

CROOM

HIGH SCHOOL

9400 Surratts Road, Cheltenham, MD 20623 301-372-8846



COUGAR CHRONICLE



Volume 5 Issue 2

October 2021

Looking for a Job?



[CLICK HERE](#)

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Senior News!!!

2022 SENIOR INFORMATION

Seniors, SENIOR PICTURE DAY is still being determined.

But when we do have the info, we will pass it on to you. Remember, these pictures will go into

the school yearbook and they will also be available for your family to purchase additional copies to send out to friends and relatives as a keepsake memory for them.

Get on the mailing list eMail:

Gary.puzzella@pgcps.org



September 15 to October 15 is National Hispanic American Heritage Month

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is

October 12, falls within this 30 day period

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records

Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15-October 15



Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society.



Dia de los Muertos/The Day of the Dead



Dia de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead in English, is a holiday celebrated in Mexico, also observed to a lesser extent in other areas of Latin America and in the United States, honoring loved ones and making peace with the eventuality of death by treating it familiarly, without fear and dread.

The holiday is derived from the rituals of the pre-Hispanic peoples of Mexico. Led by the Goddess Mictecacihuatl,

known as “Lady of the Dead,” the celebration lasted a month. After the Spanish arrived in Mexico and began converting the native peoples to Roman Catholicism, the holiday was moved to coincide with All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day (November 1 and 2, respectively).

Modern observances vary from region to region. In some rural areas, families adorn grave sites with candles, marigolds, and the favorite foods of deceased relatives in an attempt to persuade the loved ones to return for a family reunion.

In urban areas, people take to the street for festive celebrations and indulge in the consumption of food and alcohol. Some wear wooden skull masks known as calacas.

Many families build altars, called ofrendas, in their homes, using photos, candles, flowers, and food. The festivities are often characterized by black humour. Toys and food, including breads and candies, are created in the shape of symbols of death such as skulls and skeletons.



Dia De Los Muertos display is presented by Mr. Phillips and Ms. Johnson.



The Croom Cougar Chronical Sports Beat—Your Name Here!

The Croom Chronical is looking for sports writers.

Are you interested in attending Croom High Schools sporting events? Are you participating in Croom sports? You could play and write about the games after the games!

Don't worry if you have never written for a paper or

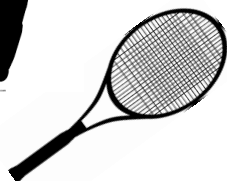
This could be YOUR column featuring local and professional sporting news

newsletter before, we will

help you with your column!

If you are going to attend College, writing for the school newspaper will be a great addition to include in your College application.

See Mr. Puzzella if you have an interest in writing!



Looking for a Job?

Are you looking for a job? Are you looking to change jobs? Here at Croom High School we are here to help you, even with finding a job!

Mr. Stephenson diligently searches through online job listing from the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations (DLLR) as well as other online job sources.

These job listings are displayed so you can check them out anytime you want. Mr. Stephenson has these listings posted outside his office door. In addition,



these jobs are also displayed outside Mr. Puzzella's room just before the cafeteria and gymnasium.

Look through the listings and if you see something that interests you, use your phone and **take a picture** of the listing.

Many job listings have convenient online applications, while a few require you to go in person.

Finding a job could not be easier!

Croom High School



Staff News

We would like to wish
Happy October Birthday to:

Mrs. Gaines (15)

Happy Birthday from all of us to you!

**Faculty
&
Staff**



The Croom Cougar Positive Parenting Page

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Positive Parenting Page is in need of your idea and suggestions.

We want to provide a resource for parents. We hope to provide some Information, and some inspiration!

One of the things we hope to provide would be tips for parents from other parents. This is your opportunity to share your knowledge with others.

We will also provide links for parents to find help for all different situations.

We welcome your advice, anecdotes and suggestions for our future issues.

email us at gary.puzzella@pgcps.org



Silence is Golden...
Unless you have a child, then it is just suspicious

Helpful Links for Parents

Are you, or anyone you know, a victim of Domestic Violence? [CLICK HERE](#) for important phone numbers and resources.

Have you or anyone you know lost someone to homicide? Rays of Hope Support Group meets every Wednesday. [301-880-5100](tel:301-880-5100) for more info.

[CLICK HERE](#) for 10 tips for a health life when you are 50 and over.

Don't let depression keep you down. [CLICK HERE](#) for some help coping with depression.

Free One-On-One Counseling

Pro Bono counseling is free service available to adults and family who are unemployed, uninsured, under insured, or unable to afford traditional counseling services. Including individuals and couples that are struggling with situations such as COVID-19, unemployment, life changes, depression, anxiety, grief or marital issues. We will provide short term counseling (12 sessions or less) at no cost to the recipient. [CLICK HERE](#)

Staff News

We would like to wish a Happy May Birthdays to:

Mr. Puzzella (2)
Ms. Gilliam (18)



Faculty & Staff



Just for Fun! - Halloween

1. The holiday goes back more than 2,000 years.

Halloween all started as a pre-Christian Celtic festival called Samhain (which means "summer's end"). It celebrated the final day of the harvest and the crossing of spirits over into the other world. People would ward off ghosts by lighting sacrificial bonfires, and, you guessed it, wearing costumes.

2. Trick-or-treating has existed since medieval times.

Back then, it was known as "guising" in Scotland and Ireland. Young people dressed up in costumes and asked for food or money in exchange for songs, poems, or other "tricks."



3. Sugar rationing during World War II halted trick-or-treating.



After the rationing ended, the tradition grew into what we're familiar with today. Candy companies started launching advertising campaigns to capitalize on the ritual.

4. Now Halloween is the second largest commercial holiday in the country.

It comes after only Christmas. Consumers spent approximately \$9 billion (!) on Halloween last year!

5. Americans spend about \$86.79 on Halloween every year.



That includes Halloween decorations, candy, costumes, and cards. (If you're

curious how that compares to Christmas, Americans spent an average of \$1,007 on winter holidays in 2018.)

5. The Irish also brought us jack-o'-lanterns.

As the story goes, an Irish man named Stingy Jack tricked the devil and therefore was not allowed into heaven or hell — so he spent his days roaming the Earth, carrying a lantern, and went by "Jack of the Lantern."



6. They used to be carved out of turnips, potatoes, and beets.

Jack-'o-lanterns originated in Ireland, after all. Once Halloween became popular in America, people used pumpkins instead.

7. Illinois produces up to five times more pumpkins than any other state.

The Land of Lincoln has more than 15,000 acres devoted to gourd growing, and those farms typically grow more than 500 million pounds of pumpkins annually.

8. Candy corn was originally called "chicken feed."

The Goelitz Confectionery Company sold boxes with a rooster on the front in order to appeal to America's agricultural roots.

9. 'Monster Mash' once reigned supreme on the Billboard charts.

Bobby "Boris" Pickett reached #1 on the Hot 100 in 1962 just before Halloween and later recharted in 1973 — but this time in August.



10. You can actually visit a pumpkin patch in Hawaii.

Head to Waimanalo Country Farms in Oahu to pick pumpkins while you're on the islands.

11. Who is the face for the Michael Myers mask in 'Halloween?'

Production designer Tommy Lee Wallace picked up two masks from a Hollywood Boulevard magic shop: a clown and William Shatner as Captain Kirk in Star Trek.

People on the set were afraid of the clown mask but when Tommy put



on the Shatner mask, Everyone stopped dead and said, 'It's perfect,'" and the rest is history.

12. New York City throws the biggest Halloween parade in the U.S.



It draws more than 2 million spectators and has thousands of participants.

13. Skittles are the top Halloween candy.

The bite-sized candies outranked M&M's, Snickers, and Reese's Cups, according to 11 years of sales data from CandyStore.com.

14. The night before Halloween is called Mischief Night.

October 30 is a night popular for pulling pranks It really only happens



places on East Coast and in the Midwest, as the tradition never really made it to the West Coast.

Important Dates To Remember

Croom High School
 9400 Surratts Road
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 301-372-8846

Cougar Chronicle Staff

Editor Gary Puzzella
Asst. Editor Maybe You?
Sports Maybe You?
Photographer Maybe You?
Editorials Maybe You?

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

October	5	T	Staff Meeting 4:15pm
October	11	M	Parent Teacher Conferences No Students
October	12	T	KEEPERS (MBK & MSK) 3pm
October	15	F	Professional Development No Students
October	18	M	Progress Reports Released
October	31	Su	Halloween
November	4	Th	Diwali (No Afterschool Activities)
November	16	T	End of 1st Quarter
November	17	W	Professional Development 2-HR Early Dismissal - Students

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I like the Maryland State flag, why does it look the way it does?

- No Name

Good Question! Here is what we were able to find out:

The official flag of the state of



Maryland consists of the 17th century heraldic banner with the colors and shield from the coat of arms of the

Calvert-Crossland families of Sir George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore (1579–1632). The flag was officially adopted by the General Assembly of Maryland (state legislature) in 1904.

The first Maryland flag design consisted of the seal of Maryland on a blue background, similar to many other state flags

The black and gold design on the flag is the coat of arms from the Calvert line. It was granted to George Calvert as a reward for his storming a fortification during a battle.



The red and white design is the coat of arms of the Crossland family from South Crosland in West Yorkshire in



England and features a cross bottony with the red and white sides of the cross alternating.

Since George Calvert's mother was an heiress, he was entitled to use both coats of arms in his banner. It is one of only four U.S. state flags that does not contain the color blue (the other three being Alabama, California, and New Mexico). It is also the only US state flag to be directly based on English heraldry, although the flag of Washington, D.C., (Not a state), is a modification of the coat of arms of George Washington's family.

- Editor



