



THE TECHNICAL COLLEGE PIATRA-NEAMT
67, Ștefan cel Mare street, Piatra-Neamț

STAP

Magazine of information written in English

No.79

October-November, 2014



ISSN 2284 – 7529
ISSN-L = 2284 - 7529



CONTENTS:

Star's editorial team	3
Autumn facts.....	4
Halloween.....	6
Thanksgiving Day	9
Did you know?.....	8
STUDENTS' WRITING CORNER.....	10
OUR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES.....	12

THE TECHNICAL COLLEGE PIATRA-NEAMT

High - school Students' Magazine



Autumn - time to go to school!

Everybody associates autumn with the beginning of a new school year. It is a moment of reuniting with teachers and classmates after the summer holiday; it is also a moment of a fresh start for the students in the 9th grade. They are now high - school students, they are ready to meet new colleagues, new teachers and new school subjects. We wish them all to have a great school year full of the best of results!

Autumn also brings issue 79 of STAR Magazine. For those of you who read us for the first time, we are pleased to tell you that this publication is targeted at those students who are fond of English and who want to improve their writing skills in this beautiful language. The magazine also

contains an important section dedicated to cultural events connected to the English speaking world. We want our readers to be informed with the most important festivities, customs and traditions that play a significant part in the studying of English as a foreign language.

Another goal of our magazine is to disseminate the activities organized at the Technical College on various occasions, such as: The European Day of Languages, Global Education Week and many others.

We hope that this magazine will help the students like English even more and encourage them to start writing in English even if being able to speak this language is more fun.

Star's Editorial Team

Autumn Info

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower". Albert Camus

The word *autumn* comes from the ancient Etruscan root *autu-* and has within it connotations of the passing of the year. It was borrowed by the neighbouring Romans, and became the Latin word *autumnus*. After the Roman era the word continued to be used as the Old French word *autompne* (*automne* in modern French), and was later normalised to the original Latin. In the Medieval period there are rare examples of its use as early as the 12th century, but by the 16th century it was in common use.

Before the 16th century, *harvest* was the term usually used to refer to the season, as it is common in other West Germanic languages to this day (cf. Dutch *herfst*, German *Herbst* and Scots *hairst*). However, as more people gradually moved from working the land to living in towns, the word *harvest* lost its reference to the time of year and came to refer only to the actual activity of reaping, and *autumn*, as well as *fall*, began to replace it as a reference to the season.

The alternative word *fall* for the season traces its origins to old Germanic languages. The exact derivation is unclear, with the Old English *fiæll* or *feallan* and the Old Norse *fall* all being possible candidates. However, these words all have the meaning "to fall from a height" and are clearly derived either from a common root or from each other. The term came to denote the season in 16th century England,

a contraction of Middle English expressions like "fall of the leaf" and "fall of the year".

During the 17th century, English emigration to the British colonies in North America was at its peak, and the new settlers took the English language with them. While the term *fall* gradually became obsolete in Britain, it became the more common term in North America.

October in History

October was originally the eighth month of the Roman calendar. It comes from the Latin word "*octo*" meaning eight. Later, it became the 10th month when January and February were added to the Calendar.

Symbols of October

1. The birthstones for October are *the tourmaline and the opal*.
2. The zodiac signs for October are *Libra* (September 23 - October 22) and *Scorpio* (October 23 - November 21).
3. The birth flower for October is the *calendula*.

October in Other Languages

French - octobre

Italian - ottobre

Latin - October

Spanish - octubre

Historical Names:

Roman: October

Saxon: Wintirfyllith

Germanic: Wein-mond (Wine month)



Fun Facts about October

- *It is the second Autumn month
- *October in the Northern Hemisphere is similar to April in the Southern Hemisphere. In southern hemisphere, October's weather is just like the northern hemisphere's April weather
- *The leaves of trees often begin to change their colors during this month.
- *The United Kingdom celebrates the 21st as Apple Day
 - *Columbus Day - second Monday of October
 - *Punkie Night is an English custom practised on the last Thursday of October, in Somerset in England.
 - *October 31 - Halloween

Apple Day is an annual celebration, held on October 21 each year, of apples and orchards.

It is celebrated mainly in the United Kingdom. Apple Day was initiated by Common Ground in 1990 and has been celebrated in each subsequent year by people organizing hundreds of local events.



Punky Night falls on the last Thursday in October and is a Somerset tradition.

Some time in the Middle Ages, all the men of Hinto St George went off to a fair. When they failed to return that evening, the women went looking for them by the light of **punkies**.

Punky is another name for a pumpkin which has been hollowed out and has a candle standing inside it.

Traditionally on this night, children in the South of England would carve their 'Punkies', (pumpkins) into Jack O'Lanterns. Once carved the children would go out in groups and march through the streets, singing traditional 'punkie' songs, calling in at friendly houses and competing for best lantern with rival groups they meet. The streets would be lit with the light of the Punkies.

Nowadays, on Punky Night in Hinton St George, Somerset, local children join a procession through the village streets, swinging their homemade lanterns and going house to house, singing traditional 'punkie' songs and sometimes getting a few pennies at the front door.

Traditional Halloween celebrations and customs in England and the rest of Great Britain

On October 31st, we celebrate
Halloween

Halloween

Why do we celebrate Halloween?

Halloween is on the eve of a major Catholic festival, All Saints (1st November) and the eve of the pagan Celtic festival known as Samhain. Typical festive Halloween activities include trick-or-treating (also known as "guising"), attending costume parties, carving jack-o'-lanterns, lighting bonfires, apple bobbing, visiting haunted attractions, playing pranks, telling scary stories.

Trick-or-treating-and guising is a customary celebration for children on Halloween. Children go in costume from house to house, asking for treats such as candy or sometimes money, with the question, "Trick or treat?" The word "trick" refers to a threat to perform mischief on the homeowners or their property if no treat is given. In some parts of Ireland and Scotland children still go guising. In this custom the child performs some ghost story, in order to earn their treats.



Bibliography:

www.wikipedia.org
<http://projectbritain.com/Halloween/why.htm>
<http://www.worldofteaching.com>
<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk>
<http://www.famousbirthdays.com/facts-about-october.html> ; *Let's Celebrate Halloween*

Facts about November

1. The birthstone for November is the *topaz*.
2. The zodiac signs for November are Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) and Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)
3. The birth flower for November is the *chrysanthemum*.
4. Thanksgiving Day in the United States - is a holiday on the fourth Thursday of November.
5. St. Andrew's Day is on 30 November. (On 30 November, Scottish people celebrate St Andrew's Day. St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland).

In the Georgian calendar, the calendar that most of the world uses, November is the eleventh month of the year. However, in the early Roman calendar, it was originally the ninth month. Later, the Roman senate elected to name the eleventh month for Caesar. November is right autumn and winter.

Quick Facts : Thanksgiving Day (USA)

Every year Thanksgiving Day is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. This day was historically a religious observation to give thanks to the Almighty God. The

occasion traditionally celebrates the arrival of the first pilgrims to America.

We can trace this historic American Christian tradition to the year 1623. After the harvest crops were gathered in November 1623, Governor William Bradford of the 1620 Pilgrim Colony, "Plymouth Plantation" in Plymouth, Massachusetts proclaimed:

"All ye Pilgrims with your wives and little ones, do gather at the Meeting House, on the hill... there to listen to the pastor, and render Thanksgiving to the Almighty God for all His blessings."

Thanksgiving Day is a time to feel gratitude for the good things in life. This is a day of festivity, family reunions and lavish feasts. In the USA this day is considered as one of the major family celebration generally celebrated at home with family and friends. The traditional dishes like roasted turkeys, cranberry sauce, corns, potatoes and pumpkin pie are included in the Thanksgiving meal.

People celebrate this day with a great enthusiasm with their family and friends and sometimes give gifts like flowers, jewellery, baked cookies, chocolates etc to their near and dear.

The Feast

Traditional foods are a large part of Thanksgiving celebrations. Many families include the entire family in the food preparation. Traditional foods include turkey, stuffing, gravy, sweet potatoes, cornbread, mashed potatoes, and cranberry

sauce. Many people serve pie for dessert at the end of the meal. Popular pie flavors are pumpkin, pecan, sweet potato, and apple.



Special thanksgiving symbols prevalent world over are: pumpkin, turkey, corn, cranberry, cornucopia, beans.

Thanksgiving Day Around the World

Thanksgiving is essentially a harvest related festival. It celebrates communal harmony. Though it is said to have been originated in America, a number of other countries celebrate harvest related festivals. They are observed with different names and in different seasons.

Harvest related festivals, all the over the world are characterized with lot of fun and merrymaking. Each region has its unique customs and traditions to jubilate the occasion.

Canada celebrates Thanksgiving on the second Monday in the month of October. India also has a number of harvest related festivals in different regions. Popular regional festivals are Pongal, Baisakhi, Lohri, Onam etc. Though the underlying principle behind each of them is same, every festival is and different from the other.

Other Asian countries such as China, Malaysia, Korea celebrate the festival on different . Each festival has a folklore attached to it. Harmony, peace, feeling

gratitude is the underlying theme of the celebration all over.

Resources:

<http://www.learnenglish.de/>

www.wikipedia.org

<http://projectbritain.com/britain>

Did You Know ?

Afternoon Tea is a tea-related ritual, introduced in **Britain** in the early 1840s. It evolved as a mini meal to stem the hunger and anticipation of an evening meal at 8pm.

Afternoon Tea is a meal composed of sandwiches (usually cut delicately into 'fingers'), scones with clotted cream and jam, sweet pastries and cakes. Interestingly, scones were not a common feature of early Afternoon Tea and were only introduced in the twentieth century

Samuel Johnson, the poet and lexicographer, said in 1758: "It is commonly observed, that when two Englishmen meet, their first talk is of the weather; they are in haste to tell each other, what each must already know, that it is hot or cold, bright or cloudy, windy or calm."

Johnson: Idler #11 (June 24, 1758)

And 250 years later surveys suggest it is still regarded as the most British of traits.

Why in Britain Do we drive on the Left ?

About a quarter of the world drives on the left, and the countries that do are mostly old British colonies.

This strange quirk perplexes the rest of the world; however, there is a perfectly good reason. Up to the late 1700's, everybody travelled on the left side of the road because it's the sensible option for feudal, violent societies of mostly right-handed people.

Jousting knights with their lances under their right arm naturally passed on each other's right, and if you passed a stranger on the road you walked on the left to ensure that your protective sword arm was between yourself and him.

Revolutionary France, however, overturned this practice as part of its sweeping social rethink. A change was carried out all over continental Europe by Napoleon. The reason it changed under Napoleon was because he was left handed his armies had to march on the right so he could keep his sword arm between him and any opponent.

From then on, any part of the world which was at some time part of the British Empire was thus left hand and any part colonized by the French was right hand.

In America, the French colonized the southern states (Louisiana for instance) and the Canadian east coast (Quebec). The

Dutch colonized New York (or New Amsterdam).

The Spanish and Portuguese colonized the southern Americas. So The British were a minority in shaping the 'traffic'.

The drive-on-the-right policy was adopted by the USA, which was anxious to cast off all remaining links with its British colonial past.

Once America drove on the right, left-side driving was ultimately doomed.

If you wanted a good reliable vehicle, you bought American, for a period they only manufactured right-hand-drive cars.

From then on many countries changed out of necessity.

Today, the EC would like Britain to fall into line with the rest of Europe, but this is no longer possible. It would cost billions of pounds to change everything round.

The last European country to convert to driving on the right was Sweden in 1967.

While everyone was getting used to the new system, they paid more attention and took more care, resulting in a reduction of the number of road accident casualties.

Since September 2009 Samoa drives on the left instead of the right.

The main reason for this is that they want to use right-hand-drive cars, for instance from Japan and New Zealand, which both drive on the left.

The red telephone box, a telephone kiosk for a public telephone designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, was a familiar sight on the streets of the United Kingdom, Malta, Bermuda and Gibraltar. Despite a reduction in their numbers in recent years, the traditional British red telephone box can still be seen in many places throughout the UK, and in current or former British colonies around the world. The colour red was chosen to make them easy to spot.

From 1926 onwards, the fascias of the kiosks were emblazoned with a prominent crown, representing the British government. The red phone box is often seen as an iconic British symbol throughout the world



Now you know !

STUDENTS' WRITING CORNER

Describe your dream house

*I would like my dream house to be like this: to have a balcony and a garage, a swimming-pool and a courtyard full of flowers and ornamental hedges.

Andrei Ichim-X C

*My dream house is exactly as everybody would like to have: with many rooms, with a big garden full of flowers; I would also like to have some pets: a cat and a puppy. My ideal house must have a large pool and an orchard with many fruit-trees.

Andrei Baciuc-X C

*My dream house is simple, beautiful, medium-sized and with a large garden. I would like my dream house to be situated in the mountains in order to enjoy the silence, the clean air and the beautiful landscape.

Alexandru Țăranu-X C

*My dream house is a very large and spacious house that contains all the facilities that can exist. I would like my dream house to include a large pool

with many trampolines and water slides. I would also like to have a football field in the backyard where I could play with my friends.

Petruț Petrescu-X C

*The house of my dreams is a wooden house but modern, with spacious interiors and large windows; of course, it must have a large garden where I can grow many species of plants and trees. It should also have a swimming-pool. I would also like to have an area specially designed for one of my favourite hobbies, horses and where I can practise and enjoy this hobby.

Vlad Manole-X C

*My dream house would look like my grandfather's house, a traditional Moldavian house with a wooden porch and shingle roof; I would like to have a gazebo in front of the house and a nearby brook would complete the picture of my dream house. Behind the house there should be a garden, some pets, too. I hope that I will have this house someday.

Andrei Savin – X C

Beauties of Romania

Romania, this place is definitely alluring. It has a magnificent seacoast with modern seaside resorts; it has high mountains and in the north of the country, in Moldavia there are the famous monasteries with their specific medieval architecture, paintings and decorations. Romania has got very interesting folk traditions and a rich cultural life.

A special place in Romania is the Danube Delta which is a piece of land in continuous formation. It has many tourist attractions: natural parks, the ancient town of Histria and the beautiful natural landscape.

Mihaela Răducan –IX A



What is the role of schools and education in society?

*School can open our eyes to the universe of human knowledge; schools educate the young people, helping them to improve their conduct in society and form good social skills. School informs and forms the students based on some educational principles, taking care to assess how the objectives have been met.

Petruț Petrescu- X C

*School is a living institution that organizes the learning experience. It aims to achieve objectives using scientific methods and means. Education is a social phenomenon but the life experience is transmitted from one generation to another.

Andrei Savin- X C

*Education helps people to have a good future and school can teach you many things that you cannot learn in another way.

Vlad Manole- X C

*The purpose of education in today's society is to prepare students for the challenges of life and career. Because there are so many careers available, the role of education is not the same for everybody.

Alexandru Țăranu- X C

*The most important role of education is to teach us how to behave; school should prepare children for society and should teach students how to be respectful.

Andrei Baciuc- X C

OUR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES

Here are some photos we took at two important activities organized at the Technical College Piatra-Neamț: The European Day of Languages and All Saints' Day.



You will find interesting things about your school, your town; this is the place for you to express your opinions, to find out interesting facts from all around the world.

*ENGLISH is
YOUR FRIEND*

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Andrei Ichim – X C

Andrei Baciuc- X C

Alexandru Țăranu- X C

Petruț Petrescu- X C

Andrei Savin- X C

Vlad Manole- X C

Mihaela Răducan – IX A

COORDINATING TEACHER:

IRINA VREMIR



Thanksgiving Word Search

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

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Carve | 11. Holiday |
| 2. Celebrate | 12. November |
| 3. Colonist | 13. Pilgrim |
| 4. Cornucopia | 14. Platter |
| 5. Cranberry | 15. Pumpkin |
| 6. Dessert | 16. Thanksgiving |
| 7. Farmer | 17. Tradition |
| 8. Feast | 18. Turkey |
| 9. Gather | 19. Vegetable |
| 10. Harvest | 20. Worship |





These photos are taken
during the
Global Education Week
17-21 November 2014

