

October Brainwork

“Students should feel proud that they have a question rather than pleased that they have the answer.” Janice Szabos

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
October is National Pretzel Month. Tell about a situation in which you felt like a pretzel.	If you were the host of your own TV talk show, which 5 people who are no longer living would you want to interview? List 2 <u>thoughtful</u> questions you would ask each of them.	October is “Computer Learning Month”. List positive and negative differences computer technology has made in your life.	Molly has some quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies. She has at least one of each coin, and has a total of eight coins. The total amount of money she has is \$1.01. What combination of coins could she have?	In what ways is thinking like: A falling leaf? An acorn? A pumpkin seed? A scarecrow?
What is the sum of all of the room numbers in your school? Estimate and then check to see how close your estimation was.	Columbus Day Thinking What if Columbus’ crew had convinced him to turn back? Evaluate the effect this decision might have had on world exploration.	Would you rather be a dinner table or a multiplication table? What are the pluses and minuses of each?	If the oceans are the ice cream, then what are the whales? The shells? The coral reef?	Oct. 14 – “National Train Your Brain Day”. Give your brain a workout and “translate” these movie titles: <i>The Diminutive Female Marine Creature</i> (The Little Mermaid) <i>Sovereign Panthera leo</i> (Lion King)
On October 15 celebrate “National Grouch Day”! Take 5 minutes to share all of your “grouchiness”. Then put them away until next year’s Grouch Day.	Each staircase has 9 steps. How many steps did Aunt Kaffey climb from the 1 st floor to the 3 rd floor? From the 3 rd floor to the 8 th floor? (18 and 45)	Juan bought 8 pounds of candy for his party and paid \$7.36. Leo bought ½ dozen pounds of the same candy and paid \$5.70. Who paid more per pound? How much more?	Oct. 18, 1977 – Reggie Jackson tied Babe Ruth’s record of 3 home runs in one World Series game. Why do you think sports stars are paid so much more than teachers, doctors, firefighters and police officers?	Imagine that you are an autumn leaf falling from a tree. Write a story describing the autumn season from your point of view.
Oct. 21, 1879 – Thomas Edison invented the light bulb. He said “I learned 10,000 ways a light bulb won’t burn.” What would make Edison “light up” if he visited us today?	Oct. 23, 1752 – birthday of French chef Nicholas Appert, inventor of the bouillon cube and “father of canning”. What is something you would like to preserve in a can?	You have just won the grand prize for entering the “Why I Love Pumpkins” contest! Your prize? A pumpkin a day for the next year! Brainstorm some uses for your daily pumpkin.	On Oct. 25, 1870, the item which was collected by “deltiologists” was first mailed. What do you think the hobby of “deltiology” is? (collecting postcards)	Wanda Witch is making a caldron of her favorite brew. She needs 104 ounces of bat saliva, but she only has 3 quarts. How much more bat saliva does she need? (8 ounces)
Oct. 29, 1945 – Ballpoint pens first sold for \$12.50 each. At this time, the minimum wage was 40¢ an hour. How many hours did a person need to work to buy one pen?	Etiquette expert Emily Post was born on Oct. 30, 1873. What is etiquette? Is it something that is important for people to display? Why or why not?	Argue for or against: “Children should not be allowed to read scary books or watch scary movies because they give children nightmares.” Be convincing with your argument!	People in England and Ireland once carved out beets, potatoes and turnips to use as Halloween lanterns. What fruit or vegetable do you think we should carve instead of a pumpkin?	Design a Halloween costume which represents an important aspect of your personality.

Increase Your Vocabulary! “O” words for October – objugate – ochlophobia – opsimath – obscurant – otiose