific and medical advice to feed his fragile ego. We need a unifier in the White House to build back this country. We need a leader who fights for equality, freedom, and justice for all Americans. I believe that leader is Joe Biden."

Katelyn Kapusta: "The economy has really suffered from COVID-19 this past year, and it could be a year or more until we are able to return to our pre-pandemic growth. I think as a businessman, Trump is best equipped to handle the economic challenges that we will face in the future."

Marissa Kuehn: "I overwhelming support electing Joe Biden over the re-election of

Donald Trump. We are not better as a country than we were four years ago, and we must get Trump out of office if we want to control this pandemic and start to address real issues in America. [...] The way Trump has run our country and government is unacceptable. We can do better than Trump and others in his administration. Marginalized communities, such as the LGBTQ+ community, black or indigenous people of color, and others, need protections that Trump has not and will not provide. The climate crisis needs to be addressed, but Trump will not do that either. We need someone who will follow the science. We need someone who will bring stability back into our country. Biden is the best alternative we have this election to beat Trump, even if we may not agree with all of his policies."

Tori Phillips: "Washington DC is corrupt and has been for quite sometime. After 47 years involved in politics, there has been very little done on Joe Biden's behalf. After four years of being in office, President Trump has done more than Joe Biden ever has. I want a president who doesn't just say what he is gonna do, he does what he says."

3) Which political topics do you find to be the most important during this election season?

Doug Kukura: "The topic that seems most relevant given recent events is certainly healthcare. We need a healthcare system that provides coverage to every single person in the country. The government ought to provide a public option

that anyone can buy into. This will ensure that those who can't afford coverage will receive it, and those who want to ditch their private insurance have the option to do so. In no country should anyone have to think about going to the hospital or receiving treatment because they can't afford it."

Katelyn Kapusta: "I think two of the topics at the forefront of this election should be the management of COVID-19 and the economy. This year has been unprecedented world-wide as a result of the pandemic, and almost every country affected has experienced detrimental economic turmoil. I think that by focusing on these two issues, our government will be able to create a formidable plan for the future to get us through the pandemic and economic recession."

Marissa Kuehn: "The pandemic, the Trump administration's failed response to it, and how the country will get COVID under control have to be the most pressing issues this election. Increasing testing and tracing capabilities are imperative to tackle the coronavirus. Addressing the climate crisis is also crucial since doing so is very time sensitive. Biden would rejoin the Paris Climate Accord (global effort to curb emissions) and invest in green energy if elected- that's a good start. Race and other social justice issues, such as the right to choose and LGBTQ+ rights, need to be acknowledged as well. BLM and changing our justice system is a huge conversation going on right now, too. There's a lot to keep track of and worry about this election cycle, but the work

doesn't stop after elections are over. We need to stay informed and stay engaged throughout the process to see how these and other 2020 election issues turn into actual policy and changes in our society."

Tori Phillips: "Definitely reform of law enforcement. Although I'm on the other side of the matter, it is still important to people on the left to hear the candidates talk about it. I also want to hear about how my second amendment is going to be protected; I want to hear about that reform."



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Interview with Devontae

By Samantha Gaba

Football plays a large role in the life of Devontae Boyd, a junior. He's made some of the most amazing memories on and off the field, the former linebacker and running back said. After sustaining an injury during a football game last year Devontae has found himself unable to continue as a player. Instead, he carries on his legacy in football as a coach. Here are a few questions about this new experience that he has kindly answered:

Q: How does it feel to be a coach of the football team as a student? Why?

A: It feels great. I mean I work so hard for the sport and football has always been a great sport for me to be around. I learn more about the keys to life as the years go on so it's a blessing that I can even still be a part of the very thing that is shaping me as a human being.

Q: Does this role change your relationship with members of the team? With other coaches?

A: The position that I'm in makes me closer to these guys. Like I said, I gotta prove my worth somewhere on the field so I'm on both sides of the ball in every position possible

Q: What do you look forward to most this season? Why?

A: Honestly watching these guys grow as men. Everything in football is a life lesson and if you approach it that way you can learn more about your position and how to succeed in life.

Q: Do you have any distinct memories with the team that you would like to share?

A: I've got 2. One on the field and one not on the field. Back in 7th grade against Berea, we were losing 18-13, Berea had the ball on their 20 yard line with 40 seconds left on the clock. They decided to run the football to my side to run the clock out. So I shed a block, ran up to their running back and grabbed the ball out of his hands and when I turned around, there was nothing but green grass ahead of me. I took it for 6 and kicked the field goal to really seal it. People were throwing popcorn in the stands. That was a huge reason I worked long winters and summers early in my career because I always watched it on TV. This other one was pretty recent. Our JV team this year has always known to be a little more undersized than most JV squads. This game we had just this weekend at Berea. They [Berea] were up 24-13 at half time. After the coaches said some things to the team, we got back on the field and were determined to win. Long story short we got a few picks, a few long touchdown passes, then with 49 seconds on the clock, losing 34-38, we threw some good plays that won us the game 41-38. The simple fact that we went into that half with a different attitude won us the game

Clubs and Their Codes

Film Club: See Dr. Mercer

Athletic Trainers: See Mr. Critchfield

Student Council: See Mrs. Radigan

GSA: See Marissa Kuehn

Science Club: See Mrs. Flannigan, Gregg, or Rasmussen

Art Club: See Mrs. West



Fall Sports Recap

By Rachel Korba

Girls Cross Country

The girls cross country team had a great fall season. They focused on pack running and making the gaps between their runners smaller. Senior Mikayla Ellis states, "Hopefully, we end up sending a couple of our runners to Regionals and States again!"

Boys Soccer

Boys soccer kicked off the season strong. Senior Luke Gillette says, "After our sixth game, we were 5-1. This was much better than our five total wins last year." The boys played Westlake and won the game 2-1, making them the first Olmsted Falls team to beat Westlake on their home field in 33 years. The guys are ending their season, focusing on trying to bring home a district title this year.

Boys Golf

Boys golf completed this fall season with a record of 6-2. Senior Anthony DeMarco shares, "The most important thing this season was being able to play in general. The sort of uncertainty about the season itself made the whole team and especially the seniors appreciate getting out to go and compete."

Girls Golf

Girls golf did not hold back this year and finished their season with a 9-4 record and then won their first SWC title for the program. Senior Alyson Veverka was an SWC medalist with her low finishing score of 79. The victories didn't stop there when the girls received second place at the Sweetbriar Sectional, leading them to advance to the Ellsworth Meadows Tournament.

Football

This season the football team came back more powerful than ever. The boys ended the regular season with a record of 4-2. The team finished third in the SWC, allowing them to host and play hard in their last playoff game of the season.. This year, the team's key players were junior Charlie Ciolek, sophomore Rocco Conti, and seniors Andrew Parkowski and Jimmy Cooney.

Volleyball

The volleyball team has had a season full of success. The girls beat Avon for the first time in four years, which was one of their most significant accomplishments. Senior Rachael Palmer shares, "It has

been a roller coaster this year. So many ups and downs with Covid-19, but we were able to stick to it and make the most out of our season!"

The girls hope to finish their season with a three-way tie for the SWC championship.

Girls Soccer

The girls soccer team had some great wins this season and was determined more than ever. Senior Molly Reading shares, "This year has thrown a lot of obstacles at us, but in the end, we are there for each other to help and always will be."

Girls Tennis

The girls tennis team aced their season this fall and ended up with a 7-3 record. Sophomore Morgan Truscott won second place at the Varsity SWC match while freshman Luisa Vallejo won first at the JV SWC match. Overall, the girls' dedication to the team showed throughout the season.



Boys Cross Country

The boys cross country team ran into the season with a big win at their first meet at the Keystone Invitational. After SWCs and Districts this month, the boys hope to finish up the season by qualifyin



New Faces in OF

By Ellie Goetz and Cathy Doherty

This school year, there are many new staff members in the building! We interviewed four to give you a chance to get to know them.

First, we interviewed Ms. Sukalac, the student teacher for Mr. Zillich. She obtained her undergraduate degree from Baldwin Wallace and loved it so much that she decided to stay an extra year and get her Masters in Education! Her favorite thing about Olmsted Falls so far would have to be the students and staff. Her interaction with everyone has been so kind and welcoming. Out of breakfast, lunch, and dinner, dinner is definitely her favorite meal. She feels like there are so many different options you can have, like Mexican (which is her favorite), stuffed cabbage, etc. Dinner is also a time where she gets to sit down and relax after a full day and be with some of her favorite people. Although science was always a close second, her favorite subject in high school was math, but even more specifically, Algebra 1 and 2. When asked, she had a tough time deciding whether or not she would rather go without TV or junk food, but if she had to choose, she would give up junk food since she wouldn't be tempted to eat it all the time. She explained that it would be pretty beneficial for her health! Her top three favorite songs include "Baba O'Riley," "Can't Hold Us," and "Live Like You Were Dying."

Mr. Hoffman is the long-term sub for Honors World History and Economics teacher, Mr. Blake. He graduated from Strongsville High School where his favorite classes were psychology and US history. He also played soccer and was on his high school swim team. Mr. H was quick to remind us that the Mustangs beat the Bulldogs in the 2015 District Finals for soccer, where he actually scored Strongsville's first penalty kick. He furthered his academic and athletic career at Ohio Northern University where he played soccer and graduated with a Bachelors in History and Social Studies and a minor in psychology. His favorite thing about OFHS so far has been the people; he has jived well with the faculty and students. Mr. Hoffman's favorite meal of the day is dinner, and he says you can spot him at half-priced sushi nights in Strongsville! If he had to give up either TV or junk food, he would give up junk food. "There's no way I would survive without watching TV," Hoffman told us. His three favorite songs are "All The Small Things" by Blink 182, "The Nights" by Avicii, and "Ants Marching" by Dave Matthews Band.

Mr. Hulthen is a student teacher with Mr. VanArnhem this year. He is a graduate of The University of Akron. This is his second career and he has already had a long, successful career at Hi-Tech. He is married and has three children and one grandchild. His favorite thing about Olmsted Falls has been the people. Between faculty, staff, and students, he thinks we are a great bunch. Out of the three major meals of the day, his favorite is dinner, more specifically barbeque and pizza, which he and his wife typically make themselves. When Mr. Hulthen was a high school student, his favorite classes were physics and all math courses. If he had to give up either junk food or television, he would give up junk food. His three favorite songs are "Thunder Road" by Bruce Springsteen, "The Weight" by The Band, and "Won't Get Fooled Again" by The Who.

Lastly, there is Mr. Banyasz, the student teacher for Ms. Jones. He was born and raised in Columbia Station where he went to Columbia High School and played football and basketball. He attended Notre Dame College on a basketball scholarship where he studied biology. After he graduated, he was a personal trainer for two years. Now he is back as a high school football coach at Columbia High School. Currently, he is also attending BW's master program at night. His favorite thing about Olmsted Falls is that it reminds him a lot of Columbia, just on a larger scale. Mr. Banyasz explained, "It feels like home." His favorite meal is definitely Chipotle, regardless of breakfast, lunch, or dinner! In school, his favorite subjects were Biology and US History. When deciding whether he would rather give up junk food or T.V., he decided that he would rather not eat junk food so he can still watch his Brownies! His top three favorite songs are "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" by Wham!, "Bust a Move" by Young MC, and "Your Hand in Mine" by Explosions in the Sky.

Thank you to our new student teachers and long-term substitute for letting us interview you! Look for next month's issue of *The Spotlight* for more interviews with the new faces in our school.

