



# THE VOICE

Fall 2025

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# LETTER TO THE READERS

Dear Reader,

It seems just yesterday that we were enjoying the warm, sunlight-filled summer days. November offers a time for pause: the end of term one, the final full month of fall, and of course, the last 2025 issue of The Voice. This newspaper is a place where all students can express themselves-- reviews, artwork, interviews, whatever their hearts desire and we hope to continue with that spirit this school year.

My name is Samhita Badhri, and I am beyond excited to be the new President of The Voice. I am a senior, and have been writing articles for this newspaper since my freshman year, serving as Vice President both my junior and senior years. Jhanvi Kichannagari is our Vice President, after serving as graphic designer for two years; Misha Kapoor is Editor, and we are excited to welcome Riley Tambo to the board as our new graphic designer! Thank you for tuning into the Fall Edition of The Voice.

Here's to hoping we can keep you informed and entertained during these increasingly cold and dark approaching winter months! Enjoy!

Thank you,  
Samhita Badhri



# CREAMY CHAI POSSET SERVED INSIDE APPLES

*By Nisha Manchi*

## Ingredients:

- 3 ⅓ cups Heavy Cream
- ½ cup+1 tbsp Granulated Sugar
- 2 ½ tbsp Lemon Juice
- 5-6 Chai Tea Bags
- 3 tsp(1 tbsp) Vanilla Extract
- 5 Firm Apples



## Instructions:

1. In a saucepan, combine the heavy cream, sugar, and chai tea over medium heat.
2. Simmer for 5-6 minutes, stirring often.
3. Remove the tea bags (squeeze them gently against a spoon to extract flavor).
4. Stir in the lemon juice and vanilla extract.
5. Strain the mixture through a sieve.
6. Cut the apples in half lengthwise and hollow out with a spoon
7. Pour the posset into the apples and chill for 2 hours.



Chef's Tip: Top each apple with cinnamon sugar, whipped cream, or honey for extra warmth and that fall glow



First up, pumpkin spice lattes are one of the most popular drinks for autumn. They are the perfect balance of sweet and spicy, all mixed together in a creamy and delicious drink. This drink is like autumn in a cup.

- Ingredients:
- Milk of your choice (Whole milk is preferred)
- Coffee
- Pumpkin Puree
- Maple Syrup
- Pumpkin Spice
- Vanilla

To make one, heat your choice of milk up in a small pot, then froth it until foamy. Then in a separate bowl, mix coffee, pumpkin puree, maple syrup, pumpkin spice and vanilla until well blended. Pour your blended mixture into a mug, then top it with your frothed milk. Feel free to top it with whipped cream or extra pumpkin spice to make it extra cozy.



## Fall Drinks To Try:

By: Olivia  
Thomas

Next up, we have a classic yet delicious chai latte.

- Ingredients:
- Milk of your choice (Whole milk is preferred)
- Black Tea Bags
- Spices (cinnamon, cardamom, ginger, nutmeg or any spices you like!)
- Maple syrup (Or any sweetener of your choice.)

To begin with, get a pot and heat up milk on medium heat for a couple minutes. Then add your tea bags (or leaves) and simmer on high for 3-4 minutes and then remove the tea bags. Turn the heat down to medium and add your sweetener and all your spices. Whisk it all together. And to finish it off, pour it into a mug, add some cold foam, and a dash of cinnamon for a snug look.





## Fall Recipe Spotlight

Now, we've got hot spiced apple cider. This short and easy to make drink is the perfect thing to have on a cold autumn day.

- Ingredients:
- Apple Cider
- Cinnamon Sticks
- Cloves
- Orange Peels

To make this, add apple cider to a large pot and toss in a few cinnamon sticks, cloves, and orange peels as well. Once it is simmering, you can cover the pot and let it cook for 15 minutes. Then you can serve it hot for the perfect comforting and soothing fall drink. This warm and comforting drink is guaranteed to make your cold day feel cozier.



Last but not least, s'mores hot chocolate!

### Ingredients:

- Milk of your choice (Whole milk is preferred)
- Cocoa Powder
- Chocolate Syrup
- Cookie Butter
- Powdered Sugar
- Marshmallows
- Graham Crackers
- Whipped cream



To start, grab a pot and heat up milk on medium. Stir in your cookie butter until smooth. Then stir in the cocoa powder, chocolate syrup, and powdered sugar. Once that is complete transfer to a mug and top it off with whipped cream, marshmallows and graham cracker crumbs!





## Books to Read - Fall Edition!

By: Aditi Yadav



Love reading? This section is for you!

For the gothic horror fans, read **The Haunting of Hill House** by Shirley Jackson.

It's been made into a Netflix series, two feature films and a play (so for all the people who don't want to read it—you can watch it :D). It follows Eleanor Vance, a lonely woman with a troubled past. She and two others were invited by Dr. Montague to study supernatural phenomena. Strange and frightening events seemed to follow the group, targeting Eleanor. She feels increasingly drawn to the house, until it finally consumes her and she refuses to leave, appearing to merge completely with Hill house.

It's definitely past Halloween, but **Kingdom of the Wicked** by Kerri Maniscalco will take you right back. This book is the first of a trilogy—the other books being Kingdom of the Cursed, the second book, and Kingdom of the Feared, the third book. Emilia is a young witch who seeks vengeance for her twin sister Vittoria's brutal murder. She is forced to join forces with the Prince of Wrath, one of the seven demon princes of hell, in her quest to find her sister's slayer. They go off on a dangerous investigation, one that leads them to a world of dark magic, betrayal and an ancient prophecy connected to the Wicked.

If you're into something not as intense and gory, yet still has a bit of horror, you might like **The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue** by V.E. Schwab. Adeline LaRue made a deal with a dark god back in 1714, France, to escape a forced marriage and live forever. The god secretly cursed her, though, so for three centuries, everyone who met Addie would forget her once they looked away. She couldn't speak her name or leave a physical mark on the world either. Everywhere she went, Addie would feel loneliness enveloping her... until one day in 2014, a man named Henry Strauss who worked in a bookstore remembered her.



Happy Reading!





# An Interview with Erica Lunding *By Misha Kapoor*

**Q: What is your name and your role in the Chelmsford High School Theater Department?**

A: "My name is Erica Lunding, and I am the director of the Chelmsford Theater Guild."

**Q: What is your favorite part about putting on a show?**

A: "The first thing that comes to mind is the first time we have an audience, because I always find that I'm watching the show as if I'm in the audience that I've never seen it before which comes with its own things because I'm like, 'Oh I should have done this differently,' but I think that it's my favorite part. It's like exhilarating, and it gets a little bit of adrenaline in the same way that the people on stage do."



**Q: How much work is put into the musical that isn't seen by the audience? What do you wish people would recognize more about putting on a show?**

A: "The beauty of theater, and something that is really nice about it, is that the audience doesn't see all the hard work. It's meant to look easy and effortless."

[About what she wants people to recognize more] "... all the time and effort spent outside of rehearsal. The audience understands there are rehearsals, but the time that people spend outside of rehearsal is spent memorizing lines, music, and harmonies at home. The same goes for the crew, mapping things out on computers and such."

**Q: This year's musical is Oklahoma!, obviously a revolutionary in theater. What is the thought process behind choosing a show?**

A: "In general, I start by thinking about shows that I like personally. The second level of that is talking with Craig, the technical director, because he has lots of ideas. I like getting other people's opinions to get a broad list of all the shows we think would be fun. Then we think about them in terms of what the pit looks like because we have such a strong music program in Chelmsford, and it's really awesome to pick a show that highlights a big pit orchestra. Then there is knowing that we could fill all the parts. If it's a show that has 14 guy leads, maybe not because we only have 10 guys in our program."

**Q: When you do choose a show, do you see a cast in your mind or is that all thought about in the audition process?**

A: "Just thinking through, do we have the cast overall, not saying that we are precasting, but just get an idea of 'We do have enough people to put this on'. I'm not sure exactly who's going to play what parts, but we do have options."

**Q: What is the timing for getting a show from nothing to a full production in just 3 months?**

A: "Craig and I start work over the summer, and we do some of the production team stuff where the advisors will get together. We will talk through things that we need to make sure we cover, especially pit-related, because the pit doesn't rehearse until a bit later, so making sure Mr. DeStefano, the pit director, has everything he needs or needs to order. When we actually get into working constantly, it is late August/early September. That's when I start doing work, like from a director-choreographer perspective, and then once we get into rehearsals, it's when everyone else starts doing stuff too



Continued on next page 



**Q: If you could describe Oklahoma! in 3 words, what would they be and why?**

A: "Yeehaw, musical, and delightful. Delightful because there are some loose dark themes in the show, but nothing really heavy. Anyone who sees the show will leave being like, 'Wow, that was fun!' I say musical because it feels like a real musical, just because there are these big, strong dance numbers overall, and then there's really fun comedic relief throughout the scenes. There are some serious elements, but there's also comedy to it, and it's big and spectacular, which is why I say musical, which sounds obvious. Yeehaw is because of the theme. Obviously, it takes place in the territory that is now the state of Oklahoma, so it is all about community and experiences of all the people who lived there."

**Q: What drew you to the CHS theater department?**

A: "I graduated from Chelmsford High School in 2013, and theater was a huge part of my high school career. I spent so much time in the building, so when I had the opportunity to come back as a choreographer for the musical for Pippin, four or five years ago, I said, 'I'll do it, it sounds fun!' And then I choreographed for the last 4 years and became the director. I wanted to be the choreographer because it was a theater I cared about, where I graduated from, and spent a lot of time and effort in my formative years here. And then just fell into the director stuff because our previous director couldn't come back, and I was like I'll do it so here I am, but it's really fun."

**Q: Do you have a background in theater yourself?**

A: "The Chelmsford High School theater Guild was really important to me as a teenager, so it felt obvious that I would step into that role and curate it for all the students that are here now. They'd walk away with the same experience I did, which is just loving theater, caring a lot about theater, and having a great time."

**Q: Finally, is there anything you would like to share about yourself or the theater guild as a whole that we did not get to in this interview?**

A: "One thing that I want to highlight is that this year is that we have so many freshmen who are involved in the production. This is our first year in the last four or five years that we have as many freshmen as we do. That's really awesome and promising, and I hope they all come back next year and that they continue to do theater. I hope it becomes a really big piece in their High School careers."

**We hope you saw Chelmsford High School's production of Oklahoma!**

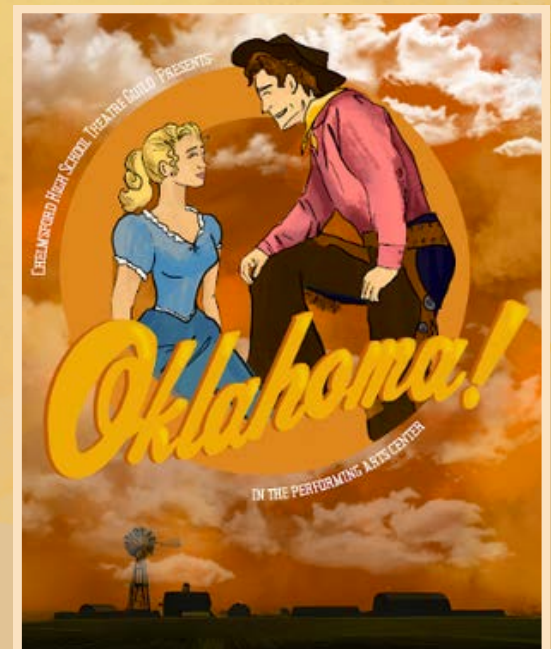
Showtimes were:

Thursday, November 20, at 7:00 pm

Friday, November 21st, at 7:00 pm

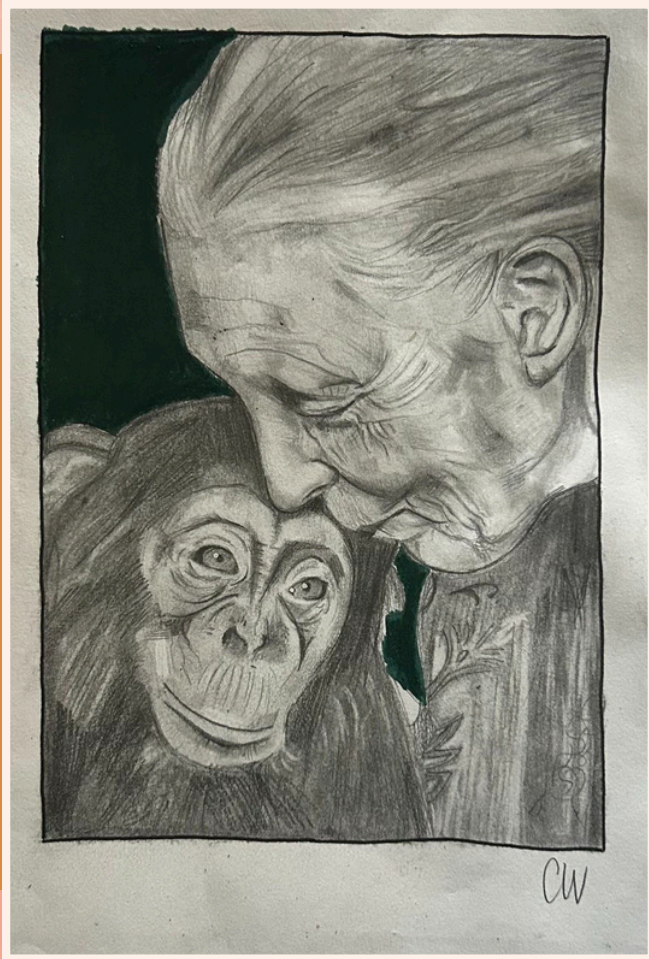
Saturday, November 22nd, at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

**Keep an eye out for their next productions: the children's play is coming up as well as their cabaret in the spring!**





# Artist Spotlight



## Art and Writing by Charlotte Ware

Jane Goodall was an influential primatologist whose life's work has revolutionized our understanding of animals, conservation, and nature. Born in London in 1934, she fell in love with wildlife at a young age, bringing her to Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania. There, she began what would become a 60-year study of chimpanzees.

Without formal scientific training at first, Goodall transformed primatology by discovering that chimpanzees use tools, are not vegetarians, and experience complex emotions once thought to be exclusively human. Her affectionate and personal relationship with animals changed the way wildlife research was conducted, shifting field science away from solely quantitative data and towards a more emotional understanding of animal behavior. Beyond her scientific discoveries, Goodall was a prominent advocate of environmental conservation and the well-being of animals. Her spirit and ideals live on in her Jane Goodall Institute and Roots & Shoots program. Jane

Goodall certainly left an indelible mark on conservation and science, and her compassionate way of living stands as an inspiring example for how we should treat the world around us.





# In Defense of Silent Reading

By Samhita Badhri

In the 1960's, The Uninterrupted Sustained Silent Reading Program (USSR) was first proposed by Lyman Hunt at the University of Vermont. By the 1970s, it was being implemented throughout United States public schools. Almost sixty years later, it feels as though its presence is waning. At Chelmsford Public Schools, we were allocated amounts of time throughout middle school that were time for us to read. No assigned book, no post-reading summary, just a silent class period and a book of our choice. Entering high school, the emphasis quickly shifted to keeping up with fast-paced curriculum, homework, sports, and extracurriculars, leaving little time to read for enjoyment inside or outside the classroom. But perhaps this lack of exposure contributes to larger issues.

In 2023, 54% of United States adults have a literacy rate below a 6th-grade level. While these numbers can be attributed to a variety of causes--income inequality and learning disabilities--a root cause of it is people not engaging with literature that piques their interest at older ages.

Silent reading offers numerous benefits: It forces students to grapple with challenging vocabulary and pronunciation on their own, increases reading speed, and allows students to connect deeply with the book and gain greater insights.

However silent reading provides logistical challenges. English teacher and author Dan Tricario tackled two major problems: time allocation and interest. In order to effectively and consistently incorporate silent reading as a daily activity, he chose for ten minute sessions daily to get students in the habit of reading. He also tried various methods to peak their interests on books: library tours and exchanging book recommendations--but he found that it was most effective to simply discuss the books with his students and explore personal interests and recommendations for them.

Many teachers still incorporate silent reading in their classrooms, however it is also important to allow students to read books of their choice. By normalizing daily reading, for fun, it will help students develop lifelong skills and perhaps allow reading to become a hobby instead of a chore.

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# Dancing, Drama, and Dedication: Meet Some of the Cast of Oklahoma!

By: Deepika Bollu

Excitement is building as the cast of our school's fall musical, *Oklahoma!*, prepares to take the stage. From lively dance numbers to emotional performances, this year's production promises to be a feast for the senses. We spoke with a few cast members to get a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to bring the classic show to life.

For some cast members, the most thrilling part of the show has been the dancing. "I think my favorite part of *Oklahoma!* is how much more dancing I'm able to do! The show itself is much more visual compared to others, and we've had a lot of fun with the different pictures and formations," said [Cast Member 1], who has embraced the energetic choreography. But it hasn't all been easy. "[The biggest challenge] is probably the dancing as well. I have never had to dance as much as I have had to in this show, and it has definitely been a challenge – especially the tap sections!"

Beyond the choreography, other students are inspired by the sense of community in the cast. "[My favorite part] has been the community. This year, everyone is not only working hard on their individual parts but also as a team. It really shows in our chemistry on and off the stage!" shared [Cast Member 2], reflecting on the tight bonds formed during rehearsal. That same student noted that preparing for a role also comes with responsibility: "The biggest challenge has been setting an example for the underclassmen. I remember how much I looked up to the older kids in my first years of high school, and I hope that I can positively inspire people the same way I was."

Some cast members are also thinking about what roles they might want to try in the future. "[If I could play any other role] it would probably be Jud. Armaan's depiction has shown me how emotional that role can be. I would love to have a role with that kind of emotion; it is unlike anything I have done, and it would be a good challenge for me," said one student. Another joked that while they would like to try Ali Hakim, "Aditya has that character down perfectly." With months of rehearsals behind them and opening night just around the corner, the cast of *Oklahoma!* is ready to dazzle audiences with talent, teamwork, and plenty of heart. Don't miss your chance to see the show live in the PAC from November 20 to 22!



# A Color Conclusion

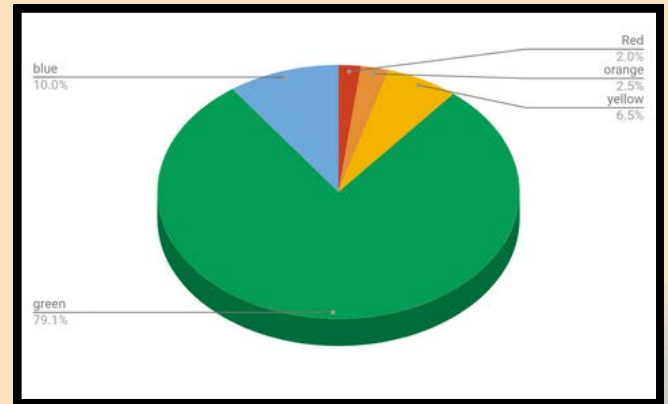
By Maddie Knight and Adam Weller-Fahy

The most savage, brutal conflict in human history: have all surrounded the optional clash between which color folders represent each class. Being a topic prone to propaganda, scandals, and political skulduggery, no source has been able to collect unbiased data. All that will end today. After Maddie's extensive research venturing through Plus and PRIDE blocks, the folder colors that CHS students associate with different classes have been determined.

## SCIENCE

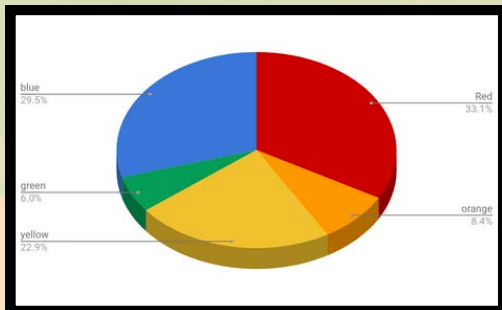
Green is commonly associated with luck, nature, tranquil, and safety (Cherry). The crossover with the color and subject likely stems from ties between green and nature, which is often a topic of study in science. Being the most unanimous decision throughout this polling, with nearly 80%, subsequent to polling 201 people, CHS has declared science is green.

-MK

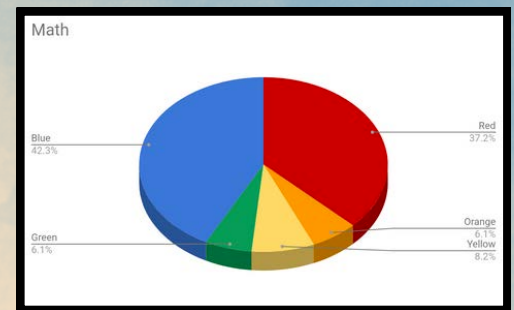


## MATH

The most terrible battle of the folder color wars have always been the battle of red and blue. Be it the Ottomans, Mongols, Romans, or Persians, all their conquests were driven by the ideals of a folder color. Math is split down the middle, with the logical, analytical blue having a slight lead over the passionate red. Scholars theorize that those who see math as red do so



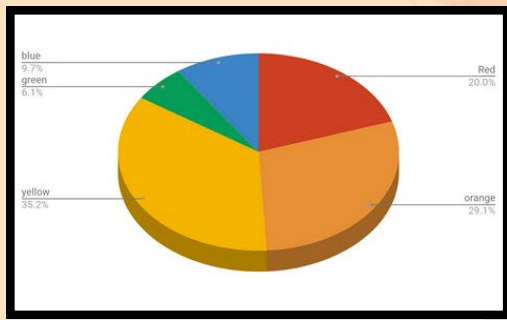
because of their hatred for math, as our culture associates red with anger and aggression. The other colors are much less popular, yet do have more supporters than one may expect from the polarizing battle between red and blue. - AWF



## ENGLISH

The other side of the coin is english. Red has a slight lead over blue, likely due to red being thought of as a emotional, passionate color. However, the more surprising thing here is yellow. An unexpected candidate coming right out of the blue and getting 20% of the vote is practically unheard of and shows exactly why unbiased information is important for study. After consulting experts around the globe, we have hypothesized that yellow may remind students of brightness, energy, and "lightbulb moments," that one may associate with english class.- AWF





# HISTORY

History is the most varied class by far, having 3 strong contenders compared to the usual 2 or 3. Yellow, which represents joyfulness, juxtaposes the common theme of tragedies and injustices throughout history (“Meanings of Yellow”). Despite my own opinion, yellow stands victorious. A Close second, with merely 10 fewer people than yellow’s count of 58 (in a survey of 165 people) is Orange. Associated with energy, Halloween, and warmth, orange could be tied to the energetic aspect of history (Cherry). History is chaotic, interesting, and complicated. Additionally, orange is a combination of red and yellow, exhibiting both bright energy and deep passion within a complex context. However, don’t allow my personal opinions to minimize the results. CHS has spoken, and history is yellow.- MK

# BAND

A long debated topic, brought to a close: Is band purple or black? With the Ratio of 17:13 black narrowly won. Assuming this association is derived from the concert black worn at concerts, it makes sense, but how did purple become such a close second? Purple’s meaning lies with royalty, mystery, and creativity (Cherry). The vibes of purple reflect the way band kids view music. Despite “band kid” stereotypes, band members view their purpose in band as collective creation to their audience. Nevertheless, the band director himself voted for black, and the results speak for themselves. Black represents a spectrum of concepts From depression to elegance and sophistication, but I reckon the band’s viewpoint lies with the latter (“The color black: Psychology, meaning, & facts”). Music is a limitless canvas, and the novelty and timelessness in the color black reflects that to the musicians, driving their conclusion. - MK



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# Fall playlist

By Trisha Munshi and  
Reva Pendharkar



## Sweater Weather

The Neighborhood



Make sure to listen to **Sweater Weather** by The Neighborhood to kick off your fantastic fall playlist. This song has been a classic hit throughout the past few years; its cozy and slow vibe allows listeners to be relaxed. These songs will provide you comfort and love as you listen to the soulful R&B synths and melodies.



## Vienna

Billy Joel



“When will you realize, Vienna waits for you” lyrics are sung by Billy Joel in his song “Vienna”, another perfect addition to your fall playlist. Vienna reflects the same themes as fall, like slowing down and appreciating the world around you. It is also the best song because of its soft and smooth instrumentals, and the vocals are perfect for the fall atmosphere.



## Can' take my eyes off of you

Frankie Vallie



One of Frankie Valli's most classic and iconic songs is “Can’t Take My Eyes Off You”, which embodies the season of fall perfectly. Valli’s romantic lyrics and his brass instrumentation make the song instantly recognizable and catchy. The melody paired with the tone of the song matches the slow season of fall.



## Cardigan

Taylor Swift



A nostalgic wonder that is filled with meaningful poetry and matches the fall aesthetic perfectly. Taylor Swift's "Cardigan" embodies a soft piano and calming piano, which will make you sense a feeling of warmth. Take a moment, play this mesmerizing song, and take a walk through the crisp autumn air.



## Linger

The Cranberries



"Linger" is a 90's classic by The Cranberries, representing the nostalgic and joyful feeling of the fall season. Take a listen to the beautiful vocals and the creative strings that compose an unforgettable melody. This song embodies the enchanting change through the season and the homey feeling of fall.



## Thriller

Michael Jackson



Finally, to end your playlist, "Thriller" by Michael Jackson is the ultimate song to represent Halloween. The haunting sound effects included in the background, mixed with the frightening lyrics, give this song a Halloween feel. Thriller was also inspired by classic horror movies, with its music video replicating certain scenes. "Thriller" fits right into the party scene with its funky, yet danceable beat- keeping the energy up!



# Fall Fun

F	L	A	N	N	E	L	C	A	U	T	U	M	N
V	M	L	D	O	O	D	P	U	M	P	K	I	N
F	O	C	J	W	I	T	C	H	P	X	Z	L	H
A	N	N	O	I	A	S	F	C	A	T	S	G	A
L	H	A	A	R	S	G	H	O	S	T	P	M	L
L	C	A	O	W	N	P	A	E	M	Q	O	U	L
R	I	A	U	A	B	M	I	P	X	L	O	E	O
H	D	T	H	N	S	E	A	R	P	J	K	U	W
L	E	O	F	B	T	C	A	Z	I	L	Y	M	E
E	R	R	B	D	M	E	A	N	E	T	E	S	E
A	W	A	E	I	I	I	D	R	I	U	D	S	N
V	A	N	M	I	T	T	E	N	F	E	S	V	P
E	F	G	H	D	S	C	A	R	E	C	R	O	W
S	A	E	C	H	I	L	L	Y	J	C	Y	U	B

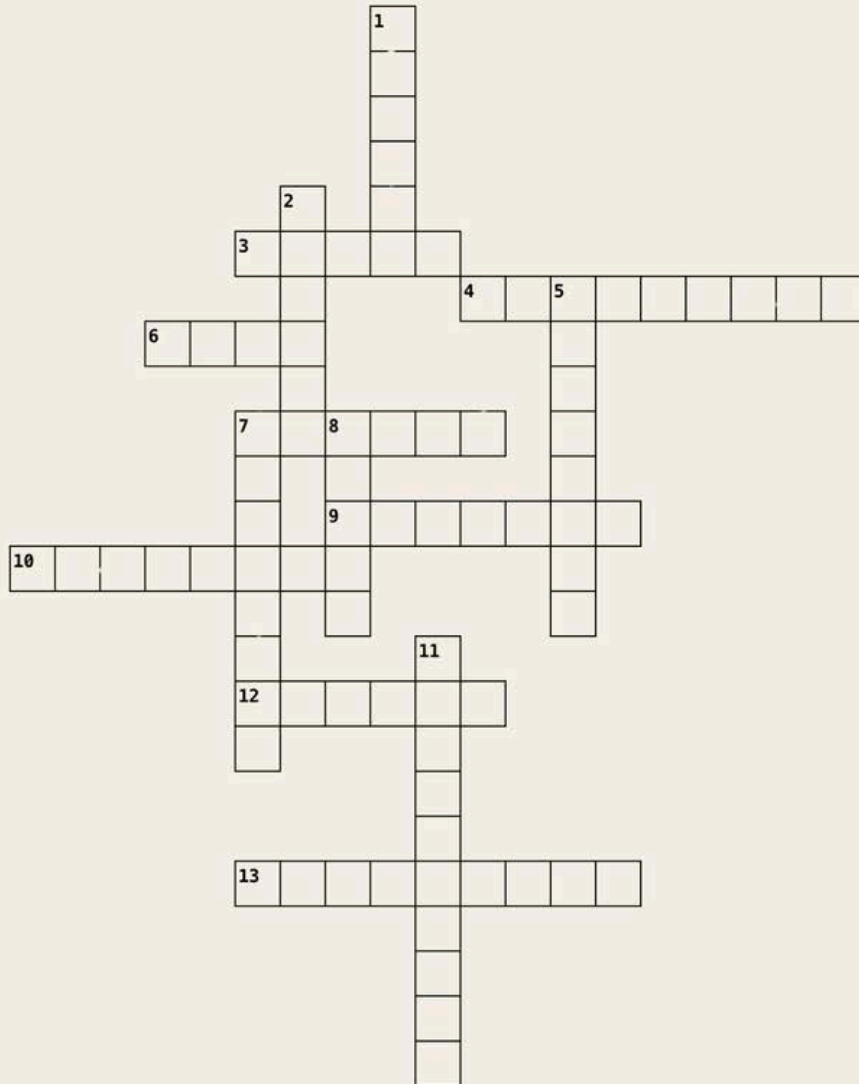
APPLES  
 CHILLY  
 HAUNTED  
 PUMPKIN  
 ORANGE  
 SPIRIT  
 SCARECROW  
 SPOOKY

SPOOKY  
 CORNMAZE  
 CAT  
 GHOST  
 CIDER  
 WITCH  
 FLANNEL  
 HALLOWEEN



Made by Riley Tambo

# Feeling Like Fall!



## Across

4. Show your school spirit at \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_
6. As the year goes by the weather is getting \_\_\_\_
7. In New England many of the leaves turn \_\_\_\_
9. In fall I love to drink \_\_\_\_ spice latte's
10. Every year our \_\_\_\_ team goes against Billerica on Thanksgiving
12. During pep-rally make sure to rep your school colors: \_\_\_\_ and white!
13. On October 31st we celebrate \_\_\_\_

## Down

1. The season when leaves start to fall is called \_\_\_\_
2. when the weather gets cold I love a nice cup of hot \_\_\_\_
5. In October it's time to start carving \_\_\_\_
7. This year's school musical is \_\_\_\_
8. during fall it's fun to go pick \_\_\_\_
11. In November we have our \_\_\_\_ dance

