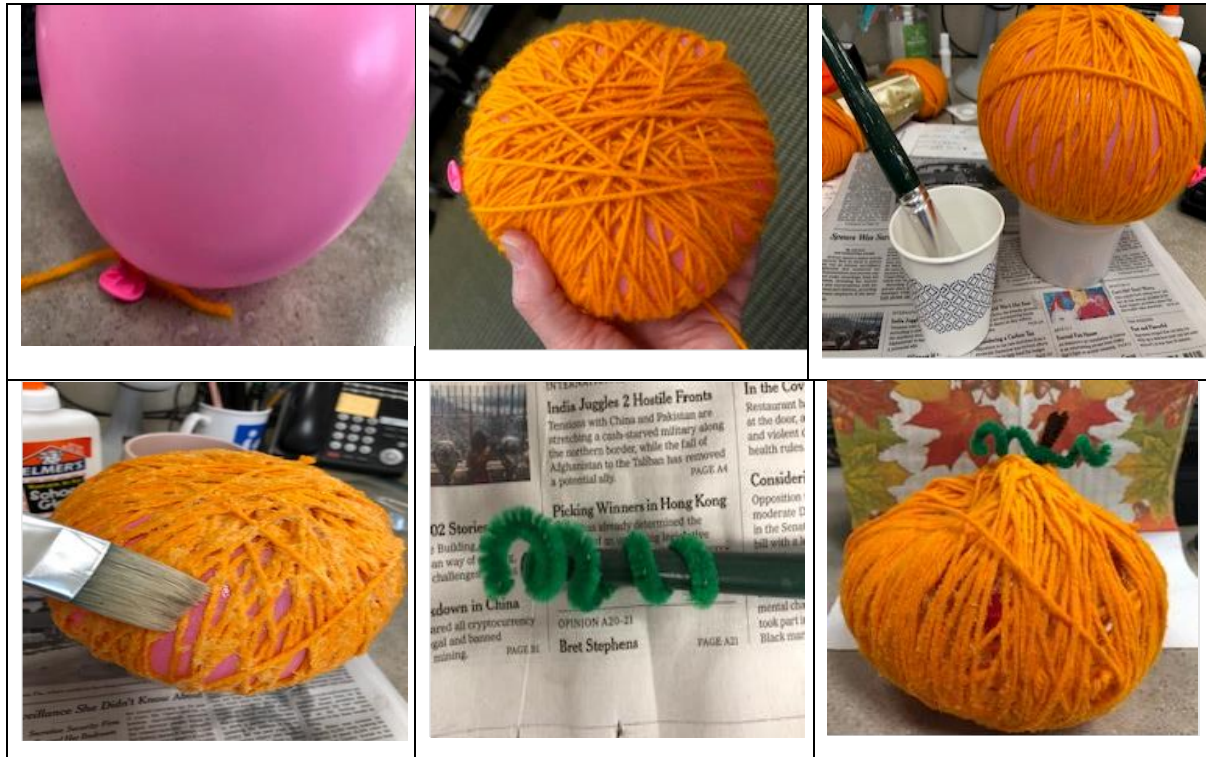


This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. During the fall season we see pumpkins everywhere. Pumpkins are not only fun to decorate, they are considered a very important food crop for Native Americans. They are considered one of the "3 sisters"-maize, squash, and beans. Native Americans introduced this nourishing food source to early American settlers. Pumpkins are really grown around the world, and enjoyed in 6 of the 7 continents. Do you know which continent does not grow pumpkins? Let's celebrate this world-tradition with a pumpkin decoration of our own!

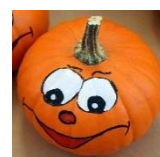


1- Blow up a balloon and tie a knot. Keep it small-about the size of a grapefruit. Lay down some newspaper, plastic, or a brown bag to protect your work area. Wrap yarn or string around and around the balloon. Do not pull it too hard, but make sure the yarn is not falling off anywhere or becomes loose. You may have to unwrap and start over if it does come loose. No worries! When the balloon is pretty covered with the yarn, set it on a bowl or plastic container so it does not roll away. Pour glue over the pumpkin. Dip a paintbrush or Q-tip in a bowl of water and wet down the glue to make sure all of the yarn is covered. For younger artists, you can cut strips of yarn and soak them in a bowl of glue and a tad of water. Lay them overlapping and covering the whole balloon. If you do not have yarn, you can use thin strips of newspaper or brown bag. If you do not have white glue, you can mix a mixture of flour and water making a thin paste. Leave it to **dry completely**. You may want to put a second coat of glue on to ensure it is strong.

2- When it has dried completely, hold the end of the balloon and cut a tiny slit in the top. The balloon will shrivel as the air escapes. Gently, pull the whole balloon out of the pumpkin. Give your pumpkin a brown stem and even a few green leaves with string, yarn, pipe cleaners, or even ribbon.

Have fun with a world-pumpkin tradition!

Ms. Susan



(Pumpkins do not grow in Antarctica!)