



Bellmoore Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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October 20, 2021

Re: Halloween at Bellmoore School on October 29th

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Based on recently shared information that has been developed in consultation with Hamilton Public Health, we have some Halloween guidelines to share with you. These guidelines are intended to support and supplement the processes already in place regarding the COVID19 fundamentals and the social distancing requirements in schools.

In addition, wearing Black and Orange on October 29th, we have learned that children are able to wear costumes as well. Your child can choose to wear a costume for the entire day, wear black and orange or not participate in wearing any festive attire.

We will not be having a school Halloween Parade to prevent cohorts from crossing paths and to ensure we follow the protocol guidelines of reducing the number of people that gather. Unfortunately, at this time, we are not able to have any visitors in the school.

Please do not send any treats/goodie bags/packages for your child to share with their classmates. While we appreciate your generosity, we want to limit the number of items our students will be handling.

Feel free to send a special treat, that is peanut and nut free, to school with your child to enjoy during their classroom celebrations. Please keep in mind that we continue to be a nut safe school and they are not to share with others.

If your child chooses to wear a costume, they must wear the costume to school for the entire day to not overwhelm the use of washrooms.

Please remember the following guidelines when selecting a costume for your child:

- Costumes may not be violent or graphic in nature (knives, blood, swords, axes, guns, gruesome disfigurement or burns)
- Costumes will be worn during recess and classes such as physical education or dance. Please ensure the costume is comfortable, easy to move in and sit in. The costume must be able to fit under a jacket.
- Costumes may not be based on people's culture as this is offensive, harmful and insensitive.
- Costume masks cannot be worn, as students need to be recognizable and students are still required to wear a face mask, as outlined by Public Health.
- Please have your children leave all props at home (magic wands, witch's brooms etc.)
- Please do your children's special makeup for the day before they come to school.

Please have a conversation with your children regarding new regulations for Halloween. Although it will be on a smaller scale, we are happy to still be able to offer a fun day to commemorate this event. Below are a list of questions to consider if choosing and wearing a costume:

- Is my costume making fun of a group of people, their culture, religion and/or belief systems?
- Does my costume reinforce jokes and stereotypes about certain groups, cultures, religions and/or belief systems?
- Am I altering my skin color, facial/body features to make it like a particular race, ethnicity, or cultural group?
- Am I dressing up as a culture or borrowing from a religion that is not my own or is not part of my background?

From an equity lens, we are committed to creating a safe, festive experience for our students, at the end of October that is responsive and respectful to the diversity within our community.

Sincerely,
The Bellmoore Administration Team