

Finally! It's my favorite season. Summer is gone and fall is here. I love fall colors and all the Halloween decorations.

When I wasn't watching movies, I had the privilege of helping out at some Halloween parties. The first was for the Koka Community Center. This year, we danced to my favorite movie, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. I couldn't help but sing along, it made me so happy. It was unfortunate my costume didn't match the movie. I opted for a less scary costume this year by going as Eevee from Pokémon. It was cute but such a warm costume. After the dance, I and my new friend ran a pumpkin toss game. It was exciting to see so many kids make it successfully to the finish line with their friend.

The second Halloween party at Tsuchiyama's harvest festival. I, with Shigaraki's ALT, ran the English café for the festival. We became master brewers while making ourselves available for conversation. Fortunately, we had more people who wanted to talk than last year, but it was still sparse. We still had fun taking orders and pretending to be a legitimate business that only sold instant coffee. We didn't get to wander much, but we had the perfect location to be able to hear our friends play in the band, including Taga Junior High School's ALT and a friend from Koka's BOE. We all celebrated our hard work and various jobs by eating delicious food provided by the festival, but bought by our wonderful friends for us. It was a good day.

My third Halloween celebration was on Halloween day with my own students. I got to borrow a costume from one of my co-workers and live my dream of becoming a witch. I participated in two classes using my witchy disguise. Some of the second and first years got to see me during passing time. Some seemed very excited while others seemed very confused. I also got to carry around a Jack O' Lantern carved by the special education classes and their teacher. It was very nostalgic but it felt really good to feel like I had a real Halloween this year.

Then, lastly was this year's Culture Day! It was on All Hallows Eve. It was so exciting this year. The songs were so good. Everyone performed beautifully, I'm not sure how they chose winners. After lunch, we went to the gym. Our band had a great performance of the *Lion King*. I couldn't help but sing along with the nostalgic melodies from my childhood. When the student counsel's play started, I nearly jumped out of my seat when I heard the theme song for *Zootopia*. I was so excited. Then, I had such a strange realization. Last year, I couldn't understand anything that was happening, but this year, I understood significantly more. It was shocking.

During the walk-around, I got to see all of the things everyone had been working so hard for at the other clubs. Everything I saw had so much detail in it, I wondered how they ever found the time to finish all of it, study and still find time to sleep. During the closing remarks, I almost cried for the third years, realizing it was their last Culture Festival. I hope they had a good time, and they will remember it always. Congratulations to all of the winners of the choir contest this year, you deserve it!

