

**BIGGEST  
PUMPKIN  
OF 2014:**

**2058  
POUNDS!**

- Grown in California's Napa Valley
- Won a \$13,000 prize



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**Breaking News!!!**

Rivercrest will have a yearbook this year!

More info next week in your classes.

# The River Current

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 30, 2014

## Do you know why we celebrate Halloween?

Halloween is one of the oldest of all American holidays and is even more popular now than ever! Adults and kids both love to get dressed up. Some people decorate their houses for the whole month of October just to get into the spooky spirit of things. But what you may not know is that Halloween actually comes from an even older tradition: the Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced Sa-whin).

The Celts were an ancient pagan people. They mainly lived in what we now know as Ireland and the United Kingdom.

On the Celtic calendar, November 1st marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of a new year. But it also marked something darker. The Celts believed that Samhain, the god of the dead, released the spirits of

the dead into the world of the living on October 31st because that was the night when the walls between the two worlds were the thinnest. To honor Samhain, as well as the end of the harvest,



the Celts held enormous celebrations. They built large bonfires and dressed up in costumes during these celebrations, which they believed protected them from the roaming spirits of the dead because they couldn't be recognized!

And how about that favorite of

our customs—the Jack-O-Lantern? Did you know that originally a turnip was used? A pumpkin wasn't used until the Irish came to America. Here's the story:

The folktale, known as "Stingy Jack," tells the story of an Irish villager named Jack who was known not just for his stinginess but for his overall bad behavior. Twice the Devil came to take Jack's soul in punishment for his earthly behavior, and twice Jack tricked the Devil into promising he would not return for his soul ever again. When Jack died, he was refused entrance into heaven. But when Jack reached the gates of hell, the Devil reminded Jack of his promise and sent him away with a single piece of burning coal as a lamp. (cont. on p. 7)

## Halloween Costume Contest!

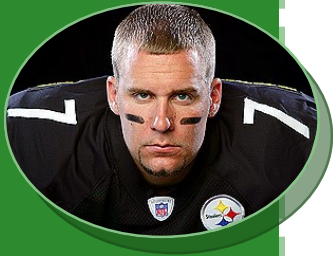
This Friday is Halloween and to celebrate here at Rivercrest we are having a **costume contest**.

There will be a prize for the **best Anime character** costume and a prize for the **best overall costume**.

**Remember:**

All costumes must conform to the **JUSD dress code**. No full face masks or "revealing" costumes.





**Ben Roethlisberger**  
Steelers

## NFL Player of the Week

*Ben Roethlisberger became the first player in NFL history to throw for at least 500 yards in multiple games, leading the Pittsburgh Steelers to a 51-34 victory over the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday, Oct. 26th.*

Roethlisberger's 522 yards are tied with Boomer Esiason for the fourth-most in NFL history. His six touchdown passes and 40 completions are the most

by any quarterback in franchise history. His 81.6 completion percentage is the second-highest ever on more than 45 attempts.

His yardage total that ignited Sunday's 51-34 victory against the Indianapolis Colts was tied for the fourth-highest in league history. It was the second time Roethlisberger eclipsed 500 passing yards for the 5-3 Steelers — the first player in NFL history

with two such games — who have won two straight games for the first time.

The Steelers are now tied with the Ravens for second place in the AFC North, just a half-game behind the Bengals. With talented rookie linebacker Ryan Shazier back in the lineup and Bryant lending the offense an added dimension, Pittsburgh has the talent to make a playoff run.



**Baltimore Ravens**

**5-3**

2nd in AFC North

## NFL Spotlight—Baltimore Ravens

The Ravens meet the Steelers this coming Sunday, November 2nd, at Heinz Field. How will they do against Big Ben and the revitalized Steelers?

The Ravens lost 27-24 against the Bengals in Week 8. Quarterback Joe Flacco took the blame saying, "I think our defense stood

strong and did their job. I put them in some bad positions." Flacco threw two interceptions which led to 10 points for the Bengals. Both of the interceptions happened on throws meant for wide receiver Torrey Smith. Flacco thought he had a hole, even though Smith was surrounded by

four defenders, "but it probably wasn't as much as I thought," Flacco said.

The good news for Ravens fans is that Flacco has a track record of bouncing back the next week after a loss. About the upcoming game against the Steelers, Flacco said, "If we don't turn the ball over, then we're going to be a tough team to beat."

Student Art



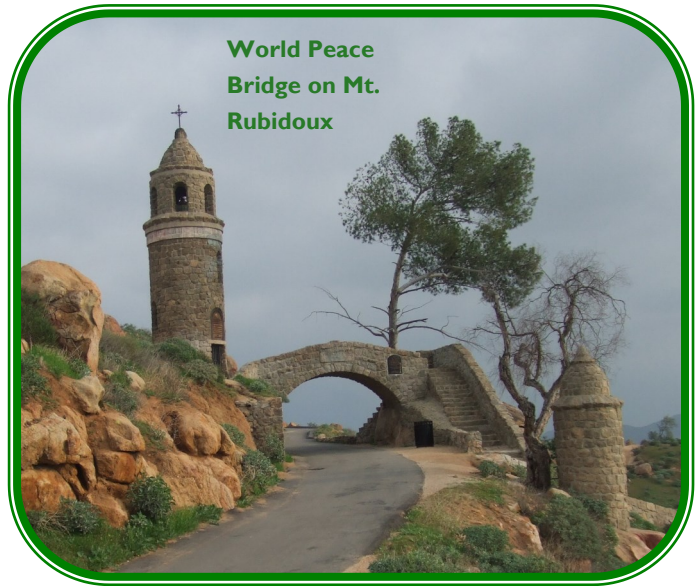
Portrait of Mr. Diaz

By Nick Espinoza

# Health and Fitness

Who needs to spend money on a gym membership when you can go hiking in the great outdoors for free! You, and your dog, can enjoy a leisurely 3 mile hike up and down Mt. Rubidoux. It's a 500' elevation gain so you get a workout but it's easily doable even if you haven't gotten away from the computer lately.

The trails are open from dawn to dusk every day of the year.



World Peace Bridge on Mt. Rubidoux

# Pecan Festival

The Pecan Festival at the Louis Rubidoux Nature Center is a fun annual event for families. For the price of \$3.00 admission (cash only) you get a bag to fill with all the pecans you can find. Whatever nuts are left on the ground after the festival will be eaten by squirrels, coyotes, bobcats, and raccoons.

The pecan groves at the Center have been there for decades and many are over 100 feet high. The Santa Ana winds blow the ripe nuts off the trees so that humans and animals can enjoy their tasty goodness!

After you have gathered your pecans, you can enjoy a nature walk in the riparian forest of the Sunny Slope area. Or listen to music. Or get your face painted. Food will also be available for purchase.

For more information:  
(951) 683-4880



ADMISSION:  
\$3 PER PERSON  
(CASH ONLY)

## LOUIS RUBIDOUX NATURE CENTER'S PECAN Festival

10AM-4PM  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, 2014

FOLKLORIC DANCERS • LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC • LINE DANCING • EXHIBITS  
HAY RIDES GAMES • KID CRAFTS • FACE PAINTING • ANIMALS  
HOT FOOD VENDORS • WALKS THROUGH THE PECAN GROVE • AND MORE

*We will supply a bag to gather pecans!*

LOUIS RUBIDOUX NATURE CENTER  
5370 Riverview Drive, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509 - (951) 683-4880

Bring your lawn chair or blanket, visit with us for the afternoon!  
Visit us online at [www.RivCoParks.org](http://www.RivCoParks.org)

\*We cannot guarantee the quality of the nuts & quality

This month's focus:  
**SHOES!!!**

One thing we can all agree on, what could even be considered the key to every outfit, is not accessories, but shoes! Whether your knowledge about shoes and their ranges from material to pattern to sole type is extensive or not, the reason why you pick a specific shoe is because you consider those factors.

## High School Fashion

By Kaitlynn Chavez



You might not be aware of that though, you might say, "I don't care about shoes, I bought that red sneaker because I like red." Well you're not wrong. Yeah the shoe is red, but you also bought that specific shoe though because it came in canvas and not suede or with studs and not sequins. A shoe can represent you, your style, and pull together your look.

Sneaker, flat, or boot: Here are some of the styles seen around Rivercrest this month.



## Nikky's Corner: The World According to Nikky Espinoza

### Facing the Consequences of Your Actions

When you do something there is always a reaction, either good or bad. If you do your chores around your house, then your parents will give you money. If you have unprotected sex, you might get an STD, get pregnant, or both. If you do something wrong, it's better to face the consequences than to hide.

Remember, for every action there is a reaction.

**Let me tell you a story:** I had a friend who liked the same girl as I did. He gave me a CD and a note to give her but I hid them instead of giving them to her. That same day he died in an accident. Ever since then I have felt so guilty, but I still like this girl. I am in pain every time I see her because I feel so lovesick over her and guilty at the same time for not giving her the note and CD. Finally, I

tried to face the consequences by talking to her and telling her the truth, but she reacted angrily and doesn't ever want to talk to me.

The consequences of my actions are hurtful because I can't shake the disease of lovesickness.





## Should Students be Allowed to Celebrate Halloween at School?

Halloween has become a religious liberty issue in public schools. Many see the costumes and spooky pranks as harmless fun, while others believe that the holiday derives from and celebrates pagan superstition while glorifying occult and satanic forces. Because Halloween is such a popular holiday with children, schools are caught in the middle.

### What do you think?

The whole controversy over Halloween stems from the 1st Amendment. Most people do not consider Halloween a religious holiday even though it comes originally from the Pagan celebration of Samhain (see story p.1).

### What do you think?

Is separation of church and state a valid argument for public schools to avoid Halloween decorations and activities?

**Is Halloween a secular holiday? Or should it be banned in public schools? What about Christmas decorations?**

*Discuss these questions with your friends, family, and teachers.*

Write a paragraph to possibly be included in next month's issue of *The River Current*.

## The Ironic Comic by Josh Niño



## Mystery Student of the Month

### Who is this Rivercrest student?

The first person to correctly identify the student in the photo wins a prize! Go to E2 with your guess.



Canned Food Drive  
next month



Last month's Mystery Student was  
**Alanna Murdock.**

**Adam Magaña** guessed and won a  
bow tie from the prize bag!

### Why We Celebrate Halloween (cont. from P. 1)

Jack made a makeshift lantern out of the coal by putting it into a hollowed-out **turnip**, and was doomed to eternity wandering the Earth with this dismal light, earning the nickname “Jack of the Lantern.”

You may be wondering how the tradition of Trick or Treating got started. There are many theories, but probably this tradition also comes from the ancient Celts who left food and wine outside their doors on this mystical night so the wandering spirits would not invade their homes.



Jack O' the Lantern

How ever Trick or Treating got started, I'm sure most of us are just glad it did. We get FREE CANDY! How great is that!

So as you go wandering the neighborhood yourself this All Hallow's evening, look over your shoulder every once in a while. There may be a spirit or two sneaking up behind you...

## From the Principal



### Prepare Yourself for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century World

**Ok**, so all of you reading this have anywhere from 1-4 years longer to be a “kid”. Within these few short years, you will be asked to learn a lot about yourself and to prepare yourself for work in the “real world.” Throughout your previous learning experiences, often times you have been asked to deal with simple problems or minimal tasks, never digging deeper than the surface to explore a problem. However, at Rivercrest we understand that we must do more to prepare you with the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills that will help you to be successful when you graduate. **Experts have identified 4 skills as necessary for students to learn in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They are:**

#### **Problem-solving, working collaboratively, communicating clearly, and creativity.**

All of the academic content that you are learning, as well as the skills that you are practicing, will truly give you the well-rounded education that you will need in the future. With every class you take, you are working on these skills and practicing them, even when you don't know it. Experts all agree that this collection of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills is used in every subject and in every occupation. If you can master these skills, no matter the field of study or work that you enter, you will be a success. “Almost every employer, in every occupation, prefers workers who know how to problem-solve, be creative, work collaboratively, and communicate well,” says Steven Paine, Ed.D., president of the educational advocacy group Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. With every class you take, with every time you feel challenged with a problem that you think you can't solve, with every time you have to make a choice about your work, you are training yourself and working toward becoming proficient in these four skills. As you become proficient, you will find these skills will help in your classes now as well as prepare you to move FORWARD for tomorrow.

## Moving FORWARD to Learn and Lead in the 21st Century