

# The Vasquez Post

Veritas, Aequitas, Spiritus

## Thanksgiving Traditions

There are loads of Thanksgiving traditions everywhere and everyone does them differently. With Thanksgiving Traditions, there is no right or wrong, it's just what you want to do. Maybe you celebrate the day after or even the next week and even breaking the wishbone in the turkey is a tradition. Even if you eat something different then turkey and it's the same thing every year it's a tradition. Traditions can be what you watch too. Some people watch football or "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" movie on Thanksgiving. Some people will even hold a pie competition or it could be as simple as saying what you're thankful for at the dinner table, there is such a wide variety of traditions that loads of families participate in every year.



## Fall Movies

### Little Women (2019)

'Little Women' follows 4 sisters during the years after the Civil War, specifically during both Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. The movie captures all of the sister's different lives before and after the death of their sister, Beth.

### Dead Poets Society (1989)

"Dead Poets Society" follows a new English teacher that starts to teach at an all boys- school. The movie perfectly captures the setting of fall 1959 in Vermont at Welton Academy.

### Free Birds (2013)

This is a great Thanksgiving movie for any kind of movie lover. This movie is following a pair of turkeys trying to escape becoming Thanksgiving dinner after they were picked as the pardoned turkey. Follow them into a adventure back in time to try to get turkeys off the menu for Thanksgiving. This movie is a good one to watch with your family before this coming thanksgiving.

## The Story of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a time to get together with people you love, whether it be family or friends, and share gratitude and community with those around you. Surely by this point, every American knows the story of Thanksgiving. Though there are many different versions of the story that have been passed down, at least one has found its way into the life of every American. Even though the story of Thanksgiving is common knowledge, it's always good to keep the story of the holidays alive. So, once more, here's the story of Thanksgiving.

The first winter for the Pilgrims who had settled at Plymouth was a harsh one, and was devastating to them. The cold weather, disease, and lack of food took many lives. Though by next spring, the Pilgrims were lucky enough to encounter members of a nearby Indigenous tribe, one of the tribe members was fluent in English due to previous travels and enslavement. He and the other tribe members kindly taught the Pilgrims survival skills, such as fishing and farming. In the autumn of 1621, the Pilgrims held a three day feast to celebrate a successful harvest, and invited the tribe and the tribe leader to join them.

Thanksgiving continued being an unofficial holiday for years to come, until Abraham Lincoln declared it a national holiday in 1863, during the Civil War. The date for Thanksgiving was officially November 26th, until in 1939 Franklin Roosevelt moved it to the fourth Thursday of November, to boost the economy by extending the holiday shopping season. This created the Thanksgiving schedule that we use today, which was officially signed into law in 1941.

Today, Thanksgiving has become a blend of recreating the original feast (with a slightly improved menu) and many other traditions. Football games, parades, games, and volunteering to give back to the community have all become a staple of Thanksgiving. Despite historical context, and the less desirable part of history, Thanksgiving in itself is a symbol of community, unity, gratitude, and resilience for everyone across America. No matter how you choose to celebrate Thanksgiving, and no matter who you celebrate it with, hopefully this year is your best one yet! Enjoy your break!

Article by Charlotte Hernandez

## The Evolution of Thanksgiving

The first Thanksgiving may have had a rough start, but over time, it's become a beloved holiday for families and friends to come together. Thanksgiving's meaning has changed a bit over the years.

Most of us know how Thanksgiving began. With the celebration of a successful harvest after months of hardship. It wasn't recognized as an official holiday until 1863, when President Lincoln established it as an official holiday in an attempt to bring people together during the civil war. Presidents following him continued to honor the tradition.

But we don't celebrate a harvest anymore, and we're not in a civil war, so what are the values we hold for the holiday now? In modern times, Thanksgiving is a celebration of all the things you're thankful for, just like the first Thanksgiving was a celebration of the pilgrims' gratitude for their successful harvest. It's different for each individual person. Maybe you're grateful for your family and friends, or maybe you're grateful for something as simple as good weather.

Over the years, the holiday has grown more personal. Although we still share certain festivities, we also have traditions unique to our own families. One family might be throwing a party, while another is cracking wishbones. Either way, they're both celebrating the same things.

It's not just the things we celebrate that have changed, it's also the way we celebrate them. The people who celebrated in 1789 might have been surprised to find that nowadays, we have entire parades for the occasion. Since its debut in 1924, the Macy's Thanksgiving parade features huge balloons, hundreds of costumed marchers, and even elephants were included in the festivities one year. People all over America watch the parade from their televisions.

Although Thanksgiving may not be a day with as much excitement as Christmas or Halloween, it's still a holiday that many hold dear to their hearts. So before you get out your Christmas decorations on November 1st, take a second to think about the day that comes a month before it.

Article by Jenna Dematteis

## End of Semester Advice

There are many good pieces of advice to know since the semester is coming to an end. Here are some pieces of advice that students should be taking, especially freshmen.

**-Always check Aeries no matter what:** It's a good habit to have to make sure that you aren't falling behind and staying on task. It's important to be checking Aeries to make sure you are passing all your classes with good grades.

**-Find out the different rules for the Midterm:** The reason why you should find out is if your grade isn't very high in the class you can ask your teacher if you're allowed to use notes on the midterm. Using notes and other tools the teacher permits you to use can be very helpful during midterm season.

**-Stay organized:** Even though midterms for this semester are coming up, you shouldn't start getting messy. This can ruin the flow of your studies and how your grades are in school. Stay focused and organized, it's a good habit a student must have.

Article by Calilin Perdomo

## Local places to go to during break

### -Charlie Brown Farms

Located in Little Rock and is a huge gift shop that sells tons of food like smoked meats, old vintage toys, and its famous date shakes. They have a whole selection with different items that vary from large to big including nostalgic toys that take you back from when you were younger.

### -The Devil's Punchbowl

Another place where you can experience a much smaller hiking spot, but with tons of stuff to offer. There are many hiking trails that lead you to tons of different places like beautiful rivers that take your breath away and different kinds of plants that you have never seen before. This unique place is located in Pearblossom. Make sure to bring comfy shoes and comfortable clothes for walking.

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*Thanksgiving Traditions* continued from the front page

The reason so many people partake in so many different traditions is for many reasons; whether it's sentimental value or because it reminds them of the people who aren't around anymore or even just because you enjoy it. Thanksgiving traditions are what make people feel like thanksgiving is so important and help people realize it's bigger than just eating food and more about spending time and celebrating with the people you love by having a gathering, it doesn't just have to be about food.

Article by Liam Byrne

*Fall Movies* continued on the front page

## Fantastic Mr.Fox (2009)

Fantastic Mr.Fox is a stop-motion movie that follows Mr. Fox and his wife that raid their human neighbours to provide for this family while his son, Ash wants to live up to his father's legacy as well as his father treating him differently. Fantastic Mr. Fox is set in the countryside with 1950's inspired clothing as well as Thanksgiving themes of family.

## The Addams Family (1991)

This movie is a well known fall favorite by many.This movie is a great movie to watch with the family around this fall season and is beloved by many.This movies story is about When a man claiming to be Fester the missing brother of Gomez Addams, arrives at the Addams' home, However, Morticia begins to suspect the man is a fraud, since he cannot recall details of Fester's life. With the help of lawyer Tully Alford, Fester manages to get the Addams clan evicted from their home. Gomez realizes the two men are conspiring to swindle the Addams fortune and that he must challenge Fester.

Article by Lina Rodriguez and Ulysses Miron

## The Perfect Weber Turkey

I hear about how everyone has the perfect turkey recipe, and I should try it. *My dad fries the best turkey you have ever had... My mom bakes our turkey for hours until it is the best thing you can imagine...* etc. Well, let me tell you how to cook the truly best turkey imaginable... Because my way is the best way.

I usually cook a twenty to twenty-two pound turkey, and I try to never buy a frozen one. After you rip all the innards out (including the giblets) you want to season your turkey. While this is occurring, you also happen to be bringing your turkey to room temperature, which is also important. I slather Wesson Oil over the turkey and then rub in the seasonings with my hands. I season my turkey with Poultry Seasoning (lite amount, don't overdo it), Sage, and a very lite amount of salt and pepper; and then place a full package of bacon, separated, on the top of the turkey in a star pattern. I tie the turkey up with string and then get the Weber kettle ready.

The Weber is a charcoal grill. You need to place your charcoal to either side of the center of the grill. You will light the charcoal and let it get hot (white in color). In between these two piles of charcoal you will place your basting, grease catcher, which will be directly under the turkey. In this baste catcher, you will place your giblets (this grease mixture helps with the gravy).

Then you cook. Times vary, but you need to bring the turkey up to 165 degrees. You will need to replenish the charcoal every hour or so. While cooking, you should baste the turkey with the grease collected underneath once every thirty minutes. Once done, take the turkey out and let it rest (wrapped in aluminum foil works great) for about 20-30 minutes before carving.

Information provided by Mr. Mangel

## Other Recipes

### Red pork Tamales:

5 pounds of pork and coat the pork with 1 tablespoon of olive oil or vegetable oil. Then also coat the pork with 4 tablespoons and 1 teaspoon of kosher salt and also add 2 tablespoons of chipotle powder. Then you add 14 dried, seeded, and steamed guajillo chiles. Then we get 6 garlic cloves with 1 teaspoon of ground cumin in 3 cups of cold water and cook it for 1 hour and 30 minutes. Then we wrap it around with some dough and there you have it.

### Southern Baked Mac n Cheese:

First boil elbow pasta in a large pot for a couple minutes a little bit less than the packaging says or at least till its dente because it will also cook in the oven as well. Once that is done make sure to drain and set aside. Then melt butter in a large pan on medium then add the flour and whisk quickly so there are no clumps formed. After you're done add in the milk, sour cream and heavy cream and then continue to whisk until it is combined. Then add in your personal preference of seasoning then turn down heat. Shred your cheese and add in half of each the cheese that are recommended are sharp cheddar cheese , monterey jack , asiago , mozzarella and mild cheddar. After the cheese is added you can start to whisk again. Whisk quickly so the cheese does not clump up, once the cheese sauce gets thicker you can then turn back up the heat while whisking. Then preheat the oven to 400 degrees fahrenheit and the sauce simmers on low for a few minutes. Combine the cooked noodles and creamy sauce. Then put half of the noodles on the bottom of your dish then top with cheese. Pour the rest of your noodles on top of that and then add the last bit of cheese

The last thing you are supposed to do is bake for 15-20 minutes until the cheese is melted on top. Broil for 2-3 minutes until the cheese is darker on top.

Information provided by Gerardo Pelayo and Adam Hernandez

**Local places to go** continued on the front page

### -Vincent Hill Station

Located in Acton near the railroad station is the perfect restaurant to go for a romantic date. If you don't have one though, just bring your friends and family. The food is amazing and has tons of great foods on the menu to choose from and the staff are very friendly.

### -Animals Tracks

Located in Aqua Dulce, is an animal sanctuary where you can feed and see all different kinds of animals. Such as kangaroos, monkeys, and horses. It's the perfect place to go with your friends and get a unique experience of a lifetime. This is an opportunity to learn about different kinds of animals.

Information provided by Shoned Carr

## What we are thankful for!

I am thankful for being able to play and listen to music because it saves me from stress and it keeps me from being overwhelmed.

Alexandria Van Blarcom

I am very thankful for not taking any moment for granted with the quality time that I spend with family and friends.

Cailin Perdomo

I am thankful for our country's amendmets, like freedom of speech.

Elijah Hernandez

I am thankful for having all of my family coming over for thanksgiving and I'm also thankful for my parents supporting me.

Gerardo Pelayo

I'm thankful for my family and friends, without them I wouldn't know what I'd do.

Khloe Roque

I'm grateful for my mom because she does a lot for me and my family, without her my whole house would probably be in chaos.

Shoned Carr

I am thankful for how my parents raised me to become the person I am today.

Ulysses Miron