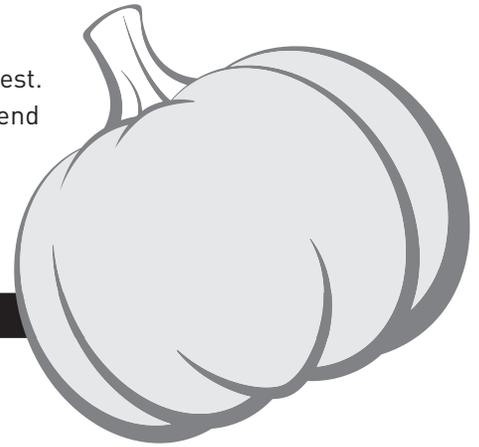


# FALL CELEBRATION IDEAS

Some schools celebrate Halloween while others focus on the fall and the harvest. It is no surprise that Halloween is the top candy selling holiday. Americans spend \$1.5 billion dollars a year on Halloween candy. Children are not at a loss for finding candy treats at this time of year. School parties can put the focus on the fun games and activities of the fall as well as teaching a healthy balance.



## FALL PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

### TRICK-OR-TREAT

Different stations around the gym represent houses for trick-or-treating. Each station has a bucket of “candy” represented by plastic chips, plastic beads or other small items. Stations each have a physical activity that is required to earn the treat. You might have the kids jump on one foot 20 times, hula hoop for 30 seconds or do 15 jumping jacks. Once the students perform the task, they collect the assigned amount of tokens for that station. Players work to complete all of the stations in a given amount of time. At the end, the kids count their Halloween loot to determine how much physical activity they completed.

### PUMPKIN PATCH FITNESS

This game uses construction paper pumpkin cutouts (a classroom craft idea). You’ll need at least twice as many pumpkins as students in the class. Write a different physical activity or fitness skill on each pumpkin as well as the number of times the child needs to perform the skill. Ideas include jump roping, skipping around the gym, doing the crab walk, jumping jacks, sit-ups or push-ups. All of the pumpkins are placed in the middle of the gym in the pumpkin patch. Students all run to the pumpkin patch, pick a pumpkin and perform the task. Once they complete it, they return the pumpkin and pick a new one.

### WITCH TAG

The tagger for this game is the witch. The witch pretends to ride a broomstick around the room. Two people are pumpkins and each hold an orange ball to identify themselves. The remaining students are trick-or-treaters. The witch tries to tag the trick-or-treaters to turn them into ghosts. The ghosts can’t move and must sway back and forth. The pumpkins can turn them back into trick-or-treaters by tagging them gently with the ball. Assign a new witch and pumpkins every few minutes.

### PUMPKIN RELAY RACE

You’ll need a pumpkin for each team to do this Halloween relay. The number of teams depends on the size of the class. Between two and four teams usually work well. One player from each team rolls a pumpkin down the length of the gym, around a cone and back to the starting point where the next person takes a turn. Because pumpkins aren’t perfectly round, students will find it challenging to get them to roll in a straight line.

### MONSTER MASH FREEZE

Put on Monster Mash or other music and have students show off their silliest dance moves. Have them freeze when the music is paused.

### PUMPKIN BOWLING

Find two small pumpkins without stems to be the “bowling balls”. Make “bowling pins” out of empty plastic bottles with some dry rice in the bottom to keep them from falling over easily. Let the students decorate the bottles if you wish. Now it is time to bowl.

### SPIDER WEB MAZE

Find (or create) an open space and put chairs around the edges of that space. Get a spool of yarn and tie a knot around the leg of one chair. Now unravel the yarn across to the next chair, and so on, until the web is wrapped at least 3-4 times around each chair. Once you have made the web have children crawl through the web and not get stuck. (This activity is best to be done in small groups).



## FALL CRAFTS

### WITCH BROOM

These Mini Witch Brooms, are the perfect size for Barbie or Spiderman. Whether students use them for their toys to take flight or you add them as a decoration to your own little witch, they're easy and fun to make.

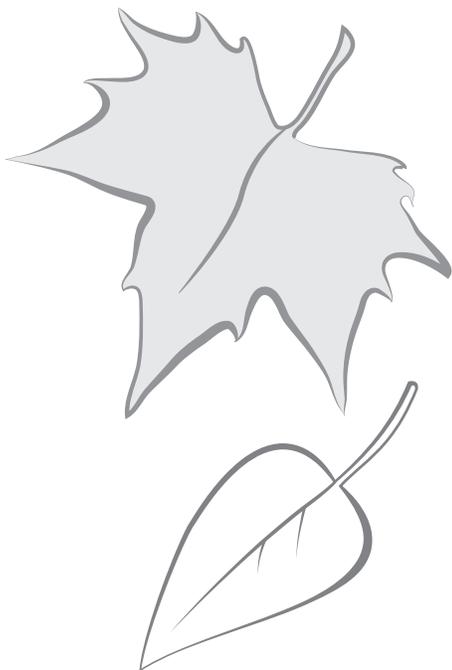
#### MATERIALS:

- Yarn—brown or yellow
- Pipe Wire- 3 brown or black pieces
- Scissors

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Measure out 20-30 pieces of yarn, 7 inches in length. These measurements are for the broom pictured. Feel free to change it up for how big and thick you want yours to be. Fold the yarn in half and loop a pipe wire around the center, and then twist it up together. Then split your yarn another way and loop another pipe wire through and twist it up together again.

About a 1/2 inch down from the top of the folded yarn, wrap and fold a 2-3 inch piece of pipe wire around, to make it look like a real straw broom. Now trim the yarn if you need to, to give it that straight edge look.



### GHOST WRITER

We'll get right to the point: these spooky finger-shaped pens make cool Halloween party favors and are a cinch to make—even if you're all thumbs.

#### MATERIALS:

- Disposable ballpoint pen
- White Crayola Model Magic modeling material
- Toothpick
- Craft glue
- Plastic fingernail
- Nail polish

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. For each one, cover a disposable ballpoint pen (cap removed) with a 1/4-inch layer of white Crayola Model Magic modeling material, leaving the tip of the pen exposed.
2. Sculpt the clay into a finger shape, forming thick bumps on one side for knuckles. Mark wrinkles and creases around the knuckles with a toothpick.
3. Next, use craft glue to attach a plastic fingernail near the pen's tip, leaving room enough for the pen to write. (If you like, trim the nail with scissors beforehand for a jagged effect.) Use the toothpick to create lines around the cuticle area and coat the nail with nail polish in a frightful hue.
4. Allow the clay and the polish to dry completely before using the pen.

### GHOST LEAVES

Have the students go outside and collect a beautiful leaf for each person in their family. Then using a three hole punch, punch two holes for eyes and one hole for a mouth to turn the leaf into a ghost. These make great decorations to add to dinner plate settings or napkin rings and their families will love them.

### HAPPY JACK

Have the students make a magnetic pumpkin, who happily haunts their fridge.

#### MATERIALS:

- Self-adhesive magnetic sheet
- Orange paper
- Scissors
- Black paper

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Stick a self-adhesive magnetic sheet to a piece of orange paper, then cut out a simple pumpkin shape. Cut a stem and facial features from a magnetic sheet that's been covered with black paper.

### HALLOWEEN PASTA SKELETON

#### MATERIALS:

- Popsicle Sticks
- Glue
- Variety of pasta shapes
- String

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. To make a sturdy pallet, the students arranged 20 popsicle sticks horizontally and secured them with 4 sticks glued vertically to the back.
2. A variety of pasta shapes are needed for the different bones of the body. Use a picture of a skeleton for reference.
3. Using white glue, start by placing the head, spine, ribs and hips. Then add the shoulders, arms, legs, hands and feet and let dry until the glue turned clear.
4. Use some yarn to make a hanger at the top.



## FALL GAMES

### PASS THE GOURDS

Buy some inexpensive gourds from a farm stand or nursery. Give each group of 5 or 6 players one gourd. Each group forms a circle. When the music begins (hopefully holiday music), pass the gourd around the circle in a clockwise or counterclockwise fashion. When the music stops, the player holding the gourd gets one point (points are negative), and moves to a new circle. The idea is to get the least amount of points. To add movement—generally a good idea—instead of forming a circle, have each group form two lines facing each other. The lines should be about 20 feet apart. The person with the gourd is in front of one of the lines. When the music begins, she or he runs to the opposite line, hands the gourd to the first person on line and goes to the end of the line. Continue in this manner. When the music stops, the person with the gourd receives the negative point. Hand the gourd to the next person, go to the end of the line and wait for the music to begin again.

### MIX AND MATCH PUMPKIN GAME

Make various sized pumpkins on orange construction paper and tape them on the wall. Cut out enough colorful jack-o-lantern facial pieces to fill the pumpkin shapes you cut out (check out [familyfun.go.com](http://familyfun.go.com) for a template) and put them in a large container. Have students take a turn picking out a facial piece and gluing it on a pumpkin until all of the pieces are gone. At the end of the game you will have a lot of silly pumpkin faces!!



## SERVICE

### CLASS SERVICE PROJECT

Make Halloween crafts and deliver them to nursing homes or hospitals for the patients to enjoy. Make decorative Halloween cards and send them to troops overseas thanking them for their service.

### DONATE

Have students bring in old Halloween costumes to donate to other children who may not be able to afford a Halloween costume.

### GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY

Organize a “rake and run”. Rake the lawns of several neighboring homes around the school.

### LOCAL EXPERTS

Consider inviting an expert from your community to the classroom, whether it’s a local farmer to talk about harvesting or a poet who teaches the students to write a spooky poem or an artist to teach them to paint Halloween scenes on pumpkins.

### WORD JUMBLE (for older students)

Have students think of as many words they can come up with from scrambling the letters from a holiday saying like “Happy Halloween” or “Skeleton.”

### GUESSING GAME

Get a large pumpkin or other gourd. Have students guess (estimate) how many pounds it weighs.

### GUESS THE HALLOWEEN CHARACTER

Place the names of several Halloween characters on a large oak tag or cardboard. You can also use a chalkboard or smartboard if available. For kindergarten, draw a simple diagram along with the word. The students begin in scatter formation (personal space). Choose one student to come to the front and be the guesser. She or he hides his or her eyes. Hold up a character or write the name on the board. When the music begins, everyone interprets the way they think that character would move. The guesser has only one try to identify the type of character. If successful, he or she picks the next guesser. If unsuccessful, the leader or teacher picks the next guesser.

### PIN THE FACE ON THE PUMPKIN

Have the students take turns being blind folded. Have them place pieces of a jack-o-lanterns face on the pumpkin. They will laugh at how the jack-o-lanterns face turns out.

## LAUGHTER AND LEARNING

### STORY TIME

Help students develop their reading skills by having them read aloud stories educating them about the celebration of Halloween or Fall and Harvest time.

### SILLY OR SPOOKY STORY

Have students make up a story together. Start with a theme such as: One day there was a black cat walking through a pumpkin patch..... Have students take a turn and add a sentence. Once everyone is done read your combined story.

Another option is to have students record their portion of the story into a tape/voice recorder but don't let them hear what the student before them said. Play back the story and enjoy.

### GET MUMMIFIED

Using toilet paper, wrap the kids up like a mummy. You could have 2 toilet paper rolls and have a contest to see who can wrap from head to toe the fastest and who made the best looking mummy. Then educate the students about why people were mummified in ancient Egypt.

### HARVEST TIME

On a large white sheet in the middle of the floor, dump out a bag of popcorn kernels and a bag of raw beans (or two similar small objects/ food items) and mix them together. Assign popcorn kernels to the boys and beans to the girls. Everyone has one minute to gather as many of their respective items as possible. The person with the most wins, but 5 points are deducted for each wrong kernel or bean.

### SLIME

#### MATERIALS

- 4-oz bottle school glue gel
- borax
- water
- food coloring

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

You make slime by mixing together a borax solution and a glue solution. Prepare these solutions first and then use just the amount you need to make perfect slime.

#### Borax Solution

Take about a half cup of hot water and stir in borax until it stops dissolving. The solution may be a little cloudy. That is fine. You will use the liquid part for making slime, not the gritty stuff at the bottom of the container.

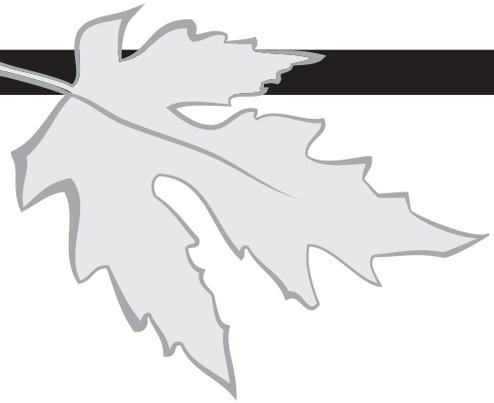
#### Glue Solution

The trick to making translucent extra-slimy slime is using the right glue. You can use white glue, but the slime will be opaque. If you want clear jelly-like slime, use the glue gel. It is usually pale blue, but a little food coloring can turn it any color.

1. Stir 4-oz of glue into 1 cup of water.
2. Add a couple of drops of food coloring. The radioactive chemistry green-yellow color is obtained by adding 2 drops of yellow or 2 drops yellow and 1 drop of green coloring, depending how green you want the slime.

#### Making the Slime

Just mix together 1/3 cup of the borax solution and 1 cup of the glue solution. If you are making bigger batches of slime, just use 1 part borax solution and three parts glue solution.



### ANOTHER SLIME RECIPE

- 2 cups water
- 1/2 cup cornstarch
- Food coloring

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Boil 2 cups water in a medium saucepan. Add cornstarch while stirring. After that is mixed well, add food coloring and stir. Remove from heat and cool to room temperature. Make sure kids play with it on a plastic covered surface.

### GLOW IN THE DARK MAZE OR GAMES

Create a maze for children to go through using glow in the dark paint or tape. Play a game with the lights turned out with a ball that glows.

