

That October Holiday

So what does it mean when it's November and I still have posts from September sitting on my front page? Still not all that excited to blog I guess. It has now been over a week since some of my Ohio friends came out and we all went haunt hopping. It's a little late to review them, and I'm no expert on this sort of thing anyway so I think I'll just say that it was a good time had by all of us. Fortunately the threatening rain stayed away. Sorry you had to miss the last haunt, J and M. According to C & L it was really good, though whether it be that I was third in a group or just my logical mind drowning out the "let's have fun" portion I just didn't get as much out of it. That said, I thought the actors did a good job, especially outdoors (I really wish I had seen the one jumping out at the younger kids but I was facing the wrong direction at the time- apparently their reactions were priceless). Thanks again C & L for paying for that one.

For work, this week was much better than last for the most part. The only work-day that had rain was Friday, but I was able to take a full-day sub job that day instead, bumping my one Friday gig to Saturday- yes, the holiday. Did you all have a happy Martin Luther day? You know, the anniversary of Luther nailing the [Ninety-Five Theses](#) to the church door in 1517 (the doors were popularly used as bulletin boards at that time). Oh, you celebrated a different holiday you say? Well, so did the kids on Friday. Unluckily for the teacher I subbed for, her son got sick on party day so I was the lucky one who got to take the job in her place. It was my favorite grade, 5th, and it was quite easy. The morning consisted of three tests- didn't you hate days like that in school?- split by an hour of gym and music. At least one of the tests was only spelling, so only two of them were big thinking tests. Of course, I say "at least" for the spelling test as I was a really good speller in school. I suppose for some it may have

been just as rough as the other two.

Lunch time, then the kids were back in costume. Did I mention this was the one day of the year 2/3 of the class went home for lunch? All afternoon was party time. There was a costume parade through the neighborhood scheduled as well, but- you know- rain. As a result, the parents came to the school and watched the kids march across the stage instead. Outside of this time the parent volunteers were in charge. They organized the classroom party- the food, games, and whatnot- while I just helped as needed. The kids had a scavenger hunt, played cauldron bowling and a scooter-relay with toilet paper mummy-wrapping, created a haunted story web, felt brains, hearts, and whatnot in a box, jumped for donuts on a string, and had cupcakes and water (where was the punch??). Most of the year in hometown district serving food in classrooms is a big no-no- they even stopped birthday treats last year- but this was one of the few times they still get to eat sweets in class.

Some of the costumes were classic. There were a few wearing ghoulish costumes including the obligatory Scream mask, some costumes of movie/tv characters like Darth Maul, and a few M&M girls, but there were some stand-out ones including a girl with an overturned bowl of spaghetti on her head (represented by white yarn with brown yarn-ball meatballs), another girl who came as a washing machine with her head under a pile of "dirty" clothes on top, and a boy who came as a vending machine. Actually, while original, I'm not sure the last one would have won any awards. The front really did look like a vending machine with real chips, candy bars, and whatnot, but in reality it was what could have been a store demo with straps so he could wear it in front of him. It was apparently heavy too, as he took the elevator upstairs instead of the stairs. I hope he had permission, but I felt for him so I didn't ask. The washing machine on the other hand was an excellent costume. I already mentioned the pile of clothes to

hide her face, but it also came complete with a box of fabric softener and bottle of detergent taped or glued to it. The only thing that would have improved the costume was if the round door in front actually opened revealing more clothes.

So what did I do for halloween? Well, following work on the windy day I... handed out candy. Yep, that was it. I did have a "phantom of the opera" half-mask, so I wore it when I answered the door, but that was pretty much it. We had our usual half-dozen groups of kids come to our door. Seriously, is our house on the sex-offender list or something? Since moving here we have had no more than ten groups of costumed candy-beggars stop by each year. Nothing at all like or previous location across from a school. Oh, well.

We did have a 4th/5th grade church party Friday night, but this post is getting long so I think I will save it for a future church post.