

Happy Fall!

Magic Ink

2025 FIRST ADDITION:
OCTOBER!

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HOCO 2025!

HOMEcoming RECAP!!!



Artwork by Roselyn Nietes

Another year, another successful homecoming week! Homecoming week was full of school spirit, fun activities, and unforgettable memories, all leading up to a magical Tropical Paradise themed dance on Saturday night! Seniors kicked off homecoming with their annual Honoring of The Seniors on Monday Night. Many friends, parents, and community members show up to honor the leaders of the school, and show them that all their hard work is going to pay off this June when they walk across the stage. Juniors helped to create H's with Maya Saugh announcing all the seniors. On Thursday evening at 7 sports teams and classes brought their floats and parade rides to show off to the community. Seniors, Juniors, Sophomores, and freshmen classes battled with tropical-ness to show off the best float and at the end of the night it was voted that the **Junior Class float** had won that battle! The annual bonfire took place right after the parade and many friends, sports teams all gathered to share fun memories and the seniors had their last memory at a high school homecoming bonfire! Students had a great night overall understanding how meaningful friendships can carry through high school and make the year fly! Friday 8th & 9th period had everyone at the edge of their seats in excitement. The homecoming pep rally with multiple candidates running for court with Halonna and Havonna winning HOCO Royalty! Several games and events were played during the pep rally like our new Pizza Box game students battled and fought to knock other players pizza boxes out of their hands with Preston Zawataki as the last man standing! Other games like musical chairs, and relay's were played had students screaming and cheering for their friends! The football game was a huge night as Herkimer Magicians battled on the field and had the challenge of taking down the Notre Dame Jugglers, sadly the magicians tried to pull every trick out of their hats but they fell short of the win. Not letting that loss affect anyone, the school showed up with a tropical storm Saturday night to show off their colors and dances on the floor for the HOCO dance! The finale of homecoming week took place Sunday at 3pm with the second annual HerkFootFlipped, hosted by student council the Touchdown Terminators threw off their dance dresses from the night before and rocked the stadium with a 49-28.

By: Arthur Dadello

HERKIMER SPRING MUSICAL PRESENTS:



October 22nd's half day ended on a fantastic note as it was revealed Herkimer's spring production would be *Bye Bye Birdie* on February 5th, 6th, and 7th.

The musical was wonderfully revealed with Ms. Heuser baking cookies for the seniors who will participate in the production. Inside the middle of the cookie was a colored frosting and depending on the color it would represent the musical production! Students counted to 3 and then bit into it and screaming with excitement that they will be performing *Bye Bye Birdie* a musical comedy inspired by the hysteria surrounding Elvis Presley's draft into the U.S. Army in the 1950s. It follows rock 'n' roll star Conrad Birdie, who is about to be drafted. His songwriter and manager, Albert Peterson, and Albert's secretary (and girlfriend), Rosie Alvarez, come up with a publicity stunt: Conrad will visit the small town of Sweet Apple, Ohio, to give one last kiss to a lucky fan, Kim MacAfee, on national television before leaving for the army.

**AUDITIONS WILL BE
HELD ON NOVEMBER**

4th & 5th



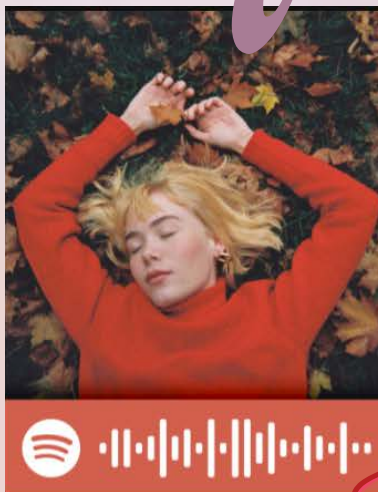
BOYS VARIETY SOCCER HOSTS HOME SECTIONAL GAME!!

Boys Soccer went up against Mount Markham on October 22nd for their first home sectional game since 2019. They made headlines by winning their first home sectional game ever. Goals were scored by Brian Lindsay and Justin Lamphere, who also made a great assist. After a dramatic showing, the score was 3-3 and heading into overtime. After 10 minutes of a nail-biting back and forth, the ball was played into the box to Nick Allen, who then found Adam Fountain's feet, scoring the game winning goal to secure their place in recent history!



By: Liam Miller

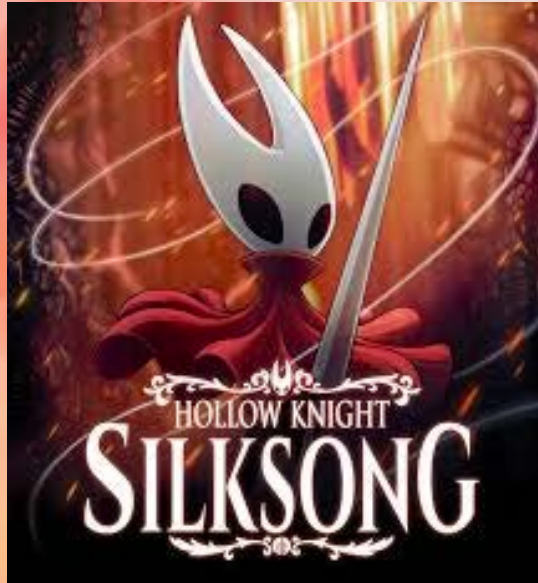
Song of the fall



We fell in Love in
October by girl in
red

Game Review

Silksong is really good. It feels a lot faster than Hollow Knight, and the movement's super clean.



The bosses are tough but fair, and the world looks amazing. Took me a bit to get used to Hornet's mechanics, but once it clicked, it was hard to stop playing.

This game is not for the faint of heart!

10/10

Autumn Book Recs



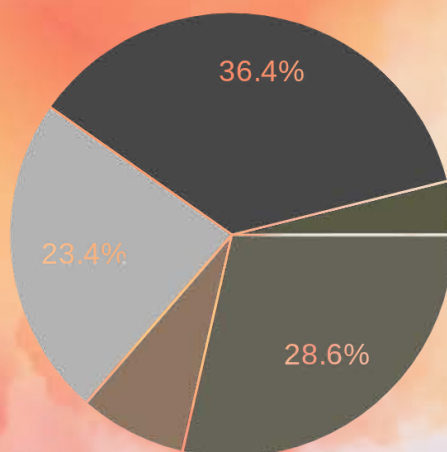
In **Pumpkinheads** author Rainbow Rowell and artist Faith Erin Hicks have teamed up to create this tender and hilarious story about two irresistible teens discovering what it means to leave behind a place—and a person—with no regrets.

The Bones Houses by Emily Lloyd-Jones — eerie and magical, where the boundary between the living and the dead gets blurred. Perfect for a crisp, haunted fall evening.

Cemetery Boys by Aiden Thomas — supernatural elements with strong characters and strong themes, great for those who like a touch of the otherworldly in fall.



POLL



Best Halloween
candy



Student Sports Spotlight

Juleah Shapiro



1.What are some personal goals you've set for yourself this season?

I'm focusing on staying mentally strong during tough moments and being a positive influence to the team. Helping the team stay motivated and connected is important to me.

2. What's your pre-game ritual or superstition?

Music's a big part of my pre-game. I've got a go-to playlist that hypes me up. It helps me lock in and shake off any nerves.

3. What role do you play on the team, and how do you contribute to its overall success?

As a winger, I try to keep the game wide and give us options going forward. Whether it's beating my defender, getting crosses in, or giving my teammates outlets, I'm always looking to create something. I also make sure to help out defensively and keep the intensity up on both sides of the field.

4. What's the most unexpected or funny thing that's happened to you during a game or practice?

At one of our games, the theme was neon and Avrey Allen showed up in a bright orange Lorax costume. She wore a skirt, mustache, eyebrows and stuffed her stomach. It was so funny you could see her from a mile away.

5. What has been the toughest part of this season, both physically and mentally?

The toughest part of this season, physically, is definitely the wear and tear on your body over time. Constant games, intense practices, and not always having enough time to fully recover between them. Injuries or even just fatigue can build up fast. Mentally, it's staying focused and motivated when you're exhausted or things aren't going your way, like after a tough loss or during a slump. It takes a lot of discipline to keep showing up with the same energy and mindset every day.

Sports Spotlight

Coach Holiday

Q: Name, Age, College?

A: Hunter Holiday, 26, graduated from SUNY Cortland

Q: What's your favorite fast food restaurant?

A: Easy. That's Arby's, and we have it right here in Herkimer!

Q: What would be your go-to player to sports bet on? Who is the most consistent?

A: I'm going to go out of the box with this one, a UFC fighter, Charles "do Bronx" Oliveira.

Q: What are your favorite sports teams across the board?

A: The Patriots for football, NY Yankees for baseball, outside of that, I don't have favorites.

Q: What were your first thoughts about our team when you first took over the program?

A: Honestly, when I first got to the team it was a lot at once, because I am new to Herkimer and new to teaching. So, when I first met the varsity team, it was truly the first time I had met any of the kids, so the first week was a lot, not only determining skill-levels, but also trying to learn everyone's names at the same time. But early in the season, I thought we definitely had the pieces to put together a good season, and thankfully the team has done well enough to prove that they are good enough since day one.

Q: Favorite gas station combo?

A: Chocolate milk and beef jerky.

Q: Can you see yourself being a coach long-term?

A: I would say yes, even past 5 years. I'm happy here. And it has been a great opportunity to coach the boys this year, so that's something I want to continue to do.



FALL RECIPE

Instructions

1. Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onion, salt, and several grinds of fresh pepper and sauté until soft, 5 to 8 minutes. Add the squash and cook until it begins to soften, stirring occasionally, for 8 to 10 minutes.
2. Add the garlic, sage, rosemary, and ginger. Stir and cook 30 seconds to 1 minute, until fragrant, then add 3 cups of the broth. Bring to a boil, cover, and reduce heat to a simmer. Cook until the squash is tender, 20 to 30 minutes.
3. Let cool slightly and pour the soup into a blender, working in batches if necessary, and blend until smooth. If your soup is too thick, add up to 1 cup more broth and blend. Season to taste and serve with parsley, pepitas, and crusty bread.

Butternut Squash Soup

Ingredients:

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 large yellow onion, chopped
½ teaspoon sea salt
1 (3-pound) butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and cubed
3 garlic cloves, chopped
1 tablespoon chopped fresh sage
½ tablespoon minced fresh rosemary
1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger
3 to 4 cups vegetable broth
Freshly ground black pepper



Watkins Wisdom



What do you do when you feel like you can't do it anymore?

“You do the smallest possible thing, and you just take the littlest step. And take the next little step after that, take the next little step after that”

What is your slogan for this year?

“Don't do dumb stuff” along with “What are you waiting for?” Because I very much wished when I was Freshman aged or the like someone had asked me and asked me like, “For real, what are you waiting for?”

Does being strict help a student learn willingly or learn fearfully?

“Who the [heck] cares? You're learning, I don't care. Part of me wants to say stop being soft. Like, I don't care if we both end up winning. Like, Machiavelli said, ‘you can rule out of fear or you can rule out of love, love is better,’ Machiavelli said that, but if you only have one, choose fear. But no I'm not trying to be Machiavelli, but as long as you learn we both win. So be afraid, be willing I don't care. That's why you're here.”

STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

QR CODE FOR SUGGESTIONS



*Want to see your
submissions in the next
edition of the Magic Ink
Newspaper?*

SCAN ME

QR CODE FOR CREATIVE WRITING



HOCO
vibes



Class
of '27
FLOAT WINNER!



CURRENT SCHOOL FUNDRAISERS!!!



Krispy Kreme - Class of 2027



Can Drive - Class of 2026



FRESHMEN SPIRIT WEAR SALE!

WINTER SPORTS SIGN-UPS!



Girls Varsity Basketball
Girls JV Basketball
Boys Varsity Basketball
Boys JV Basketball
Girls Varsity Volleyball
Girls JV Volleyball
Boys Varsity Volleyball
Girls Varsity Bowling
Boys Varsity Bowling
Boys Varsity Indoor Track
Girls Varsity Indoor Track
Girls Varsity Wrestling (at Dolgeville)
Boys Varsity Wrestling

