

Halloween

Where Does Halloween Come From?

By Danny Hoang

Every year Halloween is celebrated on Oct 31. Do you know where does Halloween come from? Halloween originally comes from the people called Celts. The Celts lived in Ireland and Scotland 2000 years ago and they celebrated Halloween on Oct 31 at the end of summer. They thought ghosts will visit the living on Oct 31 so they used costumes like ghost so that ghost cannot harm them. In these countries, they wore the lantern on their heads made of turnips. When they moved from Ireland and Scotland to United States, they started using pumpkins. This is where Jack-O-Lantern comes from. Today many countries still remember the dead on Oct 31. It is called All Saints Day; it has another name is called All Hallow Day. Halloween is an old traditional celebration. People give foods to the spirits, and they also give foods to the poor people. In Canada, children go to their neighbors' houses for trick or treating and get candies. This is a fun and exciting day for children as they collect heaps of candies and treats.

Halloween at School

By Ly Tran

Halloween is celebrated on October 31st. All schools in Canada celebrate this holiday, and everyone in the schools must dress up as animals or mummies or various other

scary things. Ancient people believed that on Halloween, the boundary between life and death was not clear and the dead became life threatening by causing problems such as illness or damaged trees. So on Halloween everyone must dress up as animals and skeletons because these represent the dead. People in Canada like to visit homes dressed up as special characters. Everywhere they are welcomed with candies and other treats.

Happy Halloween

By Trang Nguyen

Halloween is a holiday celebrated on October 31st in Canada. The most common colors of the day are orange and black. Halloween comes from the ancient Celtic festival Samhain. The ancient Celts believed that on October 31st, now known as Halloween, the boundary between the living and the deceased is not clear, and the dead become dangerous for the living by causing problems such as sickness or damaged crops. On Halloween, the ancient Celts would place a skeleton by their window to represent the dead. Believing that the head was the most powerful part of the bobby, containing spirit and knowledge, the Celts used the 'head' of the vegetable to decorate their houses. On this day people often wear strange clothes as charac-

ters in horrible novels or movies to frighten others. People usually like to dress as ghosts, skeletons, or witches. Now Halloween is official celebrated in Canada and most European countries?

Halloween in Canada

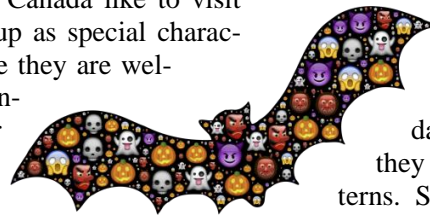
By Duyen Tran

When Halloween arrives, people in Canada start purchasing light bulbs, candies, ornaments, and costumes, of ghosts, witches, vampires, and black cats. They buy accessories on the day of Halloween and they carve out Jack o Lanterns. Some people, especially children also dress up as superheroes, queens, and princesses. This makes Halloween really interesting although it can be scary.

The Origin of the Jack o Lantern

By Eric Weng

This is the story about Jack, an Irishman, who was not allowed into Heaven because he was stingy with his money. So he was sent to hell. But down there he played tricks on the Devil (Satan), so he was kicked out of Hell and made to walk the earth forever carrying a lantern. According to tradition, Irish children made Jack's lanterns on October 31st from a large potato or turnip, hollowed out with the sides having holes and lit by little candles inside. And Irish children would carry them as they went from house to house begging for food for the village Halloween festival that honored



the Druid god Muck Olla. The Irish name for these lanterns was “Jack with the lantern” or “Jack of the lantern,” abbreviated as “Jack-o’-lantern” and now spelled “jack-o-lantern.” Here in Canada, we make all kinds of Jack-o-lanterns, big, small, cute, and scary!

Halloween **By Dora Le**

On Halloween day, I feel special because in Vietnam this is not a popular festival. I was so happy that at school I was given a lot of candies. We played games and dressed up in our favourite clothes. We also carved out pumpkins called Jack-o-lanterns, which was very interesting. But what makes me really happy is being with new friends. I think Halloween is a meaningful day for me to enjoy and learn.

Halloween Trick or Treat **By Lucas Dinh**

On October 31, we decorate our homes and make pumpkins, children roam around the neighbourhood dressed up as ghosts, witches, or as

Superman! In the evening, we go trick-or-treating, asking for candy. Sometimes we ask for so much candy! I went with my brother and a few others. This is my first Halloween night and I enjoyed it very much.

Halloween Activities **By John Ngo**

Every autumn, when the vegetables are ready to eat, children pick large, orange pumpkins. They cut faces in the pumpkins and put a burning candle inside. It looks as if there were a person looking out of the pumpkin! These lights are called Jack-o-lanterns, which means “Jack of the lantern”. Also, I carved out a Jack-o-lantern at school. We each held a small knife, learned to cut and draw and carve it out. Finally, we put a small candle into it. It looked really beautiful when done.

Even though I am not a child any longer, I still enjoy Halloween.

What should we do on Halloween? **By Kaden Ngo**

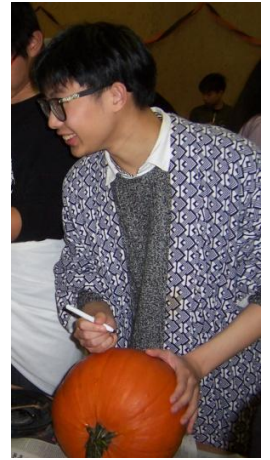
On Halloween, children will carry boxes or bags from house to

house. Every time they come to a new house, they say “trick or treat!” The grown-ups put candy in their bags. Not only children but also grown-ups love Halloween because on this day they can disguise themselves as personages or ghosts as their imagination will lead them on. This brings them the satisfaction of feeling young and excited, and lets them have fun and fool around for a while.

Halloween Fun **By Winnie Liu**

On Halloween every year, you can see people dressed up in special costumes. They could be black cats, witches, spiders, or even superheroes. People decorate their homes and go trick or treating and kids eat tons of candy! A long time ago, this tradition was a bit different. Before, believers trekked in the secluded countryside and begged for “soul cakes” made of flour and raisins. The people who donated the cakes believed in the prayers of the church monks, who could bless the dead relatives to enter heaven as soon as possible. Now this is done just for fun and with candy and that is why children love it so much.





Halloween party
October 27









Winter Poems

The Snow **By Tom Dang**

Staring outside, the tree waved as if calling for help
Walking around in the snow felt like peace had arrived
The road, awfully quiet, now filled with snow grounds
Yet we still went around to look for pounds
We shook, shake, and shield ourselves from the arriving
blizzard
The mountains, no longer filled farm grounds, full of fog
The neighbors, normally quiet, are now walking their dog
The snowflakes, as precious as diamonds, fall from the sky.



A Little Snowman **By Viet Doan**

The snowman was like a chubby boy
Had a carrot nose
Along came a rabbit
And what do you suppose?
That hungry little bunny,
Looking for his lunch,
Ate the snowman's
Carrot nose.
Nibble, nibble, crunch!



A Wintry Night **By Chloe Dao**

The sky is dark and the
ground is white.
The world is peaceful on
this wintry night.
No one around not
sound to be heard
Not a laugh, not a car,
not even a bird.
For a moment, it's just
the snow and me.
I smile inside.
I feel so free.



Snowball Story **By Holly Vu**

I made myself a snowball,
as perfect as could be.
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
and let it sleep with me.
I made it some pajamas
and a pillow for its head.
It shield shone through the heat.
But last night, it ran away.
Yet first, it wet the bed
like a baby.

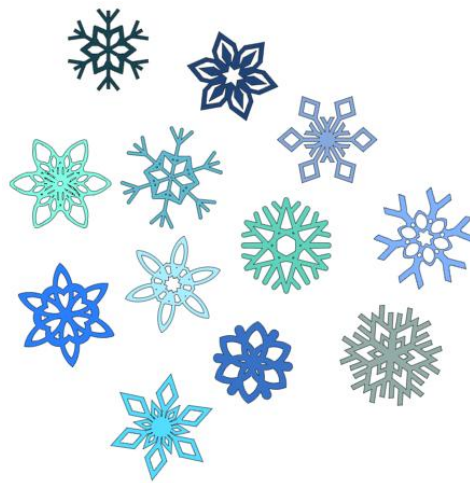


Hey! Cutie Snowman **By Xuan Tran**

A cute little snowman had a carrot nose,
He muffles with a scarf of rose.
He looks at the chimney,
Someone comes on Christmas Eve!
Look out the window
Outside it been snow.
Next day the sun rise,
Good-bye to the snowman.

Falling Snow **By Linh Le**

The wind is whistling.
The clouds are crying.
The sun left us because winter is visiting us.
You will feel lots of icy kisses,
As the snowflakes flutter by.
Children caroling Christmas cheers,
Ever-enchanting eager ears.
Santa's silent sled slid slowly like turtle.
The snow will continue its flight.
The next day will be just as white.



A Winter Day **By Oscar Hu**

The sky is gray, and the ground is white.
The snow is deep on the ground.
Always the light falls.
Softly down on my hair of my head.
The city is quiet on this winter day.
Look at the street, the branches seemed to wave to me.
I slid on the slippery snow.
I smile on the snow, it is like I am part of the snow!

Pines **By Thong Nguyen**

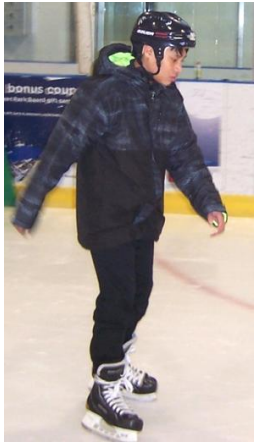
In the death cold of the winter season,
Everything seems to hide away from it but there is an exception.
The pines are still standing and showing their courage between the isolation.
They are hope, happiness and healing for us.
Despite the cold, they are still standing there like the guards who protect us.
Its green represents for the new life and hope
And the everlasting love of God for us.
They are the best tree for this winter time.



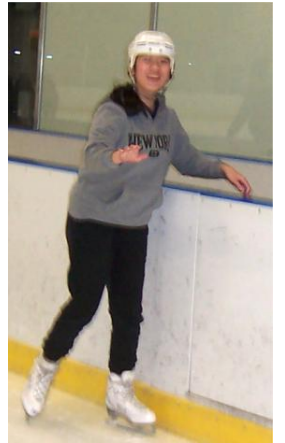


Skating at Killarney Arena
October 30





**Skating at Killarney Arena
November 22**



Remembrance Day

By Kiera Hoang

Remembrance Day is a special day of many countries. This day takes place



to remember the soldiers who served in the wars. On that day, we had a ceremony at school. In the morning, we bought the poppies and wore them all day. At 11:00 am, we had a ceremony in the gym. We burned candles for the end of the war, read poems, sung "Oh Canada" and mailed letters to veterans. On Monday we didn't have to go to school. In my country we have a different day to remember veterans. On that day, we go to a monument to commemorate them by burning incense. I think Remembrance Day is very important because on this day every person can remember what the soldiers have done to give peace in the world nowadays. If we don't remember these things, the soldiers won't sleep in peace and the war may happen again.

By Mabel Dinh

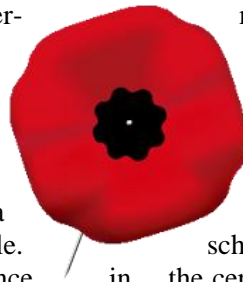
November 11 is celebrated as a day of remembrance in many countries around the world. We have that day to remember soldiers who died in World War I, World War II, and other battlefields. On that day everyone wore poppies. It's a symbol of Remembrance Day because they're the first flowers to grow in the churned-up earth of the soldiers' graves in Flanders Fields. Last Friday, I went to school and there was a ceremony. All of the students wore poppies



too. First, we watched a movie about World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. Then we sang "O Canada" and read poems to show gratitude for their bravery. Every student lit candles. We mailed letters about Remembrance Day to veterans. In Vietnam we have Remembrance Day on July 27. We go to monuments to clean and burn incense for the soldiers. Some people go to nursing homes to visit the veterans.

By Judy Ly

November 11, Remembrance Day is a special day for all people. It is a day of remembrance in many places around the world. It is a day where people gather together and turn their thoughts toward the importance of peace and the avoidance of future war. On November 11, in many parts of the world today, veterans march in parades and politicians and others give speeches of thanks for the peace that was won. In many countries, the poppy has become a recognized symbol of November 11. The poppy is red and black. My school celebrated last Friday. All of the students wore poppies too. All of the students wrote letters to veterans. My school had a ceremony in the gym. In the gym, there were many candles. Many people read poems. First, we watched a movie about World War I and World War II. Then we sang "O Canada". Eve-



ry student burnt a candle. All the students paused for one minute of silence to honour the soldiers. My country has Remembrance Day on July 27. Some people go to war memorials. We bring flowers to commemorate the lost soldiers.

By Thao Vu

Today, I will tell you about my Remembrance Day. On Friday at school there was a memorial ceremony in the gym room at 11 o'clock. Now I know many things about Remembrance Day after listening to the history about it. Actually it is on Sunday 11th November but the school was closed on that day so the ceremony was on Friday. It was so quiet and sad and everyone was quiet and listened to the sad music and history about Remembrance Day. This day is a day for remembering the army who fought in World War I and World War II. On Saturday, I relaxed by waking up late and going outside to eat lunch but I was also wearing the poppy flower. On Sunday I wore the poppy flower all day and I went to downtown to see a ceremony. Everybody was sad and quiet for two minutes. I didn't have school on Monday so I did homework and walked around so peacefully. The special thing I learnt was "lest we forget". I thought, "Does that mean let's we forget?" But it doesn't mean that, it means we will never forget. This is was big moment in my life and I will never forget it. That is all about my Remembrance Day. What about you?

By An Pham

I will talk about Remembrance Day. It is such a special day for the veterans because they gave their lives to protect their country and to keep peace for the people in their country. I did a lot of things in my school, such as wearing poppies and we had a ceremony in the gym. In that ceremony, we did a lot of things, for example: we burned the candles, mailed letters to veterans and read poems about Remembrance Day. Also, I had a long weekend but I did not do anything special. In Vietnam, there was an important day like Remembrance Day, but on a different day. We had to stand for one minute to remember the soldiers who died in Vietnam's war. I think this day is an important day because for the Canadians, if the veterans did not die for Canada, then Canadians could not live in peace like today. I hope all of the soldiers who passed away will rest in peace and that the veterans will have a good life for the rest of their life.

By John Tran

Remembrance Day is a memorial day since the First World War to remember the members of their armed forces who died in the line of duty. The day is also marked by war memorials in many other countries. Remembrance Day is on November 11. The war ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. It's really special. In our school, we wore the poppies then went to the activity room to remember those who have died in the wars by

watching a movie and hearing the history of how brave they are. The poppies represent the end of the war. Everybody remembers the soldiers who were died and hope for the best for those who are veterans. We sent postcards to them and I hope they were happy when they saw them. They contributed to building up the peace for this country. We're grateful for them. In Vietnam, we have Remembrance Day on July 27th. We appreciate what they did to protect our country. We stand for a minute to remember about them. We hope all the best for them and their family for the rest of life.

By Jason Pham

Remembrance Day is special day for Canada and some other countries in the world. On this day we are remember soldiers who died in War World I and War World II. My school had a ceremony in the gym to remember. In the gym, there were many candles and it was very serious. Everyone in my school needed to write postcards to give to veterans. It was a little thing to appreciate everything they did for Canada and for the world. Remembrance Day is very important to remember because in the wars many people died to protect their country and family. On November 11, we had one minute to remember the soldiers and give thanks for everything they did for the country. In my country, this day is on July 27. I go to a memorial to clean and pray for the soldiers who died in the war in Vietnam. Remembrance Day makes you think back on the wars a long time ago and feel proud about everything that the soldiers did. On

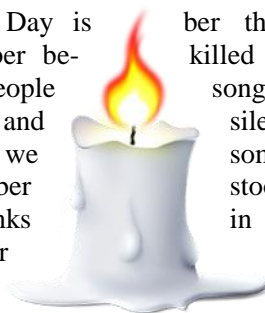
Remembrance Day you should wear the poppy flower to appreciate the soldiers died in the war.

By Max Lee

Remembrance Day will be a special day because in the war many people died, so after the war people use this day to remember the soldiers who died on the battlefield. Now let's talk about what we did on Remembrance Day in school because I am a student. On that day students don't need to go to school and we wear a red flower and we go to the gym and we sing songs about Canada and watch videos about the wars. I need to say that this is my first Remembrance Day in Canada.

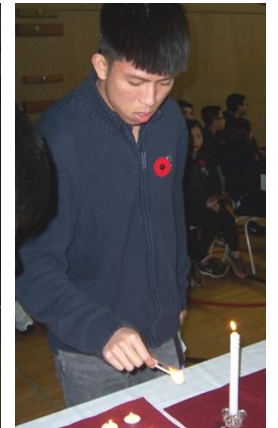
By Phuong Huynh

We had Remembrance Day early on November 11, 2018 and everyone wore poppies over their heart because it was first flower that grew up near the soldiers' graves. We did this to remember and thank the soldiers who fought for us. All the students were sitting down at 10:50 in the morning and we started at 11:00 in the gym. Mrs. Tajiri started the ceremony and she gave a speech in front of the school. Then some of students read out some poems like, "In Flanders Fields" to remember the soldiers who were killed in the war and sang the song "O Canada". We were silent for 2 minutes with some sad music. Then we stood up and put our letters in the mailbox. Then four students from the First Class Honour Roll lit four candles for WWI, WWII, the Korean War and other wars. Around those tall candles there were small candles. We watched a video that told us about the difficulties of war and how lots of soldiers' lives were ended in their





**Remembrance Day ceremony
November 9**





early 20s. Mr. Yee showed us pictures from the First World War and Second World War.

By Lucy Dinh

On Remembrance Day, my school had a ceremony in the gym and one minute of silence. This is a special day because on this day we remember the soldiers who died. I think Remembrance Day must be a sad day for old people because they remember about what happened in the war. We all wore poppies



on that day. The reason we wear poppies is because a lot of poppies grew up in the place that the soldiers died. At my school, we had many candles and every student lit a candle. Also we wrote cards for veterans and Ms. Tajiri brought it to a veterans' home. I hope they will feel happy when they see them. This is Remembrance Day in Canada. In my country they do have this day too but on a different date. In Canada all people have a day off on Monday but in my country they don't. On that day, everyone must go to a monument to clean. It is kind of boring.

By Logan Li

Today, I will talk about a special day for Canada. It was on November 11th. It is called Remembrance Day. It is so special because it is for the soldiers that fought in many wars like, World War I and II. They are real heroes in the country. For that reason, we had a big ceremony at school on Friday to re-

member them. We did a lot of meaningful things there. We lit the candles to let all the dead soldiers rest in peace. We read a famous poem to remember the wars that happened in history. It is really important for us to remember the wars because wars are a mistake and if we forget them there will be another war coming. I did a special thing for the soldiers too. Maybe they will like it. I wore the poppy all week for them.

By Hoang Anh Le

On November 11st, we had a special day. It was Remembrance Day. Remembrance Day is the day when people remember the veterans who died and fought in World War I, World War II, the Korean War and did peacekeeping work in Middle Eastern countries.

I went to my school and there was an early ceremony. I wrote a letter to the veterans and put it into the mail box. Then, all the students in the school and I lit candles, one symbol for Remembrance Day. I also read some famous poems. It was a silent time, a meaningful time when we all remembered the people who brought peace for us, who spent most of their life to fight for that.

On Sunday, I went to Fire Station #3 for Remembrance Day. I am a part of the cadets program so I did a parade on this day. First, I had to go to my flight. Then, we marched until we got to the monument. At 11 o'clock, the ceremony started. I stood silently, sang songs and read poems for one hour.

In Vietnam, we also have a day

that has the same meaning as Remembrance Day. On this day, I usually used to go to a community centre house to meet the veterans. Then, I went to the monument with my class. Then, we would go back to class and some veterans visited our class. Each student had to read the letter that they wrote for the veterans. In the even-

ing, I went to my grandfather's house. He worked for the Vietnamese military as a transporter in the Vietnamese-American War. People will think that his job is not as dangerous as fighting in the battlefield. However, he had to climb up to the mountains and walk through jungles from Northern Vietnam to Southern Vietnam. I'm so proud of my grandfather. He is my hero and also a Vietnamese hero.

Remembrance Day is a very meaningful day. If no one fought in the wars to protect their country, to keep the world peaceful, I would never have been in Canada to study and made many more new friends. I'm so grateful for what the soldiers did. On Remembrance Day, I hope the veterans who're still alive have a good life. People will never forget them, the heroes of the world.



The Last Word

As the Fall Term is drawing to a close, I remember seeing so many new enthusiastic faces in the first week of school. They were joined by our returning students, who were fresh from their summer break. We welcomed a new teacher to the V.F.A. family: Ms. Bhattacharjee. Everyone was ready to begin the adventure that was to be the 2018-2019 school year.

This was my 26th Fall Term at this school. Some activities we did in the past few months, such as the Halloween party, have been done every year I have been teaching at V.F.A. Other things, such as the Fort Langley trip, are fairly recent additions to the calendar. One thing that remains fresh is the students. Each one brings a unique personality and perspective.

We started with our major field trip this term in September with visit to Fort Langley. We experienced 1800s life by seeing a blacksmith at work, learning about the fur trade, doing some gold panning, making barrels, and seeing the inside of a home from that time period. Some students even dressed up in costume to act out a historical event.

October saw Vancouver having the best weather in recent memory. In addition to enjoying the sunny weather, students celebrated Thanksgiving by having a traditional turkey dinner at school. Along with the turkey, we had mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, vegetables, bread dressing, and pumpkin pie. My mouth is watering just writing this! Many thanks go to Mr. Harder for making this meal possible.

October also saw our annual Halloween party. Everybody dressed up in costumes ranging from scary to strange to gory to silly! Was that Mr. Hundal or the current president of the

United States? Pumpkin carving was a big part of the celebration and students showed a lot of creativity with their designs and workmanship.

We went a couple of times to the skating rink and took part in a quintessential Canadian activity. I remember seeing first time skaters not knowing how to properly put on and tie their skates. Then, these first timers gingerly stepped on to the ice – and some fell! Other students skated briskly and without fear.

In November, we observed Remembrance Day. In our classes, we talked about the tragic costs of war and of the soldiers who fought in them. We remembered those lost in war by lighting candles in our Remembrance Day ceremony. Each student also wrote a post-card to a veteran soldier thanking them for their service.

Many of the senior students went to the BCIT open house. There, they learned of the variety of programs that are offered for post-secondary studies. Thanks to Mrs. Tajiri for organizing this trip.

In December, we had a graduation ceremony for this term's graduates. After hearing about our grads and seeing pictures of their time at V.F.A., there was a dinner at a very nice restaurant. The grads and their guests looked so nice in their formal clothes!

The senior students went on a field trip to the CBC television/radio building. There, they saw how TV and radio broadcasts were made. Some students got to try their hand at being a reporter or news anchor! It was fascinating get a behind-the-scenes look at a TV/radio station.

For much of the Fall Term, every student has been working on an Inquiry Based Learning project. They

researched a topic they wanted to learn more about and presented it at a learning fair in the school gym. Not only did students look at each other's work, several dozen guests also attended the fair. The people who came gave very positive comments about the students' work and presentations.

In our Christmas party, classes sang songs and played fun games. There was a visit by Santa Claus! He said everyone at VFA was nice this year – nobody was naughty!

The Fall Term has been very memorable. We did a lot of things at this school and the *Western Vista* is a testament to that. We want our students to study hard and play hard to be an all-round person. Always be willing to try new things! That's what we aim to do at V.F.A. High School.

The Winter Term starts in a few short weeks in January 2019. We have a Lunar New Year celebration and a ski trip to look forward to. Perhaps we will even get some snow here in the city!

I wish everybody a safe and happy holiday season. Whether you are staying in Vancouver during the break or going back to your home country, enjoy the rest and have some fun. I look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!



Mr. K. Yee
Editor of the *Western Vista*



Fall Term Graduation
December 4





CBC open house
December 7

Western Vista



December 14, 2018