



## OCTOBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

### TIPS AND ACTIVITIES

TEACHER:

#### **A Twist on Classroom Halloween Parties: Try an Old Fashioned Halloween!**

How about planning an Old Fashioned Halloween Party for your classroom? This is a great way for children to learn about things that children years ago did differently as well as the things they do similarly.

#### **Old Fashioned Candy** to trick or treat for and try:

Discussion Point: Talk with your students about the fact that during WWII, sugar was rationed and candy was not made with a lot of sugar.

Bazooka Bubble Gum

Black Licorice

Mints

Turkish Taffy

#### **Old fashioned treats** to make or bring:

Popcorn balls

Cupcakes with orange frosting:

Note: bring plain cupcakes and have the students decorate the cupcakes for themselves.

Caramel Apples

Note: bring pre-made caramel apples or buy the caramel wrap and let the students do their own apples.

Pumpkin Pie

Note: Bring cream and make your own whipped cream!

#### **Halloween Games and Activities from long ago:**

##### 1. Bob for Apples

Alternative: If having students dunk their head into a bucket of water is not realistic, try this modern twist: Bob for Donuts.

Using yarn, tie white powdered donuts on a string individually. Hang 5 donuts from a dowel or broom handle. Have one person on each end of the dowel and raise it high enough that students can stand and reach the donuts. Keeping their hands behind their

backs, have each child try to eat their donut off of the string! The first person to eat their donut off the string wins!

## 2. Trick or Treating

Have stations around your classroom of fun activities to do. At each station leave a candy bucket with old fashioned candy that they can try. Use brown paper bags for gathering candy and let them decorate them.

### Carving Pumpkins

Note: if you teach in a classroom of young children or where carving pumpkins with knives is not practical, think about painting pumpkins! This works well with miniature pumpkins! Use craft paint or even permanent markers! OR you can glue objects and shapes onto the pumpkins like felt shapes, googly eyes, craft pieces, construction paper, etc.

Note2: If you are able to get volunteers to help and carve pumpkins in class, turn it into a Math project! Have each group estimate how many pumpkin seeds are in their pumpkin. When finished "gutting" the pumpkin, have the kids count how many pumpkin seeds are in the different pumpkins and have a prize for the one that has the most and the one who estimated the closest!

Note 3: A great "old fashioned treat" was roasting pumpkin seeds.

## 4. Scary Story Flashlight Tent

Drape a sheet or large blanket over several chairs. Have students gather under the blanket. Turn the classroom light off and use a flashlight to read a Halloween story. Determine by age and personality of students- an appropriate book (or two) to read! This could be a Halloween story, a scary story... or try one of the books from Teresa Funke's Home-Front Heroes books to learn more about life during WWII.

STUDENT:

**BAZOOKA!**

Because of WWII sugar was very scarce and had to be rationed. Due to this, the production and innovation of candy was also lean. In the 1940s, a few candies were introduced that would become famous. Few though, would gain as much fame as **Bazooka Bubble Gum!**

The red, white and blue wrapper was symbolic for patriotism and associated itself with the history of American Sweets.

(1) True or False: Bazooka was named after the weapon bearing it's namesake.

(2) True or False: Bazooka gum was named after a musical instrument

Answer: (1) False (2) True

### MIND BENDER

A man lives on the tenth floor of a building. Every morning he takes the elevator down to the lobby and leaves the building.

In the evening, he gets into the elevator, and, if there is someone else in the elevator - or if it was raining that day - he goes back to his floor directly. Otherwise, he goes to the seventh floor and walks up three flights of stairs to his apartment. Can you explain why?

This is one of the best known and most celebrated of all lateral thinking logic puzzles. Although there are many possible solutions which fit the initial conditions, only the canonical answer is truly satisfying.

See answer on Novembers newsletter