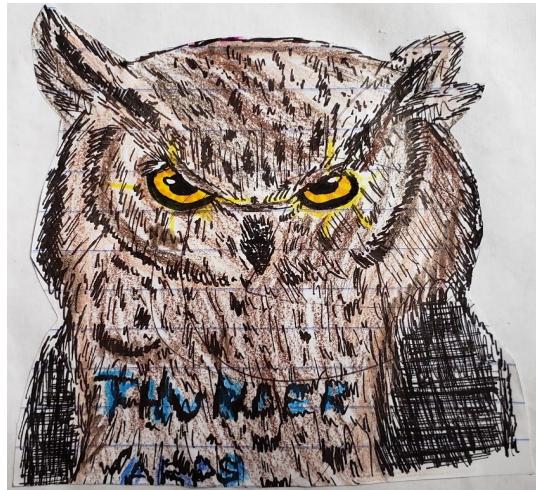


# The Owl Times



Made by: 8th Grade ARPS Students



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## From your ARPS 8th Grade

Newsletter staff:

Danielle W, Dani R, Zoeanna S, Ashton J, Sophia J, Emily M,  
Addy S, Caden S, Justin L, Katelyn E, Haven F, Caleb S

## *Letter From the Editor*

Hello ARPS Families,

2020 has been full of firsts! We have all gotten to try new things, and at the very least, trying to do our “normal” activities in a new/different “first” way. As we started the 20-21 school year, the ARPS Board of Directors and school administrators had a very difficult “first” decision to make. “How do we teach, safely and meaningfully, during a pandemic?” One of the many decisions that was made, with input from middle school teachers, was specifically related to electives for students. It was decided that students would take specific electives based on their grade level cohort, instead of from the selections that students had made in the previous year.

“Newsletter” was not one of the first choices for some students. (I happened to be one of those students when I was younger, so I totally understood where they were coming from.) I knew that there would be some groans from students on the first day of school when I explained that they were no longer getting to do their “choice” elective. They had been excited to explore robotics with Mr. Rhoda, sculpt with Mrs. White, rock it out with Mrs. Ravita, or build their strength with Mr. Zuppas. While they may get to do a different version of some of those later this year, students were placed in various electives, including “Newsletter,” without ever thinking or wanting to publish a piece of written work.

The groans stopped, for the most part, when students realized that “Newsletter” allows them the freedom to create what they want for a school newsletter. “The Owl Times” is written, designed, and edited by the students (with a little support from yours truly). They get to decide who, what, and how they want to present the information. Each month they release a newsletter to the Middle School students at ARPS, and what they have created so far is amazing! Their creativity and ability to work together in the new 2020 classroom has surpassed expectations! We put them up to the challenge and they have blown it away!

Another “first” for 2020- The Parent Edition of their newsletter, for you to enjoy at home. Students have carefully chosen which articles and projects to submit from the October and November newsletters and you can find those below. While some students are feeling a little trepidation about parents reading their work, I know that you will love their creativity and hard work as much as we do at the school. Cheers to the many “firsts” that this year has brought. Sit back and enjoy “The Owl Times.”

Sincerely,

*Ms. Hiskett*

“The Owl Times” Editor

# HALLOWEEN SPECIAL

By Dani R

Ok, so it's a normal day and you get home from school and find out that trick or treating is CANCELED!!! You start to panic and you don't know what to do for Halloween. Well, don't worry you have come to the right place. I will give you the secret to having the best Halloween without going trick or treating! The first thing you need to do is get your friends and tell them you're planning a party. Next, you need to prepare.

1. You can play Halloween themed games
2. Make some scary delicious Halloween treats
3. Make fun Halloween DIYs and decorations
4. Decorate your house/room for Halloween
5. Watch scary or just normal Halloween movies
6. Eat all of the candy you bought for trick or treaters

And just remember, you **CAN'T** eat all of the halloween candy without friends.

Here are some DIY sweet treat ideas: Don't forget to look at this website to find more awesome halloween treats!

<https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a55544/ghost-smores-recipe/>





# Disguises

A Review by Ashton J

Disguises is a costume store in Lakewood, Colorado, it has all kinds of cool costumes, masks, makeup, wigs, and special effects. The wigs have a variety to them, some are colorful and some are more natural looking! They feel soft and silky, but they can be a little thin and feel a little cheap. They aren't perfect but they are anything but poor quality! If you wash them and style them the way you want, I'm sure it'll be perfect for your costume! Some of the costumes themselves aren't bad. I've certainly seen better. They're cheap, typical, basic Halloween costumes, just like the ones you see at Party City. I would definitely recommend Amazon or another store for an outfit, unless you're looking for steampunk, Victorian, or accessorized outfits. The corsets, goggles, petticoats, victorian dresses, hats, and tights are all great quality.

SFX items are cheap but effective. They get the job done but you can most definitely choose from another store and be well or maybe better off. The props aren't bad either. They aren't exactly realistic but they still work really well for decoration. The costume masks are very pretty, and look well made, good quality for a costume. Disguises also has the brand Demonias for platform shoes, they are great quality and are in top condition. The platforms are listed much cheaper than they are on the initial website. They have platform heels, shoes,

and boots. The bodysuits are a pretty cheap material but they still look nice and will be great for wearing them only a few times.

Disguises also sell colored contacts but I absolutely do not recommend buying them. You should only buy contacts from trusted companies that specialize in contacts or similar eye products to avoid any injury or damage. Using cheap contacts could tear your cornea or permanently damage your eyes. So please avoid using contacts from unknown sources. The face masks are decorative and look great. They would make breathing more difficult, but they do look great. Some even glow in the dark. Disguises also has other glow in the dark props, such as hats and a few shirts. They glow well and are relatively bright. The glow in the dark props aren't neon, but they do show up really well. These are perfect if you plan on trick or treating later on into the night!

Overall, the decorations look great, but there are a few cons. The stock is currently limited due to COVID-19 so finding decorations may be a bit difficult. Some of the costumes are cheaper material so they're better for wearing once, but they are not bad quality. Disguises is most definitely a store worth visiting more than once. The decorations and costumes make it a fun place to be and I highly advise visiting around Halloween time. Be careful with any contacts, enjoy your costumes, and have

fun with special effects. I encourage you to at least take a visit, as simply looking

around is just as fun as getting the costumes

# At Home Recipes

By: Zoey S. (8th), and Sophia J. (8th)

## Apple Cinnamon

### Mug Cake



**Prep time:** 2 minutes

**Cook time:** 3 minutes

**Total time:** 5 minutes

#### Instructions

1. Mix together flour, baking powder, cinnamon, apple, and sugar in a mug.
2. Mix in one tablespoon butter, milk, and egg.
3. Combine another tablespoon of butter, and brown sugar in a separate bowl.
4. Reserve one tablespoon for topping. Mix the rest into the mug mixture.
5. Top with remaining topping. Microwave for 3 minutes

#### What you'll need

AMOUNT	INGREDIENTS
1/4 cup	All-purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon	Baking powder
1/4 teaspoon	Cinnamon
2 tablespoons	Sugar
1	Egg
1 tablespoon	Melted butter
1 tablespoon	Melted butter (separate)
2 tablespoons	Milk
2 tablespoons	Finely chopped apple
1 teaspoon	Brown sugar (or coconut)

# Halloween Puns

By Caleb S

1. Q: Why did the monster eat the light bulb?

A: Because he needed a light snack.

2. Q: what is a ghost's favorite dessert?

A: I-I-I scream.

3. Q: what do you get when you drop a pumpkin?

A: Squash

4. Q: Are monsters good at math?

A: Not unless you count dracula

# October Owl Times Podcast

By Haven and Justin



Click the image to listen to the Podcast

# At Home Recipes

By: Zoey S. (8th), and Sophia J. (8th)

## Pepperoni Pizza Pumpkins



**Prep Time** - 15 minute

**Cook Time** - 20 minute

AMOUNT	INGREDIENTS
1 can	Refrigerated Pizza crust
2 tablespoons (depends on serving)	Marinara sauce
16 slices (small)	Pepperoni
8	Mini mozzarella balls
1 egg	Slightly beaten with 2 teaspoons of water

1. Preheat the oven to 400°F, line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.
2. Roll out pizza dough and using a 3 ½ or 4-inches cutter cut out 8 circles of dough.

3. Place a small dollop of marinara sauce in the center of each circle, add 2 pepperoni slices and a cube or a ball of mozzarella.
4. Bring the edges up and over, pressing them together and being sure to leave no gaps for the filling to leak out. Lay the pizza bombs on the prepared baking sheet.
5. Wrap each dough ball in a long piece of kitchen twine, around the ball to divide it into eight sections. The rolls are baked with the string attached and the dough rises around the string forming little pumpkin shapes.

6. Brush each ball with egg wash and bake 15-20 minutes, or until it rises and gets a nice golden-brown color.
7. Allow rolls to cool for a few minutes, then remove the twine. Serve warm with marinara sauce alongside.



## The Huckleberry Review

By: Zoey Snyder

The Huckleberry is a small brunch restaurant located in Oldtown Louisville. Firstly, I will be sharing the atmosphere of this cozy restaurant. Secondly, there will be an overview of the menu. Lastly will be the experiences I've had. Hopefully all of these will persuade you to try Huckleberry.

To start off, Huckleberry has a relaxing and farm type vibe. It has a fun and simple interior design. Wood accents, cabinets, and chairs add to the farm look. The colorful walls can brighten anyone's day. The employees are also very friendly and welcoming. Adding to the charming and simple atmosphere, Huckleberry offers a great variety of fresh food.

The menu includes vegetarian hash all the way to breakfast tacos. Furthermore, Huckleberry's food is delicious! You can definitely tell the ingredients are fresh. As a

matter of fact, Huckleberry has its own farm! The farm is Three leaf Farm and you might have heard of it. They grow veggies, herbs, and fruits according to their seasonal menu. All of the food has a certain unique taste to it. While the food is very enjoyable the experience never disappoints.

The service is wonderful. The employees are always so kind and really strive to do their jobs correctly. Mistakes do happen, yet The Huckleberry employees handle it very well. Additionally, it is well worth the price. Huckleberry is an overall great place. The atmosphere is lovely. The food is unique and delicious. The service is wonderful. In conclusion, I really recommend you try Huckleberry!

## Staff Interview



By: Emily

Miller (8th), Danielle Walbum (8th)

### **Mrs. Reseigh**

#### **How long have you been working at Aspen Ridge?**

8 years started when my son was in Kindergarten.

#### **How long have you been teaching?**

I have been teaching for 8 years, before that I was a buyer in the fine jewelry business. When my kids started school I realized I needed to be a teacher and that teaching would be ideal.

#### **What made you decide to become a teacher?**

In college I had thought about being a teacher, studied Spanish to be a teacher. Then I realized I needed to go into the business world for a few years.

#### **Why did you choose this school?**

I choose Aspen Ridge, because my kids are here, and because it's a great school with an amazing community. Great atmosphere.

#### **What kind of grade or group of people do you teach?**

Currently teaching 6, 7 and 8th grade virtual kids, I also teach spanish. I teach math and science to the virtual kids.

#### **Is there any advice you wish you would have had when you first started teaching?**

I'd say maybe how to handle the different personalities, because there are a bunch of different personalities. I want to be able to affect everybody and have an impact.

#### **How is the school year going so far?**

So far so good, glad to be in school. A lot of work but everything that's good is a lot of work.

#### **What do you like best about teaching?**

There's nothing better than having excited kids, and having kids finally understand what you're teaching.

**Do you have a certain teaching style?**

I like to be a mellow fun teacher. There are times however, when I have to be hard, which is not generally my style. I like to be fun and engaging, and I try to make sure everyone is having a good time while they learn.

**What's your favorite thing to do in your free time?**

Travel, hang out with family and friends, play sports, like basketball and soccer.

**What's your favorite sport to play/watch?**

To watch is probably college football. I like to watch the CU Buffs. I love to play basketball.

**Do you see yourself teaching in five years?**

Yes!

## Holiday Special

Thanksgiving is a great holiday!

Thanksgiving reminds us to be grateful for what we have.

November can be chilly, so grab a sweater and go for a relaxing walk. Since COVID restricts us in some ways, it is important to stay active and get some fresh air.

Here is a list of other outdoor activities

- Spend time with pets
- Hike
- Play your favorite sports

Have fun!

Thanksgiving is a holiday that traditionally is associated with a big feast! This feast represents the Native people and Plymouth colonists celebrating their first successful harvest. Turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and even ham are some great and popular foods on Thanksgiving day. Here is a website for some delicious fall foods. ↓

<https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/photos/top-50-thanksgiving-recipes>

Thanksgiving can be celebrated by giving family and friends a small gift showing your appreciation; even spending time with these special people can be enough. Make sure in one way or another to show your appreciation once in a while; sometimes with our busy daily lives we can lose track of being grateful. It

is a proven fact being grateful can boost your happiness .This link shows an article with an overview of some studies. If you are interested in learning more about being grateful and its origin this article is a great resource.

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/healthbeat/giving-thanks-can-make-you-happier>

## Thanksgiving craft

By: Katelyn E. (8th)



This is a very cute thanksgiving idea that you can do at your house!!

### What you will need:

- Leaves (real or fake)
- Mason jar
- Mod podge or glue
- Sponge brush
- String lights

### Directions:

1. Get out all your supplies
2. Grab your mason jar and leaves
3. Dip sponge brush in mod podge and start painting modge podge on the leaves so that they stick
4. Make sure that the leaves look like a collage
5. Let the leaves dry
6. Add your string lights and YOUR DONE!!!!

I hope you enjoyed this awesome thanksgiving craft! 🍁

# Sweet Potato Marshmallow

## Recipe

Ashton Johns

<b>Yields:</b> 8 Servings	<b>Prep Time:</b> 0 Hours 20 Min	<b>Total Time:</b> 1 Hours 0 Min
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### **Ingredients:**

#### **Sweet potatoes**

- Cooking spray
- 4 c. large sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1/2 c. packed brown sugar
- 8 tbsp melted butter
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 c. milk
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt

#### **Streusel topping**

- 1 c. packed dark brown sugar
- 1/2 c. all purpose flour
- 4 tbsp melted butter
- 1 c. chopped pecans
- 2 1/2 c. mini marshmallows

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Preheat the oven to 350 and grease a 9-x-13" baking dish with cooking spray. Place sweet potatoes in a large pot and cover with water. Bring to a boil then reduce heat and simmer until sweet potatoes are tender, about 15 minutes. Drain and let cool slightly then transfer to a large bowl.
2. In a large bowl, stir together sweet potatoes, sugar, butter, vanilla and salt until smooth, pour into the prepared dish.

- 3. In a medium bowl, stir together sugar, flour, and butter until it clumps. Stir in pecans then spread evenly over potatoes. Top with marshmallows**
- 4. Bake until cooked through and golden, about 30 minutes.**

## At home recipes

### Turkey cupcakes



#### INGREDIENTS

1 box chocolate cake mix, plus ingredients called for on box  
 1 1/3 c. (2 sticks and 5 1/3 tbsp.) butter, softened  
 5 1/3 c. powdered sugar  
 2/3 c. unsweetened cocoa powder  
 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract  
 4 tbsp. heavy cream  
 Pinch kosher salt  
 Pretzels, for decorating  
 Candy corn, for decorating  
 M&Ms, for decorating  
 Candy eyes, for decorating

#### DIRECTIONS

Line muffin tins with black cupcake liners. Prepare cupcake batter according to package directions.

Scoop cupcake batter into liners and bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Let cool completely.

In a large bowl using a hand mixer (or the bowl of a stand mixer using the paddle attachment), beat butter until fluffy. Add powdered sugar and cocoa powder and beat until combined, then add vanilla, heavy cream, and salt and beat until combined. (If you desire a thinner consistency, add 1 more tablespoon cream.)

Fill a pastry bag fitted with a 1/2" round tip with frosting. Frost cupcakes, making 1

larger frosting dollop for the body and 1 smaller one on top for the face.

Place 2 pretzels on the backside of the cupcake for the tail then arrange 4 candy corn pieces in front of them to finish the tail. Place another candy corn on the smaller dollop for the

beak and 3 brown M&Ms on each side for the wings.

Finish the turkey cupcake by placing 2 candy eyes above the beak.

You can look at the photo for reference while decorating the cupcakes and don't forget to look at [delish.com](https://www.delish.com) for many more awesome and delicious recipes.

## ***Staff interviews***

By: Caden Selle



Question: Why did you become a teacher?

Answer: *I became a teacher because I had such horrible teachers when I was in school. So I said, I'm going to become a teacher so that students can have a great teacher.*

Question: Is it annoying for you to wear a face mask and/or face shield in school?

### ***Miss Hiskett***

Answer: *I wouldn't call it annoying, it's just something we do to make sure everyone is safe.*

Question: Why did you come from teaching 4th grade to 7th and 8th grade?

Answer: *I loved teaching 4th grade. A couple of years ago the middle school grew and the school was looking for a Social Studies teacher. Luckily, I have a couple degrees in Social Studies. Mrs. Salmeron asked me if I would be interested in moving up. So, of course, I said yes!*

Question: What do you do outside of school?

Answer: *I take my dogs on walks. I play video games. Just one, World of Warcraft. I try to get outside as much as I can. I like to go to softball games and there is still some school work I do even at home.*

Question: What was your favorite subject when you were in 8th grade?

Answer: *Latin. I thought it would be learning about all the gods and goddesses. Then I found out that you have to learn the language.*

Question: What is your favorite season?

Answer: *Fall and winter. I love sweater weather.*

Question: What is your favorite **fall** color?

Answer: *Maroon red. I like the reds.*

Question: Who is your favorite student?

Answer: *You are all my favorite students (Even though it's me - Caden).*

Question: What is the best thing to eat on Thanksgiving?

Answer: *Many people might disagree with me but I love the cranberry sauce that comes in the can but I also love mash potatoes with or without gravy.*

Question: What is your favorite holiday?

Answer: *Halloween. It is the one time of the year that you can dress up as weird as you want and no one looks at you crazy.*

Question: What is your favorite color?

Answer: *It changes. Right now I would say that my favorite colors are the maroons because it's fall. Sometimes it goes to greens and purples. I like purples in the summertime. Green is almost all year round for me. I also like black because black goes with everything.*

Question: What is your favorite hobby?

Answer: *I like creating things. Anything that deals with creating and being productive is my favorite. I crochet and I don't keep the end product. It is giving that thing that I created away to somebody else. I like how they appreciate it.*

Question: Why do you teach Social Studies instead of Math, Science, or Language Arts?

Answer: *I like to tell stories all day! History is nothing but stories.*

Question: Where did you grow up?

Answer: *I grew up everywhere! I grew up in Nebraska, California, Japan, Missouri, Texas, Florida, and Colorado. My dad was a marine and we spent four years in Japan.*

Question: What is your favorite animal?

Answer: *Monkeys. They're adorable.*

Question: What vacation do you prefer to go to?

Answer: *I prefer to go somewhere with nature with mountains, forest, camping. It's more of who I spend the time with in a quality way.*

Question: What did you dress up as on your first trick-or-treating?

Answer: *I was two months old on my first trick-or-treating. I was a pumpkin. I had little pumpkin cloth on the outside and stuffed trash bags on the inside so that I would sit up.*

Question: What is your favorite candy?

Answer: *Right now it's Sour Patch Kids but it goes in stages. Sometimes I like chocolate and others chewy gummies.*

Question: How much television channels did you get as a kid?

Answer: *We had like 30 but half of them were in Spanish and I can't speak Spanish. So really I had like 12. If we had cable we would have 110.*

Question: What were the TV shows you got as a kid?

Answer: *Nickelodeon, some Disney channels, MTV, music videos.*

Question: What was your favorite TV show?

Answer: *Tales From the Crypt. My favorite part was at the beginning when the guy would jump out of his coffin. Every single time, without fail, it would scare my little sister, even though she knew it was coming. She was five years old.*

Question: What is your favorite movie?

Answer: *I don't have a favorite movie but right now I'm into anything with heroes or Marvel. I just rewatched all the Hobbit, Lord of the Rings, and The Kingsman.*

## Student Interview

**By: Emily Miller (8th)**

**// Levi (7th) //**

**Do you like Aspen Ridge?**

**Yeah it's pretty cool school.**

**How long have you been going here?**

**Since 3rd grade.**

**Have you always lived in Colorado?**

**Yeah.**

**What hobbies do you have outside of school, and what are they?**

**Soccer, and skateboarding.**

**Do you like how Aspen Ridge is dealing with covid?**

**Ehhh not really.**

**Do you like your teachers this year?**

**Yeah they are cool.**

**What's your favorite part of the day?**

**Recess**

**Do you have an ideal career?**

**No, I am 13 years old.**

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

**Skateboarding.**

**How do you think your friends would describe you?**

**Pretty funny, energetic.**

**Do you have any siblings, if so do they go here?**

**No, I am an only child, it's pretty depressing.**

**What do you usually do during recess?**

**Soccer or just mess around.**

**Do you play any sports, if so what do you play?**

**Soccer.**

**Do you have a favorite sports team?**  
**No, not really.**

**Everything is pretty cool.**

**Did you consider a different school? Or did you have no choice?**  
**I did not consider another school.**

**If you could, would you change anything about our school?**

## November Owl Times Podcast

By Haven & Justin

To listen to the podcast click the image.

