

The halls of West Elementary School were...

The Paducah Parks Services Annual Halloween Story Contest has picked their winners! Once again, PAFM is delighted to publish excerpts from these budding authors.

The rules were that each story had to begin with, "The halls of West Elementary School were..." and be no longer than 500 words for third-fourth graders, 600 words for fifth-sixth graders and 700 for seventh-eighth graders. The complete stories are published on iListWesternKentucky.com. Congratulations to this year's winners!

3rd Grade Winner: Kory Sulcer

When the principal heard the doorbell, he called a lockdown. The teachers knew it wasn't safe in the classroom with the monsters, so they thought about going outside. One of the teachers went outside by accident, and that very second she said "RUN!" She saw zombie's eyes popping out of his brain. She quickly locked the door and barricaded it. Then, the cafeteria ladies had an idea to cook some garlic bread to delay the vampires. Then, the gym teacher decided to gather all the volleyballs to throw at the zombies. The teachers were worried that they wouldn't be able to get rid of the ghosts, but suddenly the teachers knew what to do with the ghosts. They gathered all of their students. The other teachers were called and said go to your classroom door. When I yell "push", open your door then run towards

the ghosts. They ran straight through the ghosts and suddenly all the ghosts disappeared. Everything was fine inside, but when the principal looked outside all he could see was vampires, ghosts, and zombies.

4th Grade Winner: Pacey Wiley

As I went to my locker to put away my things, I heard a haunting noise. I turned around but nothing was there. It must've been in my head. I went to my seat and just as I went to sit down I heard a scream. This time I knew it wasn't in my head. I made a run for the outside doors. I got the feeling I was being followed but I turned around and all of the classroom doors slammed shut. There were bloody handprints all over them. I took off running to the bathroom. There was a little girl crying. I talked to her and we kept hearing what sounded like kids playing basketball in the gym. We decided to try and make a run to the gym. As we ran in there, we could still hear the sounds of kids playing ball but no one was around. We started hollering for help but nobody came. We decided to try another outside door. As we were running there, we heard crying coming from our classroom.

5th Grade Winner: Tanner Kight

Now, I was all alone in the 5th grade wing, trying to be brave as I made my way in the silent black night to find my locker. Usually, there would be teachers roaming the halls finishing up the day's

activities, but with the excitement of Halloween and kids trick or treating, there wasn't a soul to be found. Suddenly, as I made my way to my destination, eerie green light started coming from under the door in a classroom on my right. I turned to leave, but I desperately needed that book to study for the test we were taking the next day. I took a deep breath, turned back to face the glowing light, and started slowly creeping down the hallway being as quiet as a mouse. I had just reached my locker, which was thirteen lockers from the sight of the light, when I heard a loud bang and the locker across from the room flew open! Curiosity got the best of me, so I tiptoed to the door in question. As I ever so slowly peeked inside the open door, I heard a moan, "Taaannneeeerrrrr." My heart was racing, I turned and ran down the hallway as fast as I could and out the front doors.

6th Grade Winner: Arrianna Talley

As she pulled on the car door handle she realized it was locked, so she was waiting for her mom when she saw a man dressed in a black suit and hat walking towards her. When the man approached, he busted her mom's car window. Anna screamed and tried to run, but the man had grabbed her arm and unlocked the door and threw Anna in. Then he hot-wired the car with Anna still screaming for her mom. She watched her mom dial 911 as she was banging on the door then the man said "buckle up" with a suspicious smirk on his face and drove away. Anna was terrified and was wondering what was happening! He stopped to blindfold her then started driving again. He stopped to blindfold her then started driving again. Anna was in shock! She started asking questions like "Who are you?" and "Why ME!?" Then after an hour he said we are almost there. Anna was making up a plan in her head to punch him and run! Then the man said "There is no need for violence or punching. I know exactly what you are thinking so you cannot escape." At that moment Anna felt the car stop. She heard him open the car door and then he grabbed her. She got slammed into a room filled with pictures of her at school and at the Halloween shop hung to the walls.

7th Grade Winner: Emmy Seaton

The lunch bell started to ring. At lunch I found a note when I unfolded my napkin. The note read, "You will do great at auditions Everly! Your mom will be so proud!" The note brought a little tear to my eyes. I really did miss my mom. Wait... who put this in my napkin? Strange things were beginning to happen which made me even more nervous. The auditions came around the corner sooner than I desired. Nerves shivered up my spine all morning. The auditions came around the

corner sooner than I desired. Nerves shivered up my spine all morning. I had butterflies in my stomach. When one girl started to sing, the alarms went off for no reason. Then, when a boy tried to play his piano, an eerie whistling sound filtered across the room. It was my turn to audition, I heard someone call out to me "Everly". I turned around to find no one there. I sat down at the piano. I then heard phantom footsteps. I was very creeped out. I began playing my song, when suddenly the keys next to me started to go up and down. An unexplained cool breeze wrapped around me and I immediately felt dizzy. The hairs on the back of my neck stood and my fingers became numb. When I finished, the judges clapped and said I made the audition! I was so happy but very concerned. Was I imagining that the keys were playing by themselves?

8th Grade Winner: Lilly Watson

Aaahhh! That had definitely not come from room 301. I grabbed my trusty broom again and quietly walked in the direction of the sound. I shook more and more with each step I took, the sound getting louder and louder. Just as I was about to reach it, a bright flash of light knocked me off my feet. As I rubbed my eyes, my vision started to return. In front of me stood a glowing figure. As I looked closer, I saw what appeared to be a middle-aged woman with dark, curly hair and a young child in her arms. I rubbed my eyes again, in case I might be seeing things. The woman still stood in front of me with a warm smile on her face. In a thick Italian accent, she said, "Do you know who I am?" She must have noticed my clueless look, because she said, "I am St. Gianna Beretta Molla." Gesturing to the child in her arms, she said, "This is my daughter Mariolina. Tomorrow is a feast day known as All Saints Day. I want you to prepare others for this coming day, and let them know to celebrate it in gladness. I have died a martyr for the sake of my child. Let others also value this day and the lives of all who celebrate it. Please remind others on this day of peace to value life in honor of all the saints coming down to earth to visit them. Carmen, if you do so, you will certainly be remembered in my heart, and I will always be with you."

Read the complete first place winners by visiting iListWesternKentucky.com