Aspen Monthly

Volume 9, October, 2026

END OF OCTOBER ALREADY?

OCTOBER NEWS



Happy Halloween

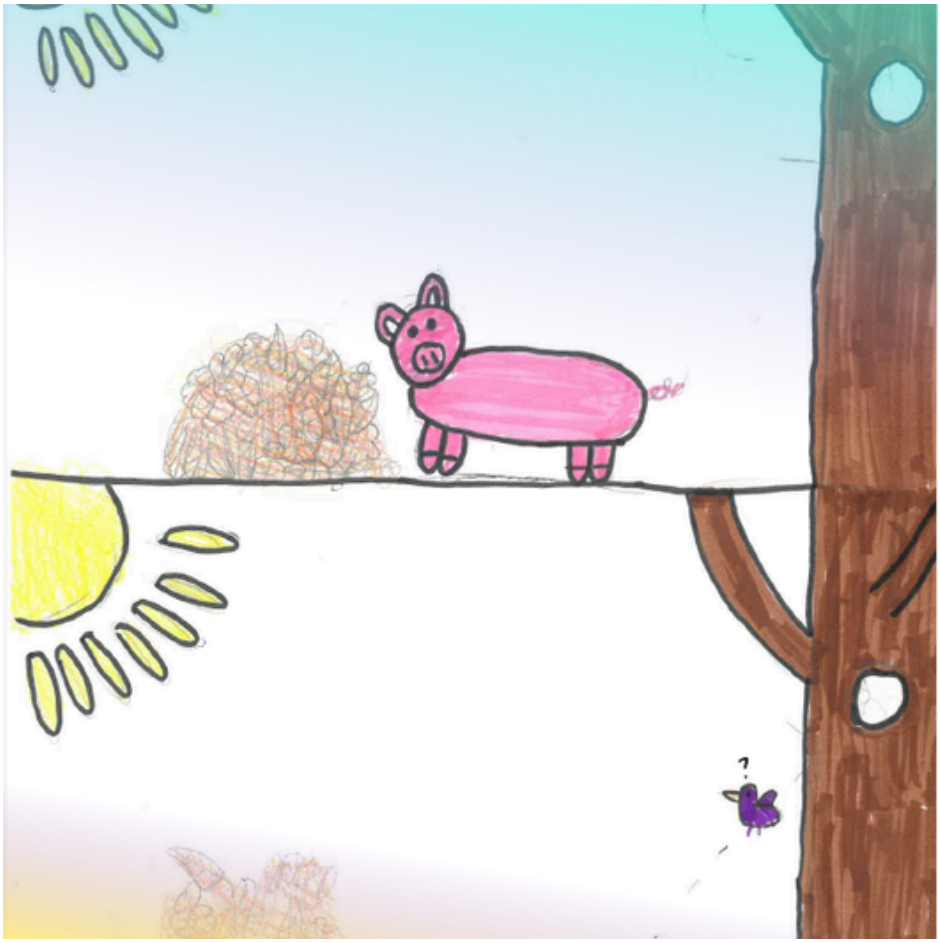
The journalism club wishes you all a Happy Halloween. We hope that you have a great Saturday evening of Trick or Treating and a restful Sunday.

Don't forget to make sure you wear something to make yourself visible, and stay in pairs or larger groups!

Secret Path Week

Chanie Wenjack was born January 19th, 1954. In 1996 Chanie ran away from his residential school attempting to reunite with his family 600 kilometers away. Chanie followed a train track where he was found dead only one week after he fled. His story later inspired Gord Downie's book, The Secret Path, and the album that accompanied it.

Secret path week, Oct. 17th to 22nd, respectfully acknowledges the legacies of Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack and make the dates that both joined the spirit world.



Comic by Rowen



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FROM THE STUDENTS

Municipal Elections

When is the Municipal Election? Saturday, October 17, 2026, in B.C.

What is a municipal election? It's when people vote for leaders who make decisions for their town or city.

Who can be elected in Comox? Comox has one mayor and six councillors and a school trustee.

Who is the mayor of Comox? Nicole Minions will remain mayor because no one else ran for the job.

Who is the school trustee? Jennifer Fisher is the school trustee because no one ran against her either.

Who is running for councillor? Steve Blacklock, Ruby Sidhu, Vivian Chislett, Jenn Meilleur, Maureen Swift, Ken Grant, Neil Ladell, Chris Haslett, Jonathan Kerr, Jessica Wegg and Lisa Bourgeois are running for the six councillor positions.

What does a mayor do? The mayor helps lead the town and works with councillors to make decisions.

What do councillors do? They help make decisions about things like parks, roads and recreation centres.

What does a school trustee do? A school trustee helps make decisions about local schools, including how money is spent and what students need to learn.

Why are elections important? The leaders we elect make choices that affect our community.

How often do elections happen? Every four years in B.C.

Remember: Kids can't vote until we're 18, but we can learn about local elections and talk with our families about the issues that matter to our community.



Pumpkin Fritters

Pumpkin Fritters:

500ml (2 cups) cooked kabocha squash or roasted butternut squash as an alternative
250ml (1 cup) flour
10 ml (2 teaspoons) baking powder
2 ml (½ teaspoon) salt
1 egg, beaten
Vegetable oil to fry

Syrup:

15 ml (1 tablespoon) butter
375 ml (1 and ½ cups) sugar
200ml milk
15 ml (1 tablespoon) cornstarch
170ml (⅔ cup) cold water

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FROM THE STUDENTS

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Make the fritters:

1. Finely chop the pumpkin after cooking.
2. Add the flour, baking powder, salt and egg and mix well.
3. Heat a nonstick pan and add oil.
4. Drop teaspoonfuls into the hot oil, press down slightly and fry on both sides until golden brown and cooked through.
5. Drain on paper towels and place in a serving dish.

Make the syrup:

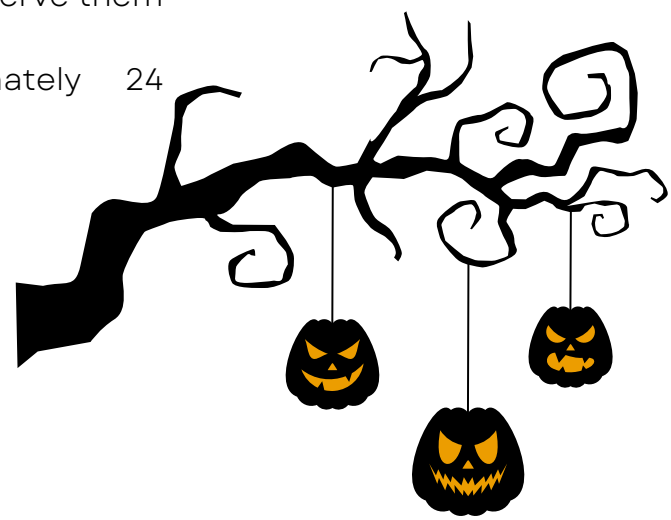
1. Heat the butter, sugar and milk to a boil.
2. Dissolve the cornstarch in the cold water, then stir it into the milk mixture slowly. Heat to a boil.
3. Pour over fritters immediately and serve them while hot.

Makes approximately 24 fritters.

Origins of Halloween

The Celts celebrated their new year on November the first, instead of January the first like us, and on the night of October thirty-first they believed that ghosts and spirits could "return to earth". To keep evil spirits away, they lit sacred bonfires, gave offerings, and wore disguises to scare away spirits.

There was also an old Irish story which started people carving scary faces into vegetables like turnips, beets, or potatoes with a candle inside, and later Irish immigrants came to North America and use pumpkins instead. This holiday eventually became the Halloween we know today.



Mr. Turenne's Class Rockasins!

Mr. Turenne's class made rockasins for Orange Shirt Day. They are super fun and easy. They made them with Ms. Heather in the new building. Rockasins are when you find a cool picture of your favorite moccasin and paint them on a rock. You can add a cool drawing on the front 😊





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CLUBS, ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

Cross Country

With the races at Puntledge, Huband and Brooklyn already complete, that leaves two more races this season. The last two races will be held at the exhibition grounds. We hope they have the same great weather and many top ten finishes as the first three races had! Keep up the great effort Aspen runners!

Leadership

Leadership would like to remind you that our first Spirit Day will be on Friday, October 30th. Remember to wear your costumes!
The Halloween dance is on Thursday the 29th from 6-8 p.m.
Also, remember to bring your toonies on Thursdays to buy a treat after school.



Hackergals

The grade 6/7 Hackergals club has started for this school year. We meet every other week in the library to learn coding skills. This year the format of our annual Hackathon has changed a little bit and will commence 9 weeks out and be a celebration day rather than a building day. If you identify as female and are interested in coding, app building, website design and more, please see Ms. Mathew.

Minecraft Club

The theme for this year's Minecraft Challenge has already been announced! That theme is: Beyond the Stars: The Ultimate Alien World Challenge! Gr 4-7 club will start in December. https://learn71.ca/minecraft-challenge/

Battle of the Books

The grade 6/7 Battle of the Books has begun! Our team of readers are reading: Bloom, No Fixed Address, Alone, Amari and the Night Brothers, Touching Grass and Building 903! We have room for a couple more readers. If anyone is interested, see Ms. Mathew.

Reading Link Challenge

We are still waiting for the launch of this years Reading Link Challenge. Usually we will get the launch video in the next couple of weeks. It's not too late to join our team. See Ms. Mathew if you are interested and are in grade 4/5.

Chess Club

Get ready to make your next move! The Aspen Chess Club is starting in early November.
Students in Grades 4–7 are welcome to join. The club will meet in Ms. Robert's classroom in the new building, at the top of the stairs on the right. The day of the week is still to be determined.
There is no sign-up required, but students must already know how to play chess to participate. Come challenge your classmates and put your chess skills to the test!

