

Trojan Tribune



Editor: Mackenzie Gibbs

Instructor: John Kissingford

News From Ouray High School

Reporters: Anna Biolchini, Caeley Eddy, Ally King, Cliona Pasek

The Science of Pumpkin Demolition

by Cliona Pasek

Pumpkins everywhere fell, smashed, and exploded as two teachers used Halloween celebrations to facilitate education. Mr. James Chiang, the middle and high school math teacher, and Mr. Eric Fagrelus, the high school science teacher, incorporated physics, chemical reactions, velocity, and fun into the minds of their students.

"It was hilarious! It didn't work at first so we were super shocked when it randomly exploded! A couple of the past year students were there because his experiments are so legendary, so that was fun," said junior Abbie Link.

Mr. Fagrelus, affectionately known as Mr. F., has been exploding pumpkins every Halloween for the past 30 years, ever since he started teaching chemistry at Ouray School.

"Using calcium carbide, which turns into a settling gas when you put water with it, all you gotta do is light that settling gas and it explodes pretty big," explained Mr. F.

Over the years, Mr. F has exploded pumpkins for an all-school assembly and for Algebra II classes, but mostly he performs the experiment with his chemistry classes.

"I am always looking for something that I can do in chemistry class that will involve the things that we are learning about. And since it's Halloween, it's a really good demo that I can get out," said Mr. F.

Meanwhile, Mr. Chiang performed a pumpkin drop with each of his math classes, having students volunteer to bring in their own pumpkins. Then, from his tall middle school classroom window, students would aim to drop their pumpkins onto a nail-infested board. Once ready, the pumpkins would be dropped to their "deaths."

"It was fun!" said 6th grader Nate Kissingford.

"The pumpkin drop was a way to use functions, algebra, and any other knowledge the math students had to make a prediction about something that happens in real life. And that physics and gravity are really simple and really predictable. Plus it's fun."

Mr. Chiang invited students and teachers to predict the drop duration, using extrapolation, stroboscopic imagery, and, in older grades, analytical prediction, and then showed them the solution with splattered pumpkins in the alley.

As he wrote in an email to the staff, "Distance fallen is given by the equation $d = 1/2gt^2$ where d is the distance fallen at time t , and g is the gravitational constant of 9.8 meters/second² (this can be obtained for writing Newton's 2nd Law for the situation and integrating twice). Solving this for t gives the result $t = \sqrt{2d/g}$. Substituting 8 meters in for d (the height of the 2nd story windows) yields a time of about 1.27 seconds."

Rock Gibbs, an 8th grade student said, "It was pretty dope, I mean I missed the nail board but otherwise it was pretty cool."

While the entire school was invited, some of the elementary students were big on being involved. They were able to watch from the playground and take a break from class to watch the dropping pumpkins.

One of the second grade students said, "It was fun because I got to watch it with my brother. And I'm surprised I got to see my brother a lot in school even though we aren't in the same grade."

Different activities that teachers, students, and the school put on brought students of all ages together on Halloween, creating an exciting environment for learning.

Welcome Lindsay

by Ally King

Moving from the chocolate bubble Hershey PA to Ouray CO, Lindsay Faust is starting her junior year at Ouray High School. She enjoys being able to walk into town for lunch and her new friends.

Back home in Hershey, Lindsay had to leave many friends, family, and a job. "It's been difficult and stressful throughout the move," said Lindsay. She really enjoys living in her two story home with her parents and dogs. "Everything takes time to adjust to," she said. She is getting used to the smaller town and the new culture.

"It was very hard leaving my friends back home," said Lindsay. She is adjusting by making a few new friends. "Reysa, Charlie, and Ally," are the new friends she named.

Lindsay said she "loves hanging out with friends and watching Netflix." Some of her favorite things are "the TV show 'Shameless', the color green, and pasta." She loves telling jokes and being geeky with friends.

"She's making a lot of great friends," said Mrs. Faust. Mr. and Mrs. Faust really enjoy Colorado

and are glad they made the move to Ouray. "Lindsay loves doing people's make-up and listening to music," said Mrs. Faust. During Halloween, Lindsay even designed her mom's makeup for her costume.

"Halloween is so much different here than PA," said Lindsay. Back in PA they celebrated Halloween the Thursday before, and started a lot later in the afternoon. "I got a ton of candy for only being out 30 minutes," said Lindsay after her costumed tour of Ouray's Main Street. She did a candy trade with friends once she got home and had nearly 100 pieces.

"Lindsay is a really good friend to have," said Nic Nelson. Nic and Lindsay have been hanging out since Lindsay started at Ouray and make great

friends. "It's important to make friends at a new school," said Nic. Nic understand what is like being a new students for also starting at Ouray this year.

"She is a really good friend," said Reysa Klein "I'm glad she decided to come to Ouray."



Keeping Families Warm

by Caeley Eddy

As you walk into the Ouray School entrance, you see a coat rack that says "Warm jackets free to a good home." This is meant for families who can't afford jackets or shoes this winter. The office administrative staff, Ms. Kim, Ms. Paige, and Ms. Cindy, banded together to create the free coat rack.

"So it started last year because some parents just brought in some stuff and said hey if kids could use this or need this I have some coats in great condition and so we took them in the office and then eventually we found homes for the jackets that came in," said Ms. Paige. "So this year we had some more parents say, hey we have more jackets to get rid of, so we took them in. That is how the coat rack idea started."

Every year some parents or families need winter clothing. So the school decided to put the coat rack where anyone can take from it. "We came up with this idea because it would be more visible for parents. Sometimes people don't like asking for

help," said Mrs. Paige. Not many people have taken from it so far, but hopefully soon it will be in full use.

Some students may hesitate or even fear taking from the rack. "I haven't taken any thing," said junior Nisha Harding. But the staff encourages students and families to take what has been offered, if they want or need it.

The coats and shoes have either come from families that no longer need them, or from the office staff. The coats range from lightweight to heavy, and the shoes are all gone. Right now there is a pair of jeans, some vests, long sleeve shirts, coats, and gloves. If families take these home they may be useful for the winter.

Anyone can take from it, including parents. If you can't afford a jacket this year, you can find a few free ones right in the school entrance. "It gets cold in Ouray, so we want the kids to stay warm during recess," said Ms. Kim.

Calendar

Thursday, November 9

7:00 pm - HS Play: Blithe Spirit in APAC

Friday, November 10

7:00 pm - Blithe Sprit in APAC

Saturday, November 11

8:00 am - HS KB leaves for Grand Junction

12:00 pm - MS G BB @ home vs Lake City

7:00 pm - Blithe Spirit in APAC

Monday, November 13

3:00 pm - KB in Nucla

Tuesday, November 14

4:00 pm - MS G BB @ home vs Telluride

Wednesday, November 15

8:15 am - 3rd Grade to Black Canyon

Heard in the Halls

"Wait, there isn't a difference between the right and the left Twix? I have thought that for my whole life!"

Finding Strength in Each Other

by Mackenzie Gibbs

During the week of October 23-27, Ouray School students and teachers attended seminars held at the Community Center through the program Sources of Strength, a suicide prevention organization that focuses on peer relationships and confiding in trained, caring students, rather than only concentrating on the adults. "Sources of Strength is one of the first suicide prevention programs that uses peer leaders to enhance protective factors associated with preventing suicide," according to the organization's website, sourceofstrength.org.

The students that attended were specifically invited by teachers Cappi Castro and Jen Ballard to participate. "We chose students based on who we thought would go out of their way to help a peer," said Ms. Castro. The students had a choice whether to accept the invitation or decline it. "We focused less on the seniors when inviting and more on the kids who have more time left at this school," said Ms. Ballard.

And the program is geared more towards younger kids. Senior Beth Williams attended the student seminar. "I think that it was definitely more catered to middle schoolers," she said. "There were way more of them, to be fair, but all we did was play games. I think it would have been more helpful if it was informational."

The teacher session was apparently quite the opposite. "I think that the teacher training was very well-executed," said Castro. "I really appreciate the program and how it deviates from traditional suicide prevention."

The high school student council is involved with this program as well as with the local Communities That Care. "It's obvious that this year the school community is making an effort to branch out," said junior Alannah Wister.

"I think it's a great thing that we as a community are facing mental health straight on," said junior Abbie Link. "It's not a thing we should hide from anymore. People need to talk about it. And Sources of Strength is abolishing the stigma by making it fun. I think that's important."