

## 'Day of the Dead' celebrated at LBMS by seventh-graders in cultural studies

By MERCEDEZ COTTON  
(Editor's Note: The writer is a seventh-grade student at Lorna Byrne Middle School.)

By parading through the school with colorful rattles, masks and paper birds, Lorna Byrne Middle School seventh-graders helped the rest of the student body celebrate the Days of the Dead (Los Dias de los Muertos) on Monday, Nov. 1.

The seventh-graders prepared for the celebration by learning how many Mexicans celebrate their festival. Then they made the masks, noise makers, skeletons, flowers, sugar skulls, altars and candelabra that many Mexicans use to honor their dead. They also invite them home.

Many Mexicans believe that their ancestors come home for 24 hours each Nov. 2, and they create a party to honor them.

This period is called the Days of the Dead. It is believed that our final death is when there is no one left alive to remember us.

Many students made masks to remember their loved ones. I made a mask symbolizing my grandma doing the fun things I always wanted her to be able to do.

Another artifact student made a paper bird; Selena Summer's bird was a cheerleader, complete with pom-poms. Amy Hart's bird was decorated with lots of colors. Chiara Usher's was a cool hippie with dreadlocks.

Others made rattles. Callie Harland and Brianna Andrews made colorful hand-held rattles from gourds. Others made rattle necklaces decorated with skeletons.

For the Day of the Dead, the Mexicans make altars to place in their homes or on gravesites.

They fill them with photographs, flowers, and favorite foods and drinks of their loved ones.

For our celebration at LBMS, Jody Huntamer and other students made an altar to remember Ty-grachet Lorentz, an LBMS student who died in a car accident.

The weeklong study and preparation culminated in a festive parade through the school, which ended in the cafeteria for treats -- cookies, bread and hot Mexican cocoa -- all made by LBMS seventh-graders.

For those who would like to see the wonderful art work, it's displayed throughout our school.

We are grateful to Kathy Kelley, Penny Niemi, Cate Bendock, and Joyce Abrams of the Learning Through Arts Committee and the many other Arts Council folks and volunteers who helped us with this great project.



Learning Through Arts Committee members worked with Lorna Byrne Middle School seventh-graders to make Day of the Dead masks and other items for their studies and observance. (Photo provided)

## Burning plan told by BLM

An aggressive fuels reduction program to reduce potential for large, catastrophic wildfires is planned by the Bureau of Land Management's Medford District.

Nearly 8,000 acres of vegetation will be burned during the coming fall, winter and spring, including 500 acres of underburning, said BLM.

Last year, some 23,000 acres of vegetation were burned, the agency said.

During the burning season, smoke might be visible from areas of Illinois Valley.

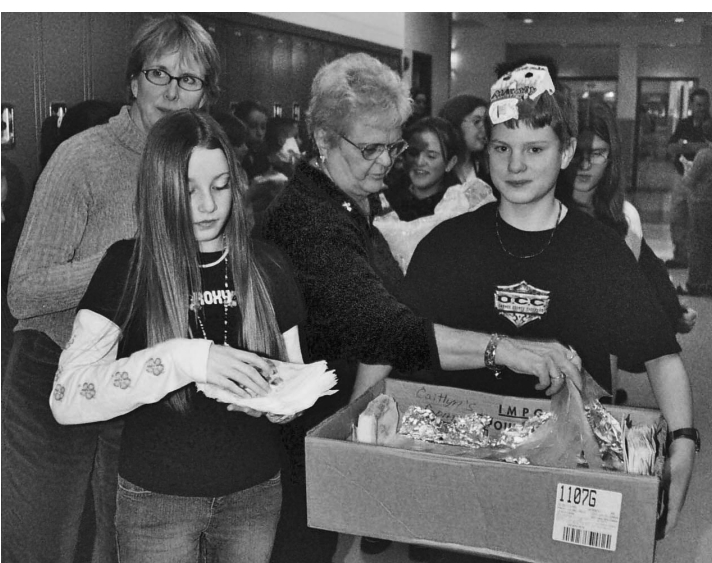
The burning "is a high priority, as we are actively committed to reducing fuels to protect lives, property and resources," said BLM. "It is absolutely essential that we proactively manage our forests now to reduce the potential for a large, uncontrolled wildfire," said BLM.

Daily updated fire information about BLM burns can be obtained by phoning 618-2354 or (800) 267-3126. Updates are made by 9 a.m. daily when burning is occurring.

BLM issued a reminder that 911 is to be used only to report emergencies; not to seek information.



Students at Lorna Byrne Middle School studied the Mexican celebration of Day of the Dead; culminating with a procession (top and bottom photos) through the main downstairs hallway. Seventh-grade students made numerous masks (center photo) and other items for the observance, which they shared with their fellow students.



## Chamber plans greeting crew

A Greeters Committee is being established by Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The board agreed on the plan, presented by Director Jim Frick, of Century 21 Harris & Taylor, to further the organization's outreach.

The intent is to not only welcome new businesses and encourage chamber membership, but to extend friendly greetings and appreciation to existing members.

Also, committee members will be able to answer questions about chamber events, and highlight its activities.

Committee members are Frick; Terri Smith, of Northwest Hairlines; Vicki Gill, of SOFCU; Ted Crocker, of Ted Crocker LTC; Bob Schumacher, of I.V. Community Response Team; Dennis Strayer, of I.V. Visitor Center; and Bob Rodriguez, of "Illinois Valley News."

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**THURSDAY, NOV. 11**  
\*Chicken sandwich, cheeseburger, hamburger, turkey & cheese or ham & cheese sandwich, chef, Mandarin chicken or garden salad, Hawaiian, cheese or pepperoni pizza  
**FRIDAY, NOV. 12**  
\*Chicken sandwich, cheeseburger, hamburger, turkey and cheese or Italian sandwich or chef, Mandarin chicken or chicken Caesar salad, vegetarian, supreme or sausage or pepperoni pizza  
**MONDAY, NOV. 15**  
\*Chicken sandwich, cheeseburger, hamburger, turkey & cheese or ham & cheese sandwich, chef, Mandarin chicken or fiesta salad, vegetarian, sausage or pepperoni pizza  
**TUESDAY, NOV. 16**  
\*Chicken sandwich, cheeseburger, hamburger, turkey & cheese or roast beef sandwich, chef, Mandarin chicken or garden salad, cheese supreme or pepperoni pizza  
**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 17**  
\*Chicken, cheeseburger, hamburger, turkey & cheese or veggie sandwich, chef, Mandarin or antipasto salad, sausage, supreme or pepperoni pizza

## Thursday is ITALIAN NIGHT at The Strip

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**WILD RIVER BREWING & PIZZA CO.**  
592-3556 Cave Jct.  
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**THURSDAY, NOV. 11**  
\*Veterans Day, no classes  
**FRIDAY, NOV. 12**  
\*ASPIRE/College Dreams gear up field trip at SOU all day.  
**MONDAY, NOV. 15**  
\*District board meeting at IVHS - 7 p.m.  
**TUESDAY, NOV. 16**  
\*Balfour, graduation material - Here  
\*Mathletes at North Medford - all day.  
**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 17**  
\*Air Force visit - lunch  
\*Balfour - Here  
\*Fall sports awards night 6:30 p.m.

**Pottery Classes**

Begin Nov. 17 & 18

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**Come Join us for Dinner 4 to 8 p.m.**

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**2004 Fall Conferences**

Thursday & Friday, Nov. 18 & 19

Thursday:  
★ 8 - Noon  
★ 1 - 5 p.m.  
★ 6 - 8 p.m.

Friday:  
★ 8 - Noon

Please contact our office to schedule an appointment with your student's teachers. Report cards will be available at that time.

Office Hours:  
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
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592-2541

**THURSDAY, NOV. 11**  
\*Veteran's Day, no school  
**FRIDAY, NOV. 12**  
\*Cheesy pretzel, hamburger, sausage pizza, turkey and cheese sandwich w/chips  
**MONDAY, NOV. 15**  
\*Chicken nuggets, hamburger, cheese pizza, PB&J sandwich w/chips, chef salad  
**TUESDAY, NOV. 16**  
\*Macaroni and cheese, cheeseburger, pepperoni pizza, ham and cheese sandwich w/chips, garden salad  
**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 17**  
\*Corn dog, hamburger, cheese pizza, tuna torpedo w/chips, Cobb salad

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