



MONTHLY MUSTANG

THE TRUE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING



Alexander Beddar

Most people know Thanksgiving as the holiday where you gather with your loved ones and eat a lot of food, including turkey, mashed potatoes, and green beans while watching the Macy's parade on television. If you're smart you'll know its history with the pilgrims and the Native Americans having a large feast. Well, what if I told you that that is just a tiny part of the story?

The first Thanksgiving was celebrated on Thursday, November 3rd, 1621 when the Plymouth colonists from England and the Wampanoag tribe gathered. They celebrated a wonderful fall harvest after the treacherous winter the year before when many people died due to the harsh conditions. It wasn't until 1863 that Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday during the Civil War. It was celebrated on the last Thursday of each November. Before this, it was celebrated by certain states, and New York was the first to make it a holiday in 1817. During the American Revolution, the Continental Congress designated one or more days for Thanksgiving. It was celebrated every year on the same day until Franklin D. Roosevelt moved it up a week in 1939 during the Great Depression to increase retail sales. He later signed a bill to put the holiday on the 4th Thursday of November every year.

The holiday has stayed the same over the years, except for the purpose of the holiday, which changed by eating lots of food, instead of its more religious meaning back in the day. I hope this article has informed you on the history of this turkey day, and I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

WHY TURKEY?

Zara Rahman

Why do we always eat turkey during Thanksgiving? Why don't we eat chicken or steak instead? (Well technically you can eat beef or chicken but that's not the tradition.) Some of you may think it has to do with a pilgrim feast. In the early sixteen hundreds, it is believed that the pilgrims and the Wampanoags (a Native American tribe) had a fast to celebrate the harvest, but there is no proof that they ate turkey to break their fast; in fact, it is believed that they ate duck or geese for their meat.

Now you must be wondering why we eat turkeys instead of duck or geese. Well, there are many reasons. One is that turkeys were very plentiful back then, so they were almost always available to sacrifice for the meals. Some people think we eat turkeys because of books. In Northwood, a tale by Sarah Hale, the author dedicates a whole chapter to a feast with turkey at the head of the table. Others believe that the tradition of eating turkey was inspired by the book *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, where they ate a turkey to celebrate.

When Thanksgiving first became a holiday a collection of writing from a pilgrim referred to as *The First Thanksgiving* was published. Although the pilgrim did not directly mention turkeys, a fellow pilgrim did refer to there being a great store of wild turkeys during that time. Today Thanksgiving is celebrated with family and friends over turkey and mashed potatoes. What do you think would happen if we ate chicken, steak, or duck during Thanksgiving? Do you think it would change the holiday? To me, the holiday is about spending time with family and friends and being thankful for my blessings, rather than specifically about eating turkey!



TEN TURKEY FACTS

Theo Spoehr

As Thanksgiving approaches, you might want to learn some interesting facts about turkeys. One myth is that pilgrims ate turkey at Thanksgiving, but historians think they likely ate deer, ducks, or geese. Some people think Sarah Josepha Hale inspired people to eat turkeys on Thanksgiving. She wrote a novel called *Northwood* in 1827, which describes turkey being served for Thanksgiving meals. She also campaigned for Thanksgiving to be a national holiday, which Abraham Lincoln proclaimed in 1863. Here are some other facts I learned about turkeys:

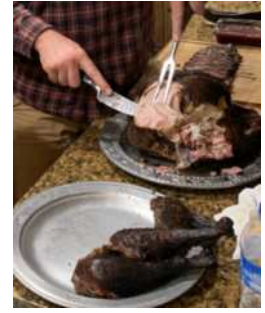
1. Both male and female turkeys gobble.
2. Wild turkeys can fly.
3. Wild turkeys sleep in trees.
4. Turkeys can change colors.
5. Turkeys' poop shape tells if they're male or female.
6. Benjamin Franklin preferred the turkey to the bald eagle.
7. Turkeys can see better than humans.
8. Presidential pardons for turkeys started in 1989.
9. Turkey snoods, the long, red, fleshy area that grows from the forehead over the bill, are for mating.
10. Forty-six million turkeys are killed each year for Thanksgiving.

Those are some facts about turkeys. I hope you enjoyed it. I will definitely eat turkey at my Thanksgiving with sticky rice and Chinese sausage or lap cheong, which is our Chinese-American spin on the traditional stuffing.



HOW TO COOK THE PERFECT TURKEY

Henry Prati and Foster Gerdes



If a turkey isn't good for Thanksgiving, then Thanksgiving is no better than a lump of coal. We are going to provide you with two recipes about how not to ruin your turkey.

This Thanksgiving, the choice is yours. You can choose to eat the same-old turkey recipe that your family has been cooking for generations, or you can choose one of ours!

Roast Turkey:

Turkey: This recipe calls for an 18-pound whole turkey.

Stuffing: You'll need eight cups of stuffing of your choice.

Butter: Salted butter, rubbed onto the skin, ensures a juicy roast turkey every time.

Salt and pepper: This roast turkey is simply seasoned with just salt and pepper. Of course, you can add more spices to suit your taste.

Turkey stock: The bird is cooked in and basted with store-bought turkey stock.

Steps:

1. Prepare the turkey: Remove the turkey neck and giblets. Pat the turkey dry with paper towels, then place it (breast-side up) on a rack in a roasting pan.
2. Stuff and season the turkey: Fill the cavity with stuffing. Rub the skin with butter, then season with salt and pepper. Pour two cups of stock into the roasting pan and loosely tent the turkey with foil.
3. Roast the turkey: Roast, basting with stock every 30 minutes, for about two and half hours. Add more stock as the drippings evaporate. Remove the foil and continue roasting until a meat thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the thigh reads 165 degrees F.
4. Let cool and enjoy.

Smoked Turkey:

Select a turkey with a range of around 12-14 pounds.

Brine the turkey overnight in the fridge using a brine of your choice.

Have your smoker already prepared to be up to temp (250-300 deg) before putting on the turkey.

Pull the turkey out of the fridge and brine and wash off the turkey fully with water.

Prep the turkey for the smoker by applying a light coat of olive oil and seasoning rub choosing (there are many great rub options that can be store bought and homemade)

Recommend cooking the turkey at about 275 degrees, which will cook the turkey in about 25-30 min per pound until 175° F to 180° F in the thigh and 170° F in the breast.

If your turkey gets done too early for serving, no problem. Wrap the turkey in foil and place the turkey in a cooler to rest. It will stay hot and delicious until you are ready to carve for serving.

Chances are you will have leftovers. A great idea for leftovers is a Turkey quesadilla (a.k.a. Turkeydilla)!

PECAN PIE RECIPE

Frances Prescott

Hello, I'm Frances Prescott, and I hope you have your aprons on, 'cause it's time to cook! Today, we're going to be baking a pecan pie.

Crust

Ingredients: One cup of flour, ½ tsp of salt, About 3-4 tbsp of water

Directions: Sift together the flour and salt. Next, cut in ⅓ cup of shortening (Crisco). Then, blend with a fork. Lastly, roll the dough into a crust.

Filling

Ingredients: Three eggs, one cup of sugar, ½ cup of dark karo, ¼ cup of vanilla, ¼ cup of melted butter, two cups of finely chopped pecans

Directions: Mix together the eggs, sugar, vanilla, butter, karo, and pecans. Next, pour into the crust. Lastly, bake it in the oven at 375° for thirty minutes. Enjoy!

Here are some fun facts about pecans:

There are over 1,000 types of pecans.

Pecan trees can live to be over 300 yrs old.

The trees can grow to be 150ft tall and 3ft in diameter!

OREO BALLS

Caroline Craig

Ingredients

1 pack of Oreos

Eight ounce package of Cream cheese

1-gallon Ziploc bag

1 package of chocolate bark/
melting chocolate

1 Cookie sheet

Wax paper

Instructions

1. Take out all of the icing from the Oreos and put them in a separate bowl.
2. Put the cookies in the gallon bag and...smash with a mallet!
3. Mix eight ounces of cream cheese with the Oreo icing.
4. Mix cookie crumbs and cream cheese icing mixture together.
5. Put wax paper on a cookie sheet.
6. Using spoons and your hands, make the "dough" into balls and place them on the cookie sheet.
7. Freeze balls for a few hours or until solid.
8. Melt chocolate.
9. Dip frozen balls in melted chocolate and place on wax paper.
10. Wait until they dry and enjoy (for best results store in the fridge)!



APPLE PIE RECIPE

Sofia Agudelo-Tovar

Ingredients

1 double pie crust

7 or 8 apples (we like to combine granny smith, honey crisp and golden delicious)

1 ½ tsp cinnamon

8 Tbsp unsalted butter

3 Tbsp all-purpose flour

¼ cup water

1 cup sugar

1 egg & 1 Tbsp water

Instructions

Make the pie crust. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit.

Melt butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Whisk in 3 tbsp of flour then simmer for 1 minute, whisking constantly, then remove from heat.

Peel, remove cores and thinly slice 7 cups of apples and place them in a large bowl. Sprinkle the top with 1 ½ tsp of cinnamon and toss to combine. Pour the sauce over the apples and stir to coat the apple slices.

Sprinkle your surface with flour and roll out the bottom pie crust to a 12" circle. Wrap it around your rolling pin and transfer it to the 9" pie plate. Add apple mixture, mounding slightly in the center and being careful not to get the filling on the edges which would make it difficult to seal.

Roll the second crust and cut it into even thick strips using a pizza cutter. Arrange strips in a woven lattice pattern over the top.

Beat together 1 egg and 1 tbsp water and brush the top.

Bake at 425 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 minutes. Reduce the heat to 350 degrees and continue baking for another 45 minutes or until the apples are soft and filling is bubbling through vents.

Rest for 1 hour before serving.

This recipe is very easy, and it is one of my favorite things to do during Thanksgiving. I tell you my mom makes it every year for Thanksgiving, and it is just delicious. I hope you liked the recipe, and you try it out.



WHY DO LEAVES CHANGE COLORS?

Priya Vasan and Greta Collins



Bobby: “Ahhhhh! What happened to the beautiful green leaves?!”

Patricia: “Oh yeah. Since it’s fall, the leaves are starting to change colors.”

Bobby: “But... why? They were so beautiful, AND they’re falling, too!”

Jeremy: “This is because a certain pigment in the leaves called chlorophyll breaks down and the green fades away.”

Bobby: “Nooooo!!!! The gorgeous green! Wait... when did you get here, Jeremy?”

Jeremy: “Uhh...”

Patricia: “Anyways, this is also because of the lack of nutrients and water in the leaves. Cool, right?”

Bobby: “Sick, dude! You just gave me a whole entire math lesson.”

Patricia: “Ok, first of all, I am not a DUDE, and second of all, it’s SCIENCE!”

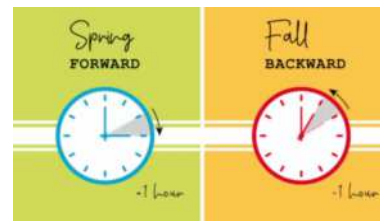
The End

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Analeigha Montelongo

Do you ever wonder about Daylight Saving Time? Yes? Then this is the article for you! I will be sharing some facts about Daylight Saving Time and telling you what it means. Daylight Saving Time is time being adjusted to achieve longer evening daylight in the summer by setting the clocks an hour ahead of standard time. In the U.S., Daylight Saving Time starts on the second Sunday in March, and ends on the first Sunday in November. Daylight Saving Time ST was started in Germany during World War I to save fuel for the war. It became really popular during the energy crisis in the 1970’s. Some countries, such as the United Kingdom, call DST summer time, and some countries like China, do not use Daylight Saving Time.

I hope this article helped you understand Daylight Savings Time a bit more, and cleared any confusion. Thank you for reading my article. Bye!



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Graham Staas



There are a lot of fun holiday activities to do around winter, like Christmas and Hannakuh. Holidays are a time to have fun, enjoy the chilly air, and be with your family. Christmas activities include: singing carols, decorating the Christmas tree, and opening presents on Christmas day! Hanukkah activities include: playing with a dreidel, lighting the menorah, and exchanging gifts! There are also tons of New Year's activities. Those include: counting down with the New York ball, having a party, and having a really good dinner! There are tons of fun holiday activities, but there are also tons of fun year-round activities. There are also holiday sports like hockey which is where you hit a puck into the goal, football (which you probably all know what that is), skiing where you have two long boards and slide on them, and ice skating which is where you wear shoes with a metal blade on ice. There are so many fun holiday activities!

WUES TALENT SHOW

Grace Allen and Olivia Amburgey



We're so excited for the 2023 winter talent show! This year's show will be in the MPR, on December 14, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. We anticipate there will also be a light pre-show dinner for purchase, similar to last year. The talent show audition was only open to 3rd through 5th graders but all West U families are welcome to attend the show. There was a lengthy application process and several students tried out for this year's talent show. You can expect to see a variety of talents, including singers, dancers, pianists, actors, comedians, a drum player, a magician, rhythmic gymnasts, a cellist, a harpist, and even a ventriloquist! Mrs. Cobb and Mr. Perez will be running it along with West U parents Marion Woerner, and Erika Wagner. The talent show chairs are asking for additional help from parent volunteers, especially those with expertise in technology and sound. We can't wait to see the talented students at this year's show. Break a leg!

AN INTERVIEW WITH ROYER'S PIE HAVEN

Scarlett Formidoni and Avery Berkman

Happy Thanksgiving! Here is some information on Royer's Pie Haven! Royer's Pie Haven is a pie shop in Round Top, Texas. We went to Royer's Pie Haven and here is an interview of Tara Royer Steele, the owner/head chef.



How long have you been in this business?

Royers Pie Haven has been in business for 12 years.

Why pie?

I didn't pick pie; God picked pie for us. Our family took over the Round Top Cafe in 1987 and at the time the cafe had two flavors of pie, Apple and Buttermilk.

Is there a relation with Royer's Pie Haven and the restaurant Royer's?

Yes, same family, different businesses. I grew up in the cafe for over 30 years, actually owned it for about 18 years. We opened the pie haven as a place of overflow for the customers that just wanted pie! I sold the cafe to my brother and sister-in-law seven years ago. The pie haven has truly become a safe haven for me, customers and staff.

What is your best selling pie for Thanksgiving?

Pecan and Apple.

What is your favorite kind of pie?

My favorite is Cherry or Sweet 'n Salty (dense fudge brownie with caramel and sea salt!).

How many more years do you want to be in the pie business?

Good question! As long as God wants me to be in it! Pie is involved in all the things we do. The Pie Haven, catering, mail order, our Bake Shop in Brenham at All Things Acres, and our non-profit, Gather n Grace.

Who selects the merchandise for the shop?

I do!

If you have children, do they like the pie?

I have two boys. Bentley isn't the biggest fan of pie, haha! Brayden loves it!

It was an amazing experience to interview a staff member of Royer's Pie Haven! Thank you so much!

HISTORY OF THE WORLD SERIES

Maggie Chen



Every year, many people across the nation tune into their TV to watch the World Series from late October to early November. The World Series is a post-season playoff that is played between the champions of the American League (North America) and the National League.

The American League consists of the Rangers, Astros, Angels, Red Sox, Blue Jays, Orioles, Twins, Rays, Guardians, Tigers, White Sox, Athletics, Royals, Mariners, and Yankees. The National League consists of the Diamondbacks, Dodgers, Braves, Phillies, Cubs, Brewers, Mets, Reds, Padres, Cardinals, Marlins, Giants, Nationals, Pirates, and Rockies.

The first World Series occurred in 1903 with the Boston Red Sox facing off against the Pittsburgh Pirates. The Red Sox defeated the Pirates 5 to 3 in a best out of 9 series. However, ever since 1922, the World Series has been a best out of 7 series. The MVP has been an award given out to a player on one of the teams, usually the winning team, since 1955. The trophy shows a player catching a ball and is given to the MLB player who has had the most impact on his team's performance in the World Series.

Did you know that the Yankees have won the most World Series with 27 titles and 40 appearances? Or that the trophy awarded is called the Commissioner's Trophy? Here are a few more fun facts about the World Series. The winning team of the MLB World Series gets around \$30 million in prize money. That's approximately \$440,000 per player on the winning team while each player on the runner-up team earns around \$340,000. There have been 119 total World Series, with the American League winning 68 and the National League winning 51. The Astros have won in 2017 and in 2022 plus an appearance in 2021.

The World Series is a very important event for sports broadcasters, baseball players, and baseball fans. I look forward to next year's World Series and I hope that the Astros can win it again. I know that I'll be watching the World Series alongside many others next year! Maybe even you!

AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS. O'DELL

Kate Alderdon

Melissa O'Dell has been a teacher for 19 years – all of them teaching second grade at West University Elementary. She is based in Room 815 at the end of the fourth grade hall and added “I love living up here in the treehouse!”

“Spending my day with kids is my favorite part of being a teacher,” Mrs. O'Dell said during our interview. She noted that reading is her favorite subject to teach, and her least favorite subject to teach is science. Her favorite math lesson is adding and subtracting 3 digit and 4 digit numbers.

When asked what she would change about the school, if anything, Mrs. O'Dell said she would like to have more time for reading plus arts and crafts. I asked her if she enjoyed teaching at our school and she responded immediately “I love it here! It's the best.” She said that if she couldn't be a teacher, she would have liked to be a flight attendant, police officer, or an exercise instructor. During the summer, she enjoys reading, swimming and going to the beach.

Thank you to Mrs. O'Dell for sharing her enthusiasm with our school!



MILK AND COOKIES REVIEW

Sonya Parsons

Hi guys! Welcome to my ice cream review! Milk & Cookies is probably my favorite ice cream place in the world! Now, enough about me, and let's get on with the review! Here it is: I loved most of the flavors, they were so delicious. I gave them an 8, 9, or 10! But 2 flavors were way too chocolatey for me. Those were the Chocolate Creme Brulee and the Coconut Milk Chocolate. My 2 favorite flavors were Milk and Cookies (the flavor) and Vanilla Caramel Crunch. They were so creamy and delicious. I give Milk & Cookies 9/10! Well that's the end of my review! Hope you enjoyed it!

Ice Cream Flavors	How Good They Are
Milk and Cookies	10/10
Mint Chocolate Chip	9/10
Blackberry Lemon Swirl	8/10
Chocolate Creme Brulee	5/10
Birthday Cake	9/10
Island Time	9/10
Coconut Milk Chocolate	6/10
Vanilla Caramel Crunch	10/10
Fresh Strawberry	9/10
Holiday Cheer	8/10



MORE THAN PINK

Hannah Fishman



More Than Pink is a walk to raise money, awareness, and support for breast cancer. The walk is 1.5 -2 miles long. Susan G Komen held 52 More Than Pink walks or Race for the Cure runs in different cities in the U.S. this year. The difference between the two is that Race for the Cure is a 5K run. Not everyone was able to go that distance and run, so they made More Than Pink which is a shorter walk. During the races and walks you see everyone wearing a lot of pink. While you are walking there are many people cheering you on and loud music.

I have participated in Race for the Cure every year since I was a baby. This year was my first year to do the More than Pink walk. My family has a few traditions for the race. We make our own custom spirit t-shirts. This year I was twins with my brother and cousin. After the race, we drank pink strawberry milk. I hope you enjoyed learning about More than Pink and maybe you will consider trying it next year!

RIDDLES

Charisse Ding

What is at the end of a rainbow?

Answer: "W"

This key has legs but can't open a door. What is it?

Answer: turKEY!

What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin's diameter?

Answer: Pumpkin pi

Which side of the turkey has the most feathers?

Answer: The outside

AN INTERVIEW WITH MY WUES STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT: EMILIE FREW

Benson Mintz

We recently had a student council election last month, and the winning candidate for president was Emilie Frew! Let's get to know why Emilie Frew decided to run for president and a little about herself!

Q. Why did you choose to run for president?

A. I chose to run for president because I want to make a difference.

Q. What changes do you plan on making to our school while being president?

A. I will ask for cleaner restrooms, less ants, and better and cheaper lunches.

Q. Why would you consider yourself a good president?

A. I will make sure your ideas are presented and heard.

Favorites:

Q. What is your favorite holiday?

A. Christmas (of course!)

Q. What are your top two favorite movies?

A. Lion King and Frozen

Q. What is your favorite sport?

A. Basketball

Q. What is your favorite subject?

A. Math

Q. What is your favorite ice cream flavor and topping?

A. My favorite flavor is mint chocolate chip and M&Ms

Q. What is your favorite animal, and do you have any pets?

A. My favorite animal is a giraffe and I have two cats and one dog.

Q. Who is your favorite singer and what is your favorite song?

A. My favorite singer is Taylor Swift and my favorite song is The Story of Us

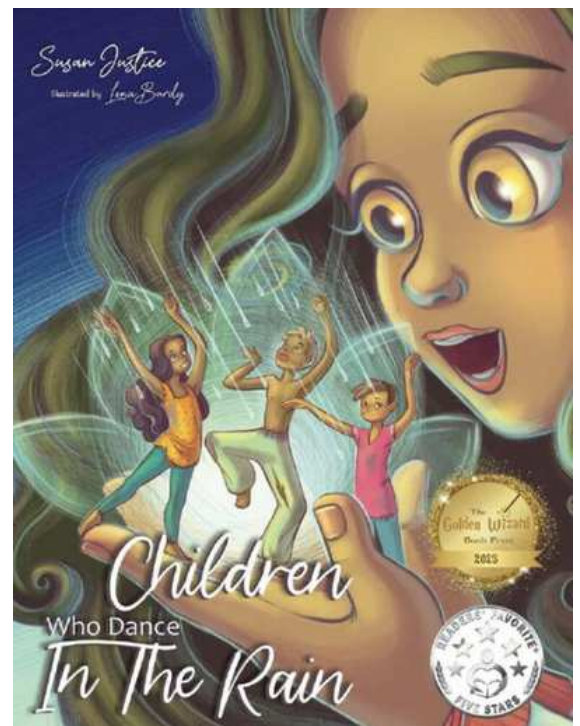


Thank you Emilie! Do you have anything else you would like to add? "Frew knows you true!"

CHILDREN WHO DANCE IN THE RAIN: A STORY ABOUT GRATITUDE AT THANKSGIVING

Claire McCarthy

"Children Who Dance in the Rain" by Susan Justice in my opinion should get a four-and-a-half out of five star book review. I chose to review this book because it has a theme about gratitude, which we can all think about at Thanksgiving time. This book is about a child who learns what life is like for other children who aren't as privileged as she is. Reading this book will help you to learn to not take what you have for granted and to be kind. I think this book is a meaningful book that can teach people all sorts of lessons. I recommend this book for all ages. The genre of this book is fiction but it is based on true events. I do think that it would be nice if the book included more details about what happens in the future to all the children in the story, not just the main character. The book is an award-winning book: it won the Golden Wizard Book Prize, the Literary Titan Book Award, the Next Generation Indie Book Awards, and the Readers Favorites Five Stars award. This book has great pictures and is illustrated by Lena Bardy. The story did have an impact on me and I am sure it will for you as well.



THE POLTER GHOST PROBLEM

A BLUEBONNET BOOK

Kate Davis

This year so far my favorite book I've read has been The Polter- Ghost Problem.

I love how the author takes you into a story with just the right amount of scares, laughs, and awws. In the story three boys come across a haunted orphanage. Where they try their hardest to free twenty ghosts or so from the grasps of a poltergeist.

A poltergeist is a spirit, dead or alive, that is haunting a place because of an unsolved grudge that took place many years ago. Sometimes the person/spirit doesn't even know it. This story is great for kids who are up for the challenge of reading a long book.

I don't like putting an age limit on it because the truth is everyone is at different reading levels. A very important thing to note is if you don't like scary stories this book is perfect.

It isn't over the top scary and it also isn't a fairy tale kind of story.



Warning this contains the END of the book. Do not read further if you are or plan to be reading this book.

In the end, the three boys find out an infant named Greta is the poltergeist and she just wants her parents to acknowledge her. Because of this her parents/the owners of the orphanage who hate kids come back to keep Greta's granddaughter from getting to own the property, but they end up getting reunited with their daughter. Since the owners aren't there to warn them off, Greta's granddaughter turns the run-down orphanage into a museum and all the ghosts become free.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. G

Valentina Di Fiori and Catherine Colomb

We would love to introduce you to the funniest math teacher in 5th grade, Mr. G. He is an inspiration to many of the students he teaches, so we decided to interview him for the Monthly Mustang. To all those 4th graders coming into 5th grade, you will love Mr. G. as a teacher.

Us: Do you like being a math teacher?

Mr. G: Yes! Math is my favorite subject to teach.

Us: How many years have you been teaching?

Mr. G: I have been teaching for 11 years in WUES and 9 years in other schools.

US: In West U, have you taught any other grades?

Mr. G: No, not in WUES but I tutored 3rd and 4th in a different school.

Us: What did you do before you started teaching?

Mr. G: I worked in television news for 15 years.

Us: What is your favorite team?

Mr. G: LSU is definitely my favorite.

Us: What is your favorite food?

Mr. G: Sea Food.

Us: Do you have any pets?

Mr. G: I have a pet dog named Jackie.

Us: What Is your favorite sport to play?

Mr. G: College Baseball.

As you can see, Mr. G is a great math teacher. He loves teaching and says it is his favorite job. He is very nice and loves to help his students. We really enjoy math class with him. He is a fan of LSU. He has taught in a couple of schools and has really enjoyed teaching.



AN INTERVIEW WITH MS. WESTERMAN

Andrew Hall and Robbie Whitten

We interviewed Ms. Westerman, one of our 4th Grade Teachers!

Q: How long have you been teaching here?

A: I have been teaching here for 10 Years!

Q: What is your favorite holiday?

A: My favorite holiday season is Christmas because I love the time when I get to be together with my family!

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: My favorite movie is Elf because it is so funny and I like a good comedy!

Q: What is your favorite color?

A: My favorite color is turquoise

Q: What is your favorite thing about teaching?

A: My Absolute favorite thing about teaching is The students because of how sweet and hardworking they are!

Thanks for reading!



AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS. SEEMA

Maya Li and Ariya More-Gupte

Hi, we are about to interview our Odyssey of the Mind Assistant Coach, Mrs. Seema. Now, we will learn more about her. Let's Go!

Question 1# How do you feel about coaching Odyssey of the Mind? Answer: I really like coaching not just because you guys learn, but I am also learning and it fills my creativity bucket.

Question 2# Do you like working with the kids during meetings? Answer: Definitely! I love working with kids and how you guys show a lot of teamwork.

Question 3# How long have you known about Odyssey of the Mind? Answer: I have known about it since you guys have been in kindergarten.

Question 4# How did you get involved in Odyssey of the Mind? Answer: I got involved with Mrs. Lisa Alvear (our coach).

Question 5# Would you rather be the main coach instead of the assistant coach you are now? Answer: I think that I should start being an assistant coach for now to learn more than just the basics.

Question 6# Was it challenging for you to become a coach for the team?

Answer: I wouldn't say challenging, but more training than I expected to get for this role.

Question 7# What is your favorite part of being an Odyssey of the Mind assistant coach?

Answer: My favorite part of being an assistant coach is being at the meetings and watching you do spontaneous problems.

Question 8# Would you have liked to have done Odyssey of the Mind when you were younger?

Answer: I think it would have been very, very helpful to learn team building and creativity at a young age.

Question 9# What do you like to do with your family?

Answer: Movie nights! I love watching Bollywood classics and doing arts and crafts with my family.

Question 10# What is your favorite hobby?

Answer: My favorite hobby is painting, drawing, and doing different kinds of art.

Thank you for sharing more information about yourself. It was an honor interviewing you. Bye!



FATHERS AND FLASHLIGHTS

Justin Fishman

This year was the 17th Annual Fathers and Flashlights event. It raises money for Friends of West U Parks. Fathers and Flashlights is a fun event in our neighborhood where dads and their kids go camping on the baseball fields at West University Elementary. Each family sets up a tent and tents fill the field. There are many fun activities at Fathers and Flashlights such as ti- dye, inflatables, and catch an- release fishing. My favorite activity this year was going on one of the rides. There was a DJ playing music and kids were hula hooping. There were many choices of food for dinner including Pizza and Chick-fil-A. After dinner, kids could play with their friends. Later, there was a magic show and they showed the Mario Brothers movie. Everyone brought picnic blankets and lawn chairs to watch the movie. At the movie they served popcorn as a snack. Lights out was at 9:30pm after the movie finished. In the morning everyone woke up and had doughnuts, hot chocolate, breakfast tacos and coffee before packing up.



TAYLOR SWIFT

Julia Aguilar



Do you know why Taylor Swift is so famous? She is now 33, and has a networth of over 1.1 billion dollars.

One of the reasons she is so famous is because she is an excellent songwriter, and she has the ability to create verbal hooks that stick in your mind. She creates a strong emotional bond in her songs that people feel with her. The main focus of her songs is her life. She started her music career when she was only 15 years old. The song that made her the most fame was Love Story. Another reason for her success are her swifties, they are the most loyal fans ever. Since she started the Eras tour she has been leaving clues behind. These are often called Easter eggs. Several swifties try to figure out the clues Taylor leaves behind, to discover what she is doing next.

Can you believe there are several classes at universities to study her? There is a course at NYU focused on Swift. I hope you enjoyed reading about Taylor Swift!

THE CHEESE DOG

Quinn Hughes



THE SEASONS

Grant Mayo



THANKSGIVING COMIC

William Spittel, Liam Duguid, and Whitt Hendricks



THE PUMPKIN PIE

Andrew Yanosik

