



# October News 2024



October 2024

Fall

Volume: 68

## Brentwood Academy News



Monday October 14 - Columbus Day School Closed

October 24  
Picture Day

**We do not want to see your car towed. PLEASE park in the designated area ONLY. We are receiving complaints from neighbors when their spaces are occupied**

## Blue Bird of Vienna News



Monday October 14 - Columbus Day School Closed

October 15  
Picture Day

## Tiny Tots Playroom News



Monday October 14 - Columbus Day School Closed

October 16  
Picture Day

## Blue Bird of Alexandria News



Monday October 14 - Columbus Day School Closed

October 17-18  
Picture Days

## Blue Bird Dayschool News



Monday October 14 - Columbus Day School Closed

October 15  
Picture Day



**“Be on the look-out” For scheduling conferences in November sign-up forms will be out at the end of October.**

## Christopher Columbus

**Legacy of Christopher Columbus**  
The explorer Christopher Columbus made four trips across the Atlantic Ocean from Spain: in 1492, 1493, 1498 and 1502. He was determined to find a direct water route west from Europe to Asia, but he never did. Instead, he stumbled upon the Americas. Though he did not really “discover” the New World—millions of people already lived there—his journeys marked the beginning of centuries of exploration of North and South America.



## Blue Bird of Alexandria II News



Monday October 14 - Columbus Day School Closed

October 21-23  
Picture Days

Friday October 25 - End of First Grading Period

**“Flu season”**  
Virginia Department of Health encourages everyone to get the Flu-shot



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# HALLOWEEN

## Safety Tips

### Costume Safety

Wear flame retardant costumes.  
Make sure your Halloween costume is colorfast so the color doesn't run onto your other clothes if it rains.  
Try on costumes before Halloween to allow time for altering.  
Hem your costumes so you don't trip and fall.  
Apply reflective tape to your Halloween costumes.  
Avoid cumbersome masks. Use make-up instead.  
Use only hypoallergenic and non-toxic makeup.  
Wear comfortable, practical shoes.  
Double tie your shoelaces so you don't trip.  
Keep your costume and wig away from candles.  
Don't carry fake swords, guns, knives or similar accessories that look authentic. Make sure they're flexible and cannot harm anyone.

### Trick-or-Treating Tips

Plan your route ahead of time.  
Trick or treat in familiar neighborhoods.  
Carry a flashlight with fresh batteries after dark.  
Take along money for a phone call.  
Wear identification that's easy to read.  
Always trick or treat in groups, accompanied by an adult.  
Follow a curfew and take a watch with a backlight.  
Stay on the sidewalks and out of the streets. Cross only at intersections and designated crosswalks.  
Walk. No running.  
Don't trample through flower beds and gardens.  
Watch out for open flames in jack-o-Lanterns.  
Walk with your head up and be aware of your surroundings.  
Only visit well lit houses. Don't stop at dark houses.  
Don't enter any houses unless you know the people.  
Carry a spare Halloween bag, in case yours breaks or you fill your original one.  
Don't approach unfamiliar pets and animals.  
Don't cut across yards and stay out of backyards.  
Follow traffic signals and don't jaywalk.  
Always watch for cars backing up or turning.  
Review the "stop, drop and roll" procedure in case your costume catches on fire.  
Never accept rides from strangers.  
Respect other people and their property.  
Be polite and say "thank you".  
Don't eat any candy until it's inspected for tampering under bright lights.  
Avoid candy that has loose wrappings, is unwrapped, has puncture holes, or is homemade.  
Small children should not be allowed hard candy they may choke on.  
Report any suspicious or criminal activity to an adult or the police.



**On October 2, 1835**, the growing tensions between Mexico and Texas erupt into violence when Mexican soldiers attempt to disarm the people of Gonzales, sparking the Texan war for independence.

Texas—or Tejas as the Mexicans called it—had been a part of the Spanish empire since the 17th century. However, even as late as the 1820s, there were only about 3,000 Spanish-Mexican settlers in Texas, and Mexico City's hold on the territory was tenuous at best. After winning its own independence from Spain in 1821, Mexico welcomed large numbers of Anglo-American immigrants into Texas in the hopes they would become loyal Mexican citizens and keep the territory from falling into the hands of the United States. During the next decade men like Stephen Austin brought more than 25,000 people to Texas, most of them Americans. But while these emigrants legally became Mexican citizens, they continued to speak English, formed their own schools, and had closer trading ties to the United States than to Mexico.

### How Slavery Led to Texas's Independence

In 1835, the president of Mexico, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, overthrew the constitution and appointed himself dictator. Recognizing that the "American" Texans were likely to use his rise to power as an excuse to secede, Santa Anna ordered the Mexican military to begin disarming the Texans whenever possible. This proved more difficult than expected, and on October 2, 1835, Mexican soldiers attempting to take a small cannon from the village of Gonzales encountered stiff resistance from a hastily assembled militia of Texans. After a brief fight, the Mexicans retreated and the Texans kept their cannon.

The determined Texans would continue to battle Santa Ana and his army for another several months before winning their independence and establishing the Republic of



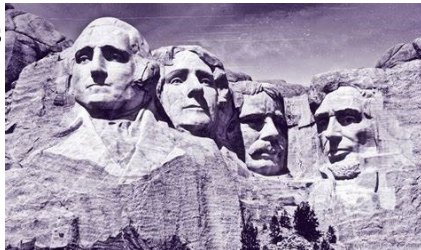


On **October 4, 1927**, sculpting begins on the face of Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills National Forest of South Dakota. It would take another 12 years for the granite images of four of America's most revered presidents—George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt—to be completed.

The monument was the brainchild of a South Dakota historian named Doane Robinson, who was looking for a way to attract more tourists to his state. He hired a sculptor named Gutzon Borglum to carve the faces into the mountain. The Lakota Sioux people, who consider the Black Hills to be sacred ground, strongly opposed the project. The mountain was previously part of the Great Sioux Reservation before being taken away from them by the U.S. government.

According to the National Park Service, the first face to be chiseled was George Washington's; Borglum first sculpted the head as an egg shape, his features added later. Thomas Jefferson's image was originally fashioned in the space to the right of Washington, but, within two years, the face was badly cracked. Workers had to blast the sculpture off the mountain using dynamite. Borglum then started over with Jefferson situated on the left side of Washington.

Washington's face was the first to be completed in 1934. Jefferson's was dedicated in 1936—with then-president Franklin Roosevelt in attendance—and Lincoln's was completed a year later. In 1939, Teddy Roosevelt's face was completed. The project, which cost \$1 million, was funded primarily by the federal government.



Borglum continued to touch up his work at Mount Rushmore until he died suddenly in 1941. Borglum had originally hoped to also carve a series of inscriptions into the mountain, outlining the history of the United States.

**October 11, 1968** Apollo 7 launched

Apollo 7, the first manned Apollo mission, is launched with astronauts Walter M. Schirra, Jr.; Donn F. Eisele; and Walter Cunningham aboard. Under the command of Schirra, the crew of Apollo 7 conducted an 11-day orbit of Earth, during which the crew transmitted the first live television broadcasts from orbit.

**September 10 1608**. John Smith elected to lead Jamestown

English adventurer John Smith is elected council president of Jamestown, Virginia—the first permanent English settlement in North America. Smith, a colorful figure, had won popularity in the colony because of his organizational abilities and effectiveness in dealing with local Native American groups.

In May 1607, about 100 English colonists settled along the James River in Virginia to found Jamestown. The settlers fared badly because of famine, disease, and Indian attacks, but were aided by the 27-year-old John Smith, who directed survival efforts and mapped the area.



While exploring the Chickahominy River in December 1607, Smith and two colonists were captured by Powhatan warriors. At the time, the Powhatan Indian confederacy consisted of around 30 Tidewater-area tribes led by Chief Wahunsonacock, known as Chief Powhatan to the English. Smith's companions were killed, but he was spared and released (according to a 1624 account by Smith) because of the dramatic intercession of Pocahontas, Chief Powhatan's 13-year-old daughter.

In 1608, Smith became president of the Jamestown colony, but the settlement continued to suffer. An accidental fire destroyed much of the town, and hunger, disease, and Indian attacks continued. During this time, Pocahontas often came to Jamestown as an emissary of her father, sometimes bearing gifts of



food to help the hard-pressed settlers. She befriended the settlers and became acquainted with English ways. In 1609, Smith was injured from a fire in his gunpowder bag and was forced to return to England.

John Smith returned to the New World in 1614 to explore the New England coast, carefully mapping the coast from Penobscot Bay to Cape Cod. On another voyage of exploration, in 1615, Smith was captured by pirates but escaped after three months of captivity. He then returned to England, where he died in 1631.