

LEXINGTON CONCORD

THANKSGIVING ISSUE

Friendsgiving Senior Style

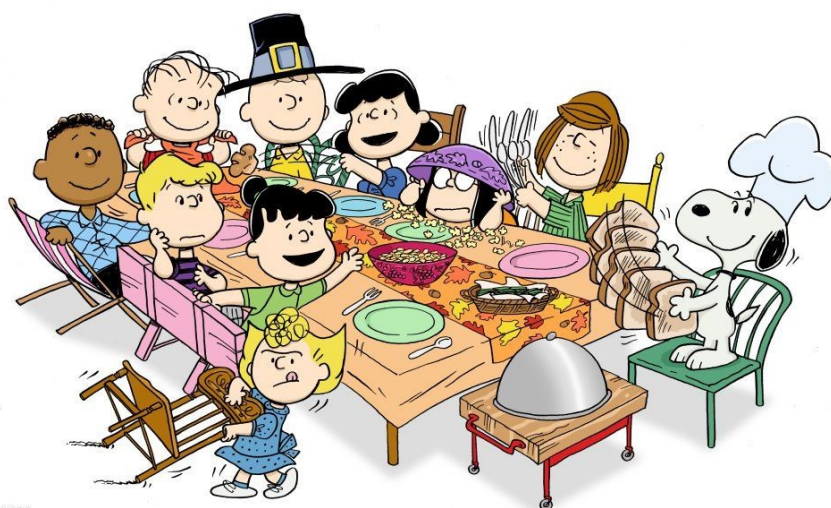
Thanksgiving is a great time to celebrate with the friends near and dear to the heart?! If you haven't heard of Friendsgiving it is a blend of friend and Thanksgiving which includes a large meal eaten with friends near, or on Thanksgiving.

Abbie shared a few of her insights on Friendsgiving traditions. "The past two years we have come together and celebrated Thanksgiving together, us girls have really had a great time. Everyone brings a dish whether that's green bean casserole, sweet potatoes, pumpkin pie, etc. and it's been absolutely delicious. Just sitting around the table, sharing what we're thankful for, and enjoying my friends company is a nice time. It really has brought us together for the holiday seasons. Besides family, what better way to spend it than with your close friends?" Abbie tells Lexington Concord.

"I have yet to attend a Friendsgiving, but this holiday season it's definitely a plan of mine!" Wilson says. "I am so thankful for all of my friends and I want them to realize that. Whenever we get together I always have a blast and I love thanksgiving and all of the food... so a Friendsgiving sounds like a perfect idea!"

"Friendsgiving is a way for all of my friends to get together, eat, and enjoy break! We're all so busy with sports and other extra curricular, so it's nice to find time for all of us. It's really rare when we get to see each other and all at once and it's even better we get to eat food! I personally always bring mashed potatoes because it's my favorite to eat on Thanksgiving! I also love when we go around the table and say what we are thankful for!" Macys shares.

All of our seniors have told us how it is bittersweet because there are only a few more times everyone has the opportunity to get together



Why Do We Eat Turkey?

As Thanksgiving approached the thoughts of heavenly mashed potatoes, cranberry relish, and pumpkin pie are in almost every American's head. It's a time to come together and celebrate the bond of family, and of course to shovel as many rolls as possible in your mouth at once. Every family has their own traditional meal, but most of the time the center focus is a giant bird. So, that brings the question: why do we eat turkey on Thanksgiving?

The first known Thanksgiving happened hundreds of years ago in November of 1621 between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians in Plymouth. At this time it was only viewed as an autumn harvest celebration, but is regarded now as the "First Thanksgiving".

The menu almost 400 years ago wasn't quite the same as it is now. It still included a similar main course. However, before the region was industrialized and turned into modern day civilization, turkeys were highly plentiful and also a main source of protein for the settlers.

It wasn't directly documented that a turkey was present in the feast, but the colony's governor, William Bradford, recorded in his journal that four men were sent out on a "fouling mission" in preparation for the harvest. Along with the wild turkey, there could have been ducks, geese, or swans which were also a staple food in their diets.

Fast forward two hundred years and Americans are still stuck on birds for Thanksgiving. Turkey began to be commercialized in the late 1800s, after it was deemed as a national holiday in 1863. Other foods we see now begin to become more popular, such as the popular pumpkin pie and cranberry sauce.

The 1950s are where the most traditional foods come into play. Casseroles begin to shine and Jell-O based products fill the table, but the turkey is still the center focus. No matter how many decades pass, the turkey still flies high.

Today, there are more options for families to make: tofurkeys, chickens, duck, etc. But, even without the exact same preparation or type of bird, the ongoing celebration of the original turkey's flavor and character resides.

Festive November Holidays

Thanksgiving isn't the only holiday celebrated this month. The rest of the world is up to its own holidays this month. Here are four holidays that are also celebrated in November.

El Día de la Tradición (Day of Tradition) is the last day of an entire week of celebrations filled with parades, parties, and concerts in Argentina. This celebration showcases different aspects of the country's vast culture. It's held on November 10th in honor of the celebrated Argentinian writer and 19th century gaucho, Jose Hernandez, birthday. The term "gaucho" refers to a person in Argentina and or Uruguay that herds cattle. Hernandez was a self-taught poet, and is the author of "El Gaucho Martin Fierro". "El Gaucho Martin Fierro" is one of the most important pieces of Argentinian literature.



Shichi-go-san is a celebration in Japan which celebrates the rite of passage of young children for their continued growth and being. The celebrations are centered on boys between ages of three and five and girls between the ages of three and seven. Children dress in traditional clothing and visit shrines with their parents. One thing that the children look for the most is the gifts of "Chitose Ame" or "Thousand Year Candy". These candies are typically red, white, and long to symbolize health and longevity.



They are gift wrapped along with a turtle and crane to also symbolize long life.

Bon Om Touk is celebrated during the rainy season Cambodia. During the rainy season the Tonle Sap River overfills and redirects its flow. The festival of Bon Om Touk or the Khmer water festival celebrates the return of the river to its normal direction. This takes place on the full moon of the Buddhist month, Kadeuk, which is usually in November and lasts for about three days. The main festivities revolve around boat races, traditional moon salutations, fireworks, and spending time with friends and family at the festival grounds near the Tonle Sap River.



Narrentag in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria, is the beginning of the fifth season which lasts through the period of Lent. A time for fasching or fasting, most celebrations take place in January or February of the following year, with a vast variety of regional differences. To this day, every child knows exactly when the carnival season begins because it is not just on November 11. It is always on the 11th day of the 11th month at precisely 11:11 am and 11 seconds!!



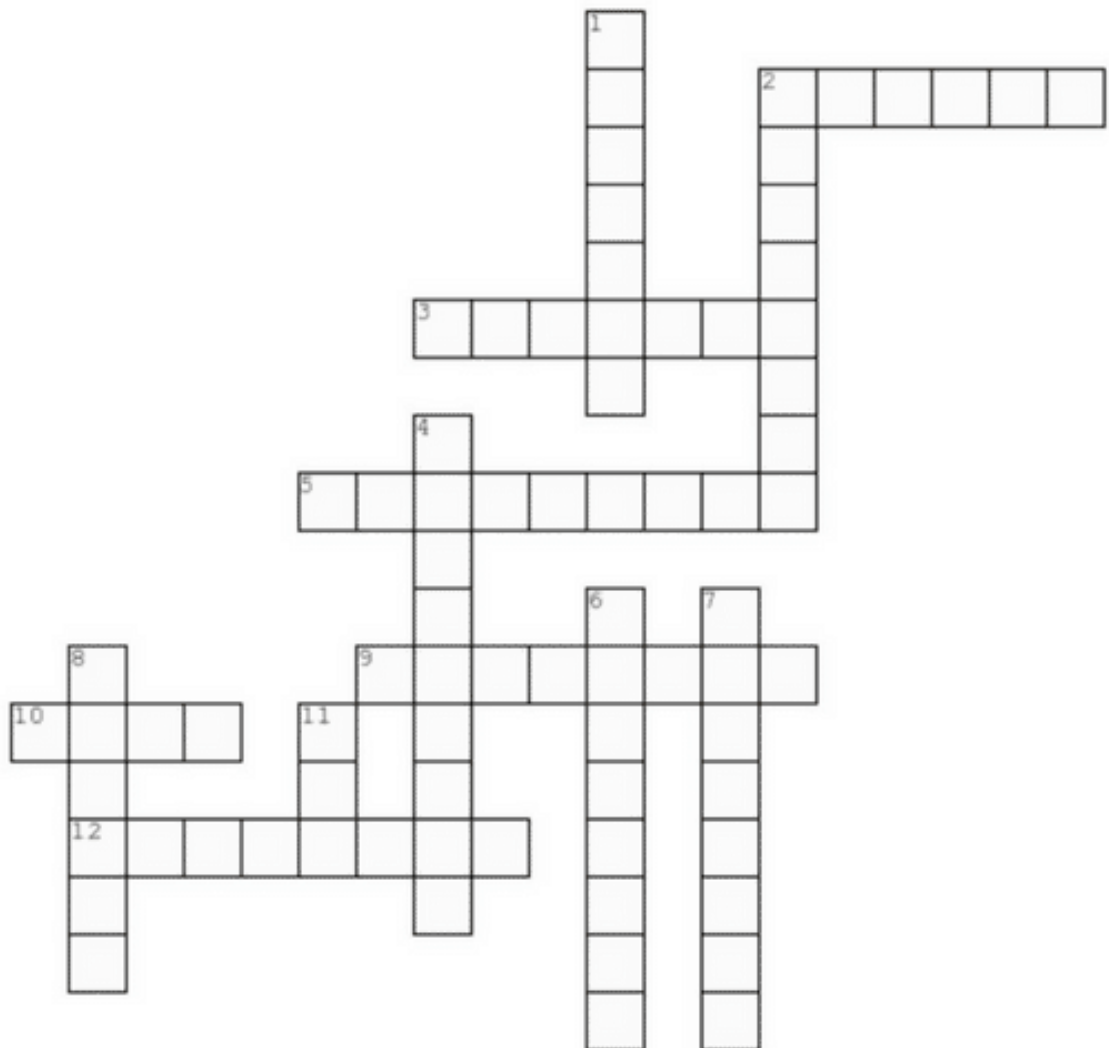
Interlocal Starts off the Year

Interlocal, a nonprofit citizenship organization has started its second year. Founded by Allison Bates, who hopes to bring aspects of the global culture to Richland county. Participants visit a verity of local businesses and organizations with the goal of understanding Richland's place in the global community, from Gorman Rupp to Ashland University and everywhere in between. Members hope to use this experience to learn about traveling abroad, and to hopefully gather funding through a great number of scholarship opportunities. After a first successful year, the group has seen a significant increase in popularity and is only going to keep growing. Keep your eye out and ears open as you will only be hearing more about this organization.



FREE PRINTABLE

* Thanksgiving Crossword *



Across

- 2. Thanksgiving bird
- 3. Shared feast with the Pilgrims
- 5. Red Berry
- 9. Pilgrim landing rock
- 10. Maze
- 12. Month

Down

- 1. Orange vegetable used in pie
- 2. Day of the week
- 4. Pilgrims sailed on this
- 6. Sport commonly watched
- 7. Filling
- 8. Plenty
- 11. Turkey alternative



Language in the Classroom

Why We Cannot Eradicate Words

Since the very first days of our young lives, we have been learning how to read. It started with our ABC's. We have pieced together words that we then have associated with objects or ideas. First understanding words, then to understanding morals, every book we read comes with an agenda. Every sentence inside the book is unique to the message the author is trying to convey. So where do we define what we should and more so shouldn't be reading?

How to Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee, is a classic novel for a reason. It teaches ideas like racial and social inequality and coming-of-age. However, it is frequently criticized for its use of the "N-word". The setting of the novel is in Alabama in the 1960's where racism was heavily present. At the time, the n-word was directed towards black people and often with a negative connotation attached. But this is realistic. Unfortunately, the book accurately depicted the period where such language was used frequently. We cannot just ignore or avoid the language because of the offensive ties the word often has on its own. We need to understand the purpose the word serves in the book.

Another controversial books include *The Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger. The main character, Holden Caulfield, is a teenager in the 1950's who uses quite a variety of profane language. The novel characterizes his journey of self-discovery in Caulfield's existential crisis after being kicked out of his school once again. The novel is a classic because this character shows growth and it's a true example of coming-of-age. At the end of the day, we as readers do not remember his exact expressions, but we remember his journey and the experience as Caulfield finds himself.

The morale of the story: we cannot shutter away from language because we are afraid of words. By sheltering people from language, we teach them certain words and phrases should make us fearful and are wrong. School should expose us to these words so we can understand them in an educational environment. What would happen if we never encounter these words prior to adulthood and then we first experience them in a social situation?

Encounter language. Understand purpose. Appreciate the meaning.

The Midterm Election

On the sixth, Americans from all over gathered at their local polling locations to change history. However, both parties would become disappointed, as congress would become divided, with Republican control of the senate and Democratic control in the house.

Democrats looked at the sixth as a referendum on the Trump presidency.

However, despite their success in the House, many found themselves disappointed; as the Senate would remain in Republican hands. Specifically, the Democrats would become disheartened in the Texan Senate race; where Democrats saw their chance to overthrow the Cruz dynasty with their candidate Beto O'Rourke, a Texan progressive. The optimist branch of the Democratic Party points out the shockingly close race, with Beto losing only by three percent, remarkably close for the Republican stronghold. Despite their victory in the senate, Republicans would grow sorrowful, as hopes to hang on to the house was quickly destroyed. Early into the night, Republicans grew hopeful with a victory in Kentucky's sixth district, but would face setbacks in Virginia, specifically in district 2 and district 7. After the night was over, Democrats would control 228 seats to the Republicans 199 with (as of November 13th) 8 seats yet to be called.

After the dust has settled, several recounts and calls for recounts began. In Florida, a state-wide recount is currently occurring where Democrat Bill Nelson hopes to gain a victory over Rick Scott. This has also extended to the governorship, where another Democrat, Andrew Gillum, hopes to claim victory over Republican Ron DeSantis. These recounts, after a remarkably close race, are a result of Florida's state constitution, which declares an election within half a percentage warrants a recount. Republicans are the assumed winners after election night; however, with Rick Scott's victory leading only by 12,000 votes, it is possible that Democrats may yet be able to pull a victory from the clutches of defeat. Furthermore, a recount has been suggested in the Georgia's governor race after reports of voter suppression in historically African American communities. However, this, alongside the suggestion of an Arizonan senate recount, has yet to gain traction but still may occur.

Here in Ohio, Republicans would have a huge victory. Specifically, Troy Balderston would take victory in district 12 over Democratic nominee Danny O'Connor. Furthermore, Republicans would easily carry the state government and would comfortably win the governorship with a lead of over 180,000 votes. However, Democrats are hopeful for a 2020 electoral swing in Ohio; pointing at Sherrod Brown's huge lead as evidence. Winning with close to a 280,000-vote lead, some even speculate that this will give Senator Brown the confidence to run in the 2020 presidential election.

While both parties sleep on edge, not receiving the electoral landslides expected. Breakthroughs in American society occurred on the 6th of November. Jared Polis would become the nation's first openly LGBT+ governor in Colorado and would mark the 2018 midterm as one for the history books. Aiding in the societal breakthrough, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib of California would be tied as the first Muslim women representatives to be elected to congress. Joining their victory would be Debra Haaland of New Mexico, who would be the first Native American women to be elected to the house. So perhaps while the parties wail, the nation can prosper, and celebrate.

