November SaySo





November Birthdays

2 Gabe Woodrow

11 Hope Pankratz

21 Easton Wirth

29 Heston Goeser

Hello! My name is Maci (left).
I'm so glad it's November because that means the first semester is almost over.

Hello, my name is Kaleb(Middle)
I like November because I get to wear warm clothes and play in the leaves with my dogs.

Hello! I'm Kadence(right). I'm glad the first semester is almost over and I'm ready for nights by my fireplace.

Superintendent's Sayso for November 2026

Mr. Bubach

In this month's article, I am going to address two very different areas. The first will be my annual reminder that winter is coming and we need to be prepared. The second area is about what school standards are, how they are developed, and what they mean for our district.

When it comes to our North Dakota winters, windchill factors can change safety margins in an instant. Please keep the following extremes in mind:

• With a air temperature of 0°F and a wind speed of 15 mph, the windchill factor drops to -19°F. At this temperature, exposed skin can become frostbitten in less than 30 minutes.

• At an air temperature of -20°F and winds of 30 mph, the windchill drops significantly lower, and exposed skin can freeze in less than 5 minutes.

In between these windchill extremes is a wide range of danger due to cold and wind. I understand that, in today's day and age, vehicles seem trustworthy and like they would never break down. The thinking often goes that even if a vehicle does encounter trouble, we all have cell phones.

While modern technology is helpful, it takes very little extra preparation to ensure you are safe during the winter months. Keeping a pair of gloves, a hat, and some warm clothes in your vehicle is not an extreme burden.

Furthermore, even with cell phones handy, always let someone else know where you are headed and what route you are taking. Check the weather forecasts ahead of time. Please keep in mind that if a winter storm comes up unexpectedly, cell service can falter, a stalled vehicle might not be easily spotted, and it may take a considerable amount of time for emergency rescuers to reach you.

Finally, if you do get stranded, stay inside your vehicle. I cannot stress this enough: Do not leave your vehicle to go look for help! If possible, call for assistance and tie a bright cloth to your antenna or window as a distress signal. To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, always clear snow away from your tailpipe before running the engine briefly to stay warm.

Now onto state standards. The state of Oklahoma recently made headlines after 59 of its school districts were downgraded to "accredited with warning" status for failing to meet state academic proficiency standards.

The mass downgrades, executed by the Oklahoma State Board of Education, stemmed from a highly controversial "academic proficiency rule." Under this policy, any district where fewer than 50% of students test at or above the "basic performance level" in math or English language arts receives an official deficiency. This action marks a widespread enforcement of stricter accountability measures across dozens of Oklahoma public school districts.

By contrast, in North Dakota, we evaluate performance across four designations: Novice, Approaching Proficiency, Proficient, and Advanced.

For comparison, in the latest data available for the state of North Dakota (the 2025-2026 school year), 52.98% of all students statewide scored Proficient or Advanced in Mathematics, and 56.34% scored Proficient or Advanced in English Language Arts.

For Munich, our local numbers tell a very positive story: 60.41% of our students are proficient or advanced in Mathematics, and 50% are proficient or advanced in English Language Arts. As a side note, only 10.42% of our students are labeled as "novice" in English Language Arts, compared to a much higher statewide average of 19.04%. Furthermore, when our Juniors take the ACT, they routinely outperform their regional cohorts in English Language Arts.

Mr. Bubach Continued

So, what exactly does all this mean?

To understand these figures, it helps to know that these designations are based entirely on how students perform on the annual North Dakota State Assessment Test, or "ND+," given at the end of every school year. The grade levels that factor into these accountability designations in North Dakota are grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10. The ND+ is a uniform measure of how our students demonstrate their proficiency regarding state benchmarks in English and Mathematics.

Where Do These Standards Come From?

Many people are under the assumption that there is a single set of national standards for all public schools. That is not correct. Every state develops its own distinct benchmarks.

It is true that in the 1990s, there was a major national movement toward unified federal standards, which later evolved into the state-led "Common Core" initiative in 2010. However, due to widespread concerns regarding the loss of state and local control, true federal national standards never reached fruition. Today, standards remain firmly set by each individual state.

The process of establishing or revising state educational standards is highly structured, typically taking anywhere from 12 to 24 months to complete. When a state decides to update its benchmarks—often on a routine 5- to 10-year cycle—it follows a multi-phase workflow:

1. Committee Formation: The State Department of Education convenes panels composed of local K-12 educators, subject-matter experts, university professors, and industry representatives.

2. Drafting: Committees review existing standards, analyze workforce needs, evaluate frameworks from other states, and examine collegiate expectations to draft a new benchmark document.

3. Public Comment Periods: States open drafts for public review. Online portals and town hall meetings allow parents, teachers, and community members to submit feedback.

4. Refinement: Committees reconvene to review public critiques, modifying the drafts to address legitimate operational concerns raised by educators.

5. Formal Adoption: The finalized standards are presented to the State Board of Education for a formal vote. Once approved, the state establishes an implementation timeline for school districts to realign curricula and teacher training.

Because there is no single, unified national curriculum in the United States, standards vary drastically across state lines. In addition, states define "proficiency" differently. A student deemed proficient in one state might be considered basic or below basic in another, because each state sets its own "cut scores"—the minimum score required on a state test to achieve a proficient rating.

In North Dakota, the process is highly localized. Every 5 to 7 years, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction updates the "Content Standards" for subjects like math, reading, and science, following the basic collaborative steps outlined above.

Educational standards fluctuate over time because the world our students are graduating into changes rapidly. A decade ago, schools rarely talked about cybersecurity. Today, North Dakota updates its state standards to include computer science and digital literacy because those skills are now required for almost any modern career or trade.

Sometimes, when standards are updated, the bar might initially be set too high, resulting in an inordinate number of students failing to reach proficiency across the state. When this occurs, the benchmarks may be adjusted earlier than expected.

Another area that causes temporary shifts in data is when the state changes the assessment test itself. This happened recently in North Dakota with the rollout of the new assessment system, which has temporarily resulted in math scores in some areas being lower than expected as schools adapt to the new format.

In short, while state standards are important, they are also somewhat of a moving target, especially immediately following a testing update. While state scores are one helpful measure of a school's effectiveness, other markers—such as long-term student performance in trade programs, the workforce, and higher education—provide a complete picture of a school's success.

By all measures, Munich continues to graduate students who are well-prepared, resilient, and ready for the next phase of their lives!

Thoughts and Reflections from the High School Principal
Mr. Timothy Polansky

Hello everyone, for this month's article I would like to share some information regarding the NDCEL administrators conference, which was on October 21st – 23rd. For the conference, school administrators from around the state of North Dakota gathered in Bismarck to get updates on various school related topics, share ideas and connect with each other. I always feel it is important to attend these types of gatherings to stay in "the loop" regarding state-wide topics, policies and potential changes or challenges. While Munich might have some similarities and differences in operation compared to other schools, we all have the same goal to provide the best possible education to our students in North Dakota. In any case, I feel it is important to attend these opportunities not only to gather information, but to represent our school and community at a state level and continue to advocate for small school like Munich.

In my position as a high school principal, I believe conferences like this are an essential part of professional growth and effective school leadership. One of the biggest challenges is that education is constantly evolving, with new instructional strategies, educational policies, technology and student needs shaping the way schools operate. Meeting with other school leaders gives valuable opportunities to learn, collaborate, share and possibly bring innovative ideas back to each other's schools. The hope is that these will ultimately benefit teachers, students, families, and the entire school community. One of the most exciting, but challenging, topics in education today is the ever-changing world of technology including artificial intelligence (AI). Like many recent advancements in technology, AI has started to transform how we view education and the need for further understanding on the proper and acceptable uses of AI. When AI is used correctly, as a tool and not as a crutch, I feel it can have a positive impact on education and can be greatly beneficial to the world as a whole. However, when used improperly, it can stunt the growth of critical thinking, creativity and innovation. Navigating these benefits and challenges will continue to be important as education continues to evolve. We, as educators, understand the challenges and temptations faced by students today with all of these opportunities to simply use AI to get an answer or complete an assignment in little to no time at all. I can honestly say that I have used AI as a tool to save time or help improve research and development of tasks or lessons and I am not completely against the idea of using a resource that is there for us. However, always try to maintain integrity and think and make decisions for myself and feel this is a reasonable expectation for all of us. As of now, teachers can communicate with students regarding the acceptable use of AI in their classroom and that might look different in every classroom, depending on the assignment or project. At our conference this last week, it was interesting to hear from administrators and the panel of students from around the state of North Dakota on their perspectives. I was able to gather that there are a wide range of opinions regarding AI, screen time and technology use, but the general consensus is that understanding proper use is most likely the biggest and most important challenge in preparing this generation of students.

One thing that has always been evident in education and continues to be a theme in educational success is building relationships and social connections. While technology can replace some things, it will never replace the human connection that has proven to play a major role in student development. Developing skills such as compassion, kindness, respect and the love of learning. No matter where students go, or what they do later in life, these skills often translate. Academic success and "knowing the answer" are important, but controlling emotions, developing social skills, thinking critically and learning how to work with and treat others are equally, if not more important, according to educational research. Maintaining an effective balance of understanding and using technology, but not over using it or over relying on it can be a challenge, but it is the world we currently live in. We recognize that effective education requires continuous learning, collaboration, and a willingness to embrace new ideas. The knowledge, relationships, and resources gained through these experiences hopefully strengthen the ability to educate with purpose and support the needs of our school community. Ultimately, when we all look to grow in different ways, we are better equipped to help others succeed, improve educational outcomes, and ensure that every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Best wishes until next time!

Mr. Kram Sayso – November

As I begin writing this, it is the last week of October and we are on our first day of Red Ribbon Week. It was good this morning to see so many students wearing red and participating. By the time you read this, Red Ribbon Week will be in the past, and it was a positive experience for all.

Winter Is Coming — Let's Be Ready!

As the temperatures continue to drop, please make sure your child comes to school each day prepared for outdoor recess. Students should have a warm coat, hat, gloves or mittens, snow pants, and winter boots when needed. While the term "when needed" is somewhat subjective, we do expect the students have appropriate outer gear. Right now, the essential items are coat, hat, and gloves/mittens. Also boots when wet outside. At some point, snow pants and snow boots will need to be added to the list.

North Dakota weather can change quickly, and we want everyone to be comfortable and safe while enjoying time outside. Please take a moment to check that your child has the appropriate winter gear and that items are labeled with their name.

We understand that things get forgotten from time to time, but we have had some students come to school without the expected outerwear expecting to be able to borrow hats or gloves from others. One thing we try to teach our students is accountability, and this is a good place to start.

Keep Growing, Even When Things Get Tough

As we move further into the school year, students are learning more than just reading, writing, and math. They are also learning how to handle challenges, work through frustration, and keep trying when something doesn't come easily. Growth doesn't always happen in a straight line, and sometimes the most important lessons come from the moments when things get tough.

At school, we encourage students to ask questions, learn from mistakes, and recognize that struggling with something doesn't mean they can't do it. It simply means they are still learning! Families can help reinforce this mindset at home by celebrating effort, encouraging problem-solving, and reminding children that progress is often made one small step at a time.

As we head into the busy winter months, let's continue to encourage our students to be patient with themselves, support one another, and keep growing. After all, some of our greatest growth happens when we don't give up!

Thank you for your continued support of Munich Public School and have a great November!

Munich Public School Board Minutes
October 14, 2026
Unapproved Minutes

The Munich Public School board meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kelly Hall at 7:00 A.M.

The school board members that were present: Bobby Foster, Alicia Goeser, Kelan Goeser, Kelly Haaven, Kelly Hall, Chris Pankratz and Jason Wirth. Also present: Robert Bubach, Seth Hansen (left 7:30) Curt Kram, Tim Polansky and Lois Tohm

Bobby Foster made a motion to approve the agenda with moving Sport Coop up on the agenda under the Financial Reports. Kelan Goeser seconded. Motion carried.

Jason Wirth made a motion to approve the September 8, 2026 board minutes. Alicia Goeser seconded. Motion carried.

Kelly Haaven made a motion to approve the bills for payment. Kelan Goeser seconded. Motion carried.

Bobby Foster made a motion to approve the financial reports. Kelan Goeser seconded. Motion carried.

The school board members had a discussion on the Sports Coop transportation.

Holiday Gathering is tentatively scheduled for December 4, 2026.

The Horizon Financial Bank Pledge Pool was reviewed.

Kelly Haaven made a motion to approve the review of the Virtual Learning Because of Weather or Other Conditions Policy (ABAC), Records Retention Policy (ABCD), Student Education Records and Privacy Policy (FGA), Student Education Records Access & Amendment Procedure Policy (FGA-BR1), Criteria for Approving and Denying Directory Information and PII Release Request Policy (FGA-BR2). Kelan Goeser seconded. Motion carried.

The Munich TSA Chapter Travel & Supervision Guidelines were reviewed. More discussion next month.
Tim Polansky applied for the Superintendent/Principal position.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 7:00 A.M.

Chairperson Kelly Hall adjourned the meeting at 7:59 A.M.

Respectively Submitted,

_____
Chairperson

_____
Business Manager

Munich Public School Special Board Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2026

Munich Public School Special Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kelly Hall at 7:30 A.M.

The school board members that were present: Bobby Foster, Alicia Goeser, Kelly Haaven, Kelly Hall, Chris Pankratz and Jason Wirth. Kelan Goeser absent. Also present Robert Bubach and Tim Polansky.

The school board members interviewed Tim Polansky for the superintendent position for the school year 2026-2027.

Chairperson Kelly Hall adjourned the meeting at 8:14 A.M.

Respectively Submitted,

_____

Chairperson

_____

Superintendent

The Senior Class
of Munich High School
presents

Who KILLED the King of Bling?

Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service Denver, CO

7 pm ~ Friday, Nov. 6TH, 2026
MUNICH SCHOOL GYM

Boys Basketball Schedule

Dec 11 vs Dunseith JH, C, JV, Varsity 3:30

Dec 18 vs Four Winds (7 & 8 @ AC 4:00) C, JV, Varsity 4:30

Dec 21 vs Park River (7&8 @ AC 4:30) JV & Varsity 3:30 (DH)

Dec 29 vs Central Cass C, JV, Varsity 1:00

Jan 1 @ Warwick JH, JV, Varsity 1:00

Jan 4 @ Rugby C, JV, Varsity 4:15

Jan 8 @ Hatton-Northwood JH, C, JV, Varsity 4:00

Jan 12 vs North Border JH, JV, Varsity 4:30

Jan 18 @ Benson County JV & Varsity 5:30

Jan 19 vs Drayton/VE (MUNICH) JH, C, JV, Varsity 3:30

Jan 21 vs St John JH, C, JV, Varsity 4:30

Jan 26 @ Thompson C, JV, Varsity 4:15

Jan 29 @ Nelson Co JH, C, JV, Varsity 3:30

Feb 1 @ Midway-Minto 7, 8, JV, Varsity 3:45

Feb 6 vs. Cavalier JH, C, JV, Varsity 2:00

Feb 8 vs North Prairie (MUNICH) JH, C, JV, Varsity 3:30

Feb 11 vs New Rockford-Sheyenne JH, C, JV, Varsity 3:30

Feb 16 @ North Star 7, 8, JV, Varsity 3:30

Feb 19 vs Grafton 7, 8, JV, Varsity 4:00

Feb 26-March 2 District 4 Region 2 Boys Tournament @ New Rockford-Sheyenne

March 8-11 Region 2 Boys Tournament @ Park River

March 13 State Qualifying @ Various Sites

March 18-20 State Boys Tournament @ Bismarck Event Center

Girls Basketball Schedule

Dec 5 @ Central Cass JV & Varsity 1:00

Dec 10 @ Cavalier JH, JV, & Varsity 4:30

Dec 15 vs Dunseith (MUNICH) JH, JV, Varsity 4:30

Dec 17 vs Warwick JH, JV, Varsity 4:30

Dec 19 @ Four Winds JH, JV, Varsity 12:00

Dec 21 vs Park River JH, JV, Varsity 3:30 (Double Header)

Dec 29 vs South Prairie JV & Varsity 1:30

Dec 30 vs Flasher (JV @ SH 4:30) (Varsity @ MSU Dome 6:30

Jan 5 @ Thompson JV & Varsity 5:30

Jan 7 vs Rugby JV & Varsity 5:45

Jan 11 @ St John JH, JV, Varsity 4:30

Jan 14 vs Nelson County JH, JV, Varsity 4:00

Jan 18 @ Bottineau JH, JV, Varsity 4:00

Jan 22 @ North Prairie (Rolette) JH, JV, Varsity 4:30

Jan 25 vs Benson County JH, JV, Varsity 4:00

Jan 28 @ New Rockford-Sheynne JH, JV, Varsity 4:30

Jan 30 vs Drayton/Valley-Edinburg JH, JV, Varsity 1:00

Feb 2 vs North Star (MUNICH) JH, JV, Varsity 4:30

Feb 5 vs Grafton JV & Varsity 5:00

Feb 6 @ Kenmare JH, JV, Varsity 4:00

Feb 12-15 District 4 Region 2 Girls Tournament @ Rolla

Feb 22-25 Region 2 Girls Tournament @ Devils Lake

Feb 27 State Qualifying @ Various Sites

March 4-6 State Girls Tournament @ MSU Dome

Football

By: Braxton Lindseth

We have ended our regular season with an 8-1 record. We won the first-round playoff game against Oakes, 21-6. Our next game in the playoffs is against Velva-Drake-Anamoose-Garrison on October 31 at 2:00 p.m. in Langdon. Come cheer loud!

Volleyball

By: Liv Prouty

Our Langdon-Munich volleyball team is getting ready for the postseason! We finished 9-0 in district play and are the No. 1 seed. We play on October 29 at 3:00 p.m. in Lakota. If we win, we will move on to regionals in Park River and hopefully to the state tournament in Bismarck from November 19–21. We are excited to see how far we can go this year. Thank you for your support. Go Cardinals!

Girls Golf

By: Lily Zimmer

Girls golf wrapped up their season in late September. State golf was held in Carrington at CrossRoads Golf Club. There was a weather delay, so it was pushed back to the 29th and 30th. The participants were Maci Gage (11th) and Lily Zimmer (10th).

Placings (2 round total)

Lily Zimmer tied for 37th – 176

Maci Gage tied for 82nd – 192

Cross Country

By: Noah Foster

Our season concluded on Oct 23. We had state in Jamestown, with Kaleb running a 20:33 and Noah running a 20:56. Our season and personal best this year were Kaleb hitting a 19:58 as a personal best in Cavalier and Noah hitting a time of 20:14 as a season best in Cavalier. The season ended well, and we are happy with the outcome.














CARDINALS


adidas















Pre-K November Questions

If you were a little squirrel getting ready for winter, what would you hide in your tree?

Bexlee - acorn **Ada - nuts**
Jacob - Dinosaur **Rosalie - nut**
Moses - bus **Eloise - apples**
Allie - raccoon **Harvey - bat**

Who is someone at school or home that you are thankful for?

Bexlee - Avery **Ada - mom**
Jacob - mom, dad **Rosalie - Eloise**
Moses - baby **Eloise - dad**
Allie - mom **Harvey - mom, dad, sissy**

If a turkey walked into your classroom right now, what do you think it would say?

Bexlee - hello **Ada - i wanna see you**
Jacob - hello **Rosalie - hello**
Moses - i like you **Eloise - back back woooo**
Allie - helloooo **Harvey - cacka doodle doo**

Kinder November Questions

If you were a little squirrel getting ready for winter, what would you hide in your tree?

Beau - cell (bird) **Camden - acorn**
Emersyn - tunnel **Elijah - acorn**
Serenity - baby squirrels

Who is someone at school or home that you are thankful for?

Beau - mom **Camden - dad**
Emersyn - Lenin **Elijah - brother**
Serenity - mom

If a turkey walked into your classroom right now, what do you think it would say?

Beau - peacock **Camden - chicken**
Emersyn - chicken **Elijah - cacka doodle doo**
Serenity - chirp chirp



food because I am hungry.

Camden Hunt
K

I am thankful for

food because

I am Hugry

By Camden



my dog because he jumps on me.

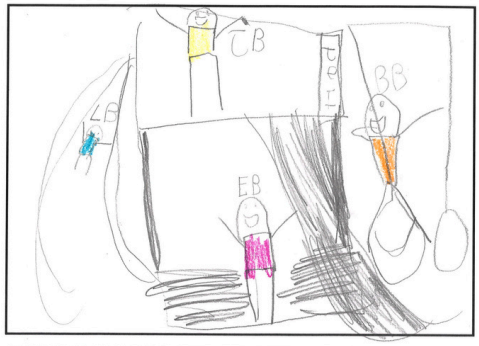
Serenity Parisien
K

I am thankful for

my dog because

he jumps on me

By Serenity



I am thankful for

my swingset because

It has a chocdrb.

my swingset because it has a chalkboard.

Emmy Beck

By Emmy



my cousins because I go to their house a lot.

Elijah Olson
K

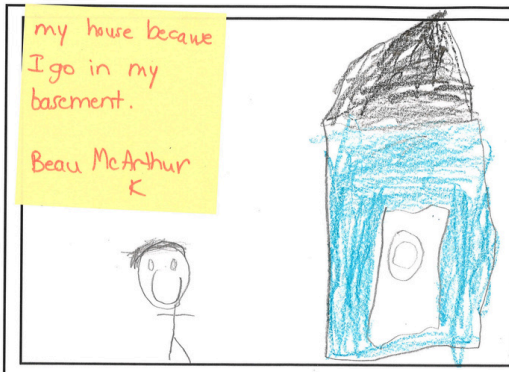
I am thankful for

My cuzen because

I go to th hs

a lot.

By Elijah



my house because I go in my basement.

Beau McArthur
K

I am thankful for

my house because

I go in my B

Beau

By

THANKSGIVING



WORD SEARCH



T H A N K F U L P I E D F T T
L Q U G I V O F I N A D A H F
E S R C S P U U L E M V E A O
A W K O Z S T Y G F E L S N O
V I E R H K H Z R M R G T K T
E S Y D X Z M O I B U K A M B
S S L L W C L K M A M N D A A
A Q J E N M R C H O A W C Y L
M U U M E O H C O C Y T P F L
F A M I L Y I O E V T R T L K
A S Y E V B U R S A U V M O D
L H P U M P K I N M R P O W G
L N O V E M B E R C K F C E R
T B U W Y L M Z C O R N O R N
G O B B L E O J B T U R K E Y







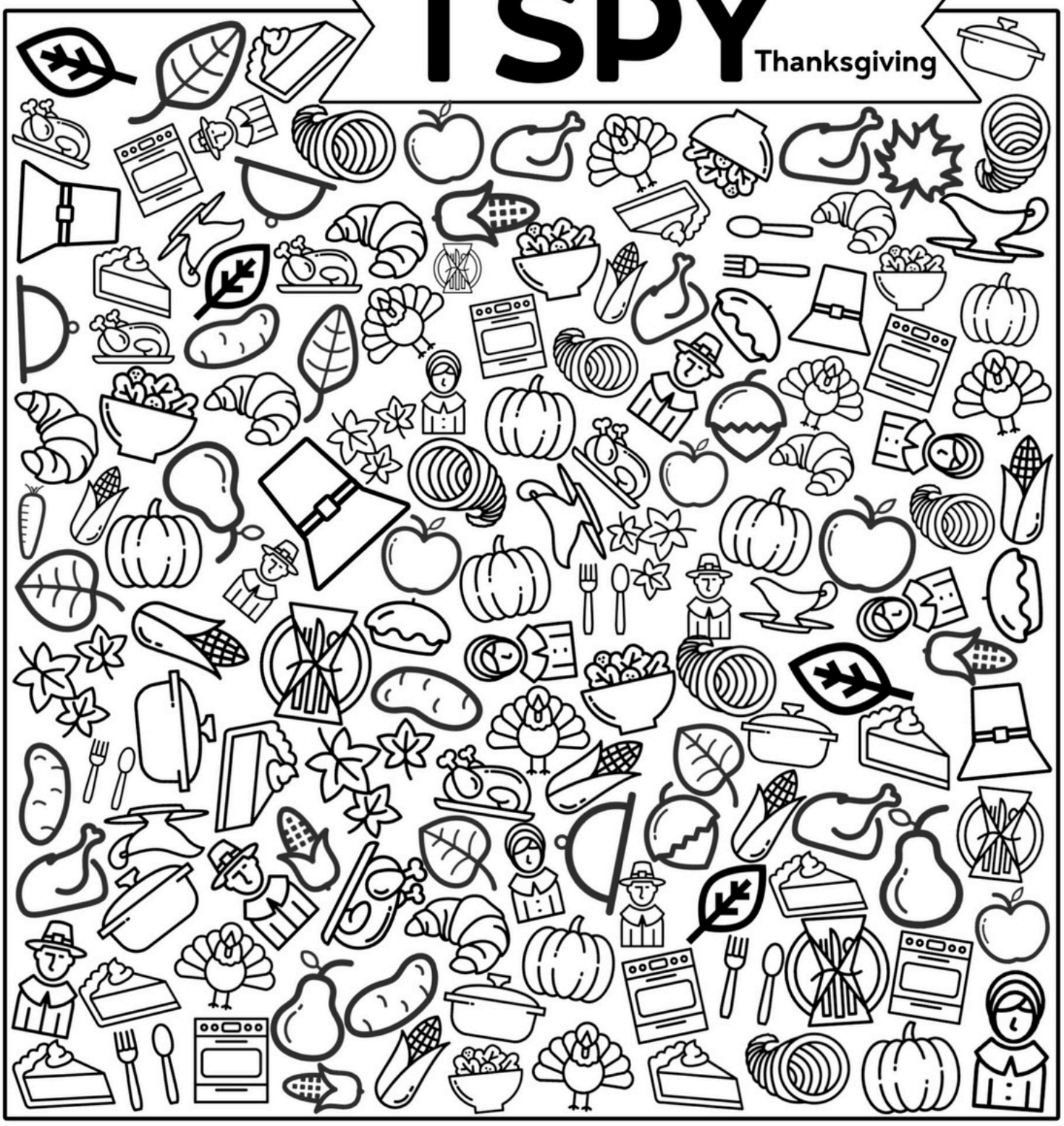


TURKEY
FAMILY
PIE
FOOTBALL
PUMPKIN

GOBBLE
SQUASH
PILGRIM
FALL
NOVEMBER

THANKFUL
FEAST
LEAVES
MAYFLOWER
CORN

I SPY Thanksgiving



2 4 4 5 4 5 7 4 6 5

1 6 7 1 3 6 7 4 7 5

3 3 4 6 2 7 5 9 6 3

Thanksgiving Trivia

1. What year was the first Thanksgiving traditionally celebrated by the Pilgrims and Wampanoag?
A) 1492
B) 1621
C) 1776
D) 1865
2. Which president made Thanksgiving a national annual holiday?
A) George Washington
B) Thomas Jefferson
C) Abraham Lincoln
D) Franklin D. Roosevelt
3. What bird is most commonly eaten on Thanksgiving?
A) Chicken
B) Duck
C) Turkey
D) Goose
4. Which month is Thanksgiving celebrated in the United States?
A) October
B) November
C) December
D) January
5. What is the name of the day after Thanksgiving, known for shopping deals?
A) Cyber Monday
B) Black Friday
C) Giving Tuesday
D) Small Business Saturday
6. Which Native American people shared the 1621 harvest celebration with the Pilgrims?
A) Cherokee
B) Navajo
C) Wampanoag
D) Sioux
7. What popular Thanksgiving dessert is made from an orange squash?
A) Apple pie
B) Pumpkin pie
C) Cherry pie
D) Lemon pie
8. Which U.S. president began the tradition of an official turkey pardon?
A) John F. Kennedy
B) Harry Truman
C) Ronald Reagan
D) Barack Obama
9. What sauce is commonly served with Thanksgiving turkey?
A) Cranberry sauce
B) Salsa
C) Tartar sauce
D) Soy sauce
10. What professional football league traditionally holds games on Thanksgiving Day?
A) NBA
B) MLB

B) 1621 C) Abraham Lincoln C) Turkey B) November
B) Black Friday C) Wampanoag B) Pumpkin pie
C) Ronald Reagan A) Cranberry sauce C) NFL

Pumpkin Butter Cheesecake Cookies

-Ingredients

1 ½ cups (190g) all-purpose flour
½ tsp baking soda
½ tsp salt
½ tsp ground cinnamon
½ cup (113g) unsalted butter, softened
½ cup (100g) brown sugar, packed
¼ cup (50g) granulated sugar
1 large egg, room temperature
1 tsp vanilla extract
½ cup (120g) pumpkin butter
4 oz (113g) cream cheese, softened
2 tbsp powdered sugar

-Tools

Mixing bowls
Hand Mixer or stand mixer
Rubber spatula
Measuring cups and spoons
Baking sheets
Parchment Paper
Cooling rack

Steps

Step 1: Mix Dry Ingredients

In a medium bowl, whisk together 1 ½ cups (190g) flour, ½ tsp baking soda, ½ tsp salt, and ½ tsp cinnamon until well combined.

Step 2: Cream butter and sugars

In a large mixing bowl, beat ½ cup (113g) softened butter, ½ cup (100g) brown sugar, and ¼ cup (50g) granulated sugar until light and fluffy.

Step 3: Add egg and vanilla

Beat in 1 large egg and 1 tsp vanilla extract until smooth

Step 4: Combine wet and dry

Gradually add the dry mixture to the wet ingredients, mixing until just combined.

Step 5: Make cheesecake filling

In a small bowl, beat 4 oz (113g) cream cheese with 2 tbsp powdered sugar until smooth.

Step 6: Assemble swirled dough

Gently fold ½ cup (120g) pumpkin butter into the cookie dough, then swirl in the cheesecake mixture - don't over mix

Step 7: Scoop and bake

Scoop dough balls onto a parchment-lined baking sheet, spacing 2 inches apart. Bake at 350 F (175 C) for 12-14 minutes, until edges are set and center look slightly soft

Step 8: Cool and serve

Let cookies cool on the sheet for 5 minutes, then transfer to a cooling rack. Serve warm or at room temperature