

ARTÍCULO REVISTA OLA18. CONCURSO DE CALABAZAS

JACK-O'-LANTERN VISITS OUR SCHOOL

This year on Halloween we had our first pumpkin contest at school, and it was so spooktacular! In the contest we had to make a Halloween pumpkin, commonly known as jack-o'-lantern.

Jack-o'-lanterns are pumpkins with ghoulish faces illuminated with a candle inside. According to legend, this name comes from an Irish folktale about a man named Stingy Jack. In this legend, he invited the Devil to have a drink with him, but Jack didn't want to pay for his drink, so he convinced the Devil to turn into a coin to pay for their drinks. Then Jack kept the money and put it into his pocket next to a silver cross, which prevented the Devil from changing into his original form. Jack finally freed the Devil but under two conditions: first, he couldn't bother Jack for one year; and second, if Jack died, he wouldn't claim his soul.

When Jack passed away, God didn't allow him to go to heaven, and as the Devil couldn't claim his soul, he didn't allow Jack to enter hell either. So he was left alone in the dark night with only a burning coal to light his way.

The Irish began to refer to this ghostly figure as "Jack of the Lantern", and then, simply, Jack-o'-lantern. Anyway, the jack-o'-lanterns that participated in the contest were not as scary as this story.

To take part, we had to carve a pumpkin and bring it to school by 31st October. There were a total of 27 pumpkins participating and all the pumpkins were very creative: some had horns, others had spiders coming out of the mouth... Some of them were really frightening; others were so funny. They were all displayed for one week at the school hall, and everybody could vote for their favourite one by using a QR code. The voting was closed on 2nd November.

On Monday 7th November the awards ceremony took place at 10.45am, and our English teacher, Fran Flores, announced the winner: pumpkin 24!!! This jack-o'-lantern was made by Valeria Araujo (2ºESO-E). The prize was a 25€ gift card to spend in the Corte Inglés. He also gave the rest of the students a bag of candies!

The contest was so exciting and it was a great idea so that all our schoolmates and teachers could see the work of the participants.



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