



# The Toilet Paper



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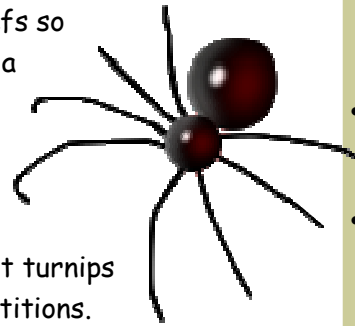
OCTOBER 27-NOVEMBER 2

## HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

Halloween is, of course, on the 31st. Traditional activities include trick-or-treating, bonfires, costume parties, visiting "haunted houses," and decorating your yard. But very few people know what they're actually celebrating when children go door-to-door dressed like super-heroes collecting candy from complete strangers. And there's a reason: Halloween is a holiday without a definite meaning for celebration. Different traditions, such as trick-or-treating or carving faces into pumpkins, originated from different cultures who did these things for different reasons: they were partying at harvest time, participating in All Saint's Day (which is on the same day as Halloween) the day dead were believed to come back to life, or wearing costumes during the Celtic festival of Samhain to mimic or soothe evil spirits.

Halloween is a combination of different versions of a single holiday. Acknowledging the holiday on October 31st goes back to Roman periods. It migrated to many different countries where people celebrated it the same way for different reasons. Many different societies contributed their own myths and beliefs so that day we have a hodgepodge of diverse traditions that make a harmless holiday.

Trick-or-Treating came from Ireland - on this day peasants would beg for money or food from those with homes, and play a practical joke if they were declined. The Jack-o-Lantern originated in Ireland where people placed candles in hallowed out turnips to frighten off superstitions.



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Yearbook:** Attention all students who have not purchased the 2009 yearbook. The price of the yearbook goes up to \$60 after October 26. To purchase the book at the current rate, get an order sheet from Mr. Triggs in Room 205 or from the office.
- Grades 11-12 OGT Retry October 27–November 9
- FFA Meeting Monday October 27, 7:00– 9:00 p.m. in Cafeteria
- Model UN Meeting October 29 2:45–3:45 in Room 222
- BG Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast - November 1 from 6:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.



### Halloween Tidbits

This year, a town in Illinois has banned teenagers from trick-or-treating!

If you see a spider on Halloween it is the spirit of a loved one watching over you

Magician, Harry Houdini died on Halloween, 1926 in Detroit, MI.



### FUN FACTS ABOUT HALLOWEEN

- Halloween is the second most commercially successful holiday, beat out only by Christmas.
- The U.S. consumer spends upwards of \$1.5 billion on Halloween costumes annually and more than \$2.5 billion on other Halloween paraphernalia, such as decorations, crafts, etc. More than \$100,000 of that is said to be spent online.
- Candy sales in the U.S. for Halloween average \$2 billion annually.
- Halloween is the third biggest party day of the year behind New Year's and Super Bowl Sunday, respectively.
- 86% of Americans decorate their homes at Halloween.
- Halloween is the 8th largest card sending holiday. The first Halloween greeting is dated back to early 1900 and today consumers spend around \$50 million dollars on Halloween cards each year.