

Community Education Update: 2025 Menahga Pumpkin Party

The **29th Annual Menahga Pumpkin Party** was another incredible success! Held on October 31st, this long-standing community tradition once again brought families, students, and volunteers together for an evening filled with fun, excitement, and festive Halloween spirit. Although this is the 29th year of the event, it marks my **8th year coordinating** the celebration, and it continues to be a highlight of our fall season.

This year, **244 children** joined in the fun, supported by **26 enthusiastic student volunteers** who helped ensure the night ran smoothly. Even with cooler temperatures and the event falling on a Friday, the energy inside was fantastic, and students of all ages enjoyed every moment.

Our community's generosity made the event truly shine. We received **\$2,420** in donations, which allowed us to create an engaging "Under the Water"—themed glow-light hallway, purchase portable power sources for gym inflatables, stock an impressive collection of door prizes, and supply plenty of candy and materials for the night's activities. Altogether, we provided over **5,400 pieces of candy** and nearly **2,000 snacks and treats**, making sure every child left with a full treat bag and a big smile.

To thank our volunteers for their time and hard work, we served a dinner of Hot Stuff Pizza, soda, and chips. This meal was purchased using Pumpkin Party funds, and the local business generously offered a discount to support the program.

Door prizes were a major highlight again this year, with **four big winners** taking home scooters:

- **Electric Razor Scooters:**
 - Hazel Chase
 - Arlo Brouillette
- **Razor RipRider Scooters:**
 - Amelia Niemela
 - Levi Mitchell

Other prizes included Menahga travel mugs, Halloween Squishmallows, light-up Bluetooth speakers, personal pan pizzas, Menahga sweatshirts, LEGO sets, and more—creating excitement throughout the evening.

The atmosphere was filled with laughter, joy, and community pride. It was wonderful to see students and families connecting, celebrating, and creating memories in a safe, welcoming environment. The PRE also featured the event in their November 1st edition, highlighting the continued impact of this cherished tradition.

Local Sponsors:

Wolf Lake Wolf Pack Baseball

G&T Sanitation

Wolf Lake Wolf Pack Baseball
Senior Citizens Center
North Central Alignment and Tire Co.
Jan's Hair Attitude
Lamb Weston/ RDO Frozen
Menahga Concrete Products
A1A Sandblast Co
Glister Excavating Inc.
Citizens National Bank
TruStar Federal Credit Union
VFW Auxiliary
Todd- Wadena Electric Cooperative
Gateway Lions Club
Menahga VFW Post 6206
Sunnybrook Auto Sales
West Central Telephone
CHI St. Joseph's Health - Common Spirit
Cenex Station/ Hot Stuff Pizza
Rocky's Pizza
Review-Messenger
Northwood Rescue
Terri Peterson
Shell Gas Station
Viking Coca Cola
Jessi Wattenhofer

With another successful Pumpkin Party in the books, I'm already excited to begin planning for the 30th anniversary celebration next year. This event continues to grow, thrive, and bring joy to our community—and I look forward to making our next one the biggest and best yet!

Thank you,

Jessi Wattenhofer