



'The Biggest Lil' Annual Halloween Carnival' returns Oct. 27 to benefit Solana Vista and Skyline schools

BY JEANNE FERRIS

The Biggest Lil' Annual Halloween Carnival returns to 780 Santa Victoria on Oct. 27, beginning at 11 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m.

Proceeds from this 40 years-plus tradition benefit the children's enrichment programs at Solana Vista and Skyline Elementary Schools and hosts in alliance with Solana Beach Foundation for Learning (SBFL). This program is referred to as Wheel Day and includes Art, Physical Education, Science, Technology, plus supporting materials and teacher's salaries.

Shake the cobwebs — or not — out of your scary or funny costume and bring your wee ones or significant others to Solana Vista for the Costume Contest, which will be judged from 12-1:30 p.m. Categories are: Cutest, Funniest, Scariest, Most Original and Best Group.

Reigning Halloween queens are Michelle Becker and Halle Shilling. Kudos to Shannon Kearns and Monica Fernandez who will succeed them next year. Assisting them will be volunteer parents, students and school staff at this beloved event.

"A new game debuting this year is the Human Hamster Ball Obstacle Course," said Becker. "Get into a human-sized hamster ball and try your best to navigate around an obstacle course. Should be very fun to participate in, maybe more fun to watch."

"We have everyone's favorite games again," adds Shilling. "Haunted House, Cakewalk, Toilet Toss, Photo Booth, etc. There are 28 game booths, a silent auction with featured teacher and principal outings and a raffle offering about 150 surprise items."

Hot auction items are: one year personalized reserved parking at Solana Vista; front row seats for Solana Vista's Third Grade Play; Skyline's Talent Show; and the Sixth Grade Graduation ceremony with reserved parking.

"I've been going to the carnival before I was [a] 1 year old. Every year I help with set-up and I can never wait until it starts," said Megan Johnson. "When I was 4 years old, I went into the Haunted House and I was so scared but my brothers were with me and I felt safe. I'm so excited to work in the Haunted House this year as a sixth grader. I love the carnival!"

"It's truly a community event," said Becker. "SB Little



Enjoying a previous Halloween Carnival are: Leo Polidori: Pilot; Ali Polidori: Kandy Korn witch; Abby Freeman: Punker; Jaye Patrick: Winner. Photo/Jeanne Ferris

League will be here with the Speed Sport (clocks fast pitches), Friends of the Library (SB) is volunteering at the Treasure Chest, SB Soccer Club has the Soccer Kick, TVIA is operating the Sling Shot and Dad's Club from both schools are hosting an ice cream booth.

Performances include: YMCA Expressions Dance Team at 1 p.m. and All-Star Dance at 3 p.m. American Family Martial Arts demonstrates at 2 p.m. and an Xtreme Fun "live" D.J. will emcee and rock the house.

For purchase: home crafted baked goods, tamales, and fruit kabobs, with local merchants: Tony's Jacal, Subway, Caffe La Bocca, Chief's, Fish Market, Pizza Port, and California Pizza Kitchen. Please, no dogs at the school.

For volunteer and donation opportunities, please visit the SBFL website: www.sbfl.org.