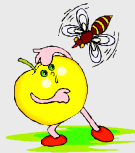


# HAPPY HALLOWEEN



## The BuzzLetter



A product of [BuzzingKidsWorld.com](http://BuzzingKidsWorld.com)

### Trick or Treat Safety

- Prepare dinner before trick or treating so kids won't dig into their candy before you can examine it.
- Costumes should be flame-retardant, not drag on the ground, and have reflective materials or tape on them.
- Encourage children to paint their faces instead of wearing masks.
- Kids should visit only the homes of people they know.
- Accompany very young kids.
- Let the older ones carry your cell phone so they can call you if there is trouble.
- Trick-or-treaters should be told to walk, not run, stay on sidewalks, cross streets at corners, and obey traffic signals.
- Homeowners should clear yards and walks of anything a child could trip on.
- Pets should be kept inside.
- Lighted candles or jack-o'-lanterns should be set away from doorways.



### Lovable scarecrows

We loved scarecrows even before the lovable, but not scary, scarecrow joined Dorothy on the road to Oz. But these days you don't see many scarecrows in real gardens.

In fact, scarecrows have taken on other forms and don't always resemble men any more. One of the most common modern scarecrows is the owl statue. Often made with shiny, glass eyes, these owl statues are most effective at scaring off birds that fly into picture windows.

In other locales, birds are scared away with noise or shiny ribbon. But the scarecrow always returns at Halloween when his spooky, or friendly, visage often greets Halloweeners.

### Pumpkin carving is a new, competitive Halloween sport

Move over, Mom. This year, Dad, and most of his pals, will be in charge. Pumpkin carving has become a contest to see who will have the most skillfully produced jack-o'-lantern.

There are Web sites, books and special tools to help them. If they search for Pumpkin Wizards designs on the Web, they will find 300 free designs and 200 more if they want to pay \$7.95 to subscribe for a year. There are designs of very scary faces and creepy cats. Some are the faces of famous people and other characters that can be carved on pumpkins.



If they search for Pumpkin Masters Family Favorites, they will find more traditional designs that are still scary and unusual. They can order a set of carving tools, or if they want something pretty easy, they could order the Power Master saw for \$9.95 at [www.yankeeharvest.com](http://www.yankeeharvest.com). It is operated with four AA batteries, has replaceable saw blades and a guard that lets the user see the pattern while carving. Sellers of carving tools say they are safer to use than knives.

Guys with tools can use their Sawsall or retractable saw. A router allows them to easily cut away the skin from certain areas for special shading and glowing effects.

To make a great pumpkin, they should decide on the design first, then pick a pumpkin that will suit the round or oblong face. The pumpkin should be evenly colored, have a stem, is fairly smooth and has no scratches, dents or bruises. They can attach the design pattern to the pumpkin with toothpicks, trace the design, remove the pattern and carve. Happy Carving!

## CHALK TALK - Columbus Day is October 13th

### The legacy of Christopher Columbus

In grade school, most people learned Columbus discovered America. For all practical purposes this is true, but today we do know of other adventurers. Though Leif Erikson and others had set foot on the continent, their landings did not lead to developments and commerce. The voyages of Christopher Columbus alone opened up the new world for trade and settlement by European peoples.

American cities and parks named after Columbus justly honor a man of great courage. Statues of Christopher Columbus recognize the extreme hardships of his four voyages as he and a handful of men sailed utterly into the unknown. This year we honor Columbus on October 13th.

Although Columbus' legacy in recent years has been sullied by those who attempt to overlay 21st century values on a 15th century man, most agree that Columbus' accomplishment is a triumph of individual effort and vision. Columbus had to overcome the superstitions and political pitfalls of his own world to open the way to a new one. The picture above shows a memorable depiction of Columbus claiming possession of the New World in a chromolithograph that was made by The Prang Education Company in 1893.



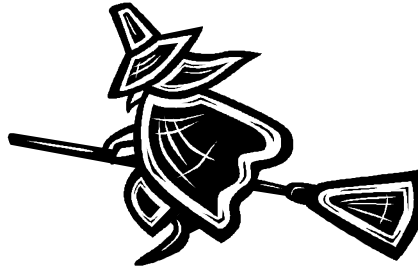
## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

### HALLOWEEN IS THE TIME TO GET INTO THE "SPIRIT" OF THINGS.

After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin.

At last she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings.

As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"



Some second graders were discussing "What I want to be when I grow up." The teacher got the usual answers – "a fireman," "a nurse --."

Then she asked a youngster deep in thought what he'd like to be. Frowning, he replied, "Teacher, I don't even know what I want to be for Halloween yet."



### Autumn's Dance of the Leaves

#### October's Party

October gave a party  
The leaves by hundreds came -  
The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples  
And leaves of every name.  
The Sunshine spread a carpet  
And everything was grand  
Miss Weather led the dancing  
Professor Wind the band.

~ George Cooper



*Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumn.*

~George Eliot

### Do you believe in ghosts? Many do!

According to a poll by the Associated Press and Ipsos, 34 percent of people interviewed believe in ghosts. That's the same percentage of people who believe in UFOs (unidentified flying objects), and 14 percent say they have actually seen one.

About 19 percent of those interviewed believe in witches and spells. And 48 percent, mostly caucasian, believe in extrasensory perception (ESP). One in five say they are at least somewhat superstitious, with young men and minorities being more likely to seek good luck. Twenty-six percent of city dwellers say they are a little superstitious, but only 13 percent of rural people say they are.

The most admitted superstition was wanting to find a four-leaf clover for good luck. Thirteen percent avoid walking under a ladder or letting the groom see his bride just before the wedding. Smaller numbers named black cats, broken mirrors and Friday the 13th.



## October Project

### Witches Brew

(To be made with adult supervision)



- 1 (6-oz) package lime gelatin
- 2 cups boiling water
- 3 cups chilled pineapple juice
- 1 (2 liter) bottle chilled lemon-lime soft drink or ginger ale
- For adults: 2 cups chilled vodka (optional)

#### Special equipment:

- 1 large black plastic cauldron (available at party or craft stores)
- 1 punch bowl that fits inside the cauldron
- 1 plastic hand (available at party supply stores), sterilized in hot water
- 1 block dry ice (available at supermarkets, ice cream shops or ice companies)

Pour the gelatin mix into a large bowl. Slowly stir in the boiling water. Stir at least 2 minutes, until the gelatin is completely dissolved. Stir in the pineapple juice. Let cool to room temperature.

Wearing heavy duty gloves or using tongs, place the block of dry ice in the bottom of the cauldron. **(Dry ice will burn skin, so handle it with gloves and tongs and keep it away from kids and pets!)** Use an ice pick to break the block into smaller chunks, if necessary.

Fill the cauldron with just enough water to cover the dry ice. It will begin to 'fog'. Place the punch bowl inside the cauldron, on top of the dry ice. The cauldron will appear to be magically smoking.

#### For more Halloween effects:

Freeze candy gummy worms or spiders in ice cube trays (1 per cube) filled with fruit punch instead of water and when frozen add to punch bowl.

Or wedge a plastic hand (from a craft store) between the cauldron and bowl (hot glue to cauldron if necessary) so the hand is sticking up through the fog.

### Getting Technical

Dry ice is the best way to make those spooky, foggy punches. It can be added directly to your favorite punch recipe, **provided you're using food-grade product, or the carbon dioxide used to make the dry ice is the same quality used for soda fountains.** This class of dry ice is most often sold at grocery stores and can also be used to transport food and produce.

The recipe above calls for the dry ice to be placed in the bottom of a cauldron and the punch bowl placed on top of the dry ice.

