



# Dundas Central Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

73 Melville Street  
Dundas, Ontario L9H2A2  
Phone: 905.627.3521  
Fax: 905.627.3522

EMAIL: [dundascentral@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:dundascentral@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: L. Bartkiw  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundascentral](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundascentral)

October 25, 2022.

Dear Dundas Central Families,

## **Regarding Halloween Celebrations on Monday, October 31, 2022.**

### K to Grade 5 – Halloween Parade

Please join us for our annual Halloween Parade for students in Kindergarten to Grade 5. Students are asked to arrive dressed in costume and to line up for morning entry. At bell time, staff will take students inside for attendance and announcements. We ask that you remain behind the pilons until students enter the school. After this time, you are invited to stand around on the perimeter of the blacktop. As soon as attendance and announcements are over, staff will lead their classes outside for the parade. If it is raining, families will be invited to the gymnasium and asked to stand around the perimeter of the gymnasium as classes parade through.

### **Classroom Parties and Treats Grade K-5**

A reminder that we are an all nut safe school. Please ensure that all treats are nut free. Teachers will communicate with you about classroom parties and treats.

### **Grade 6 to 8**

#### Halloween Dance

Students in Grades 6 to 8 are invited to arrive in costume on Monday, October 31st, and to participate in a Halloween Dance. Our Dance will be held during Period 6 and 7 (approximately 1:40 – 2:45 pm). The cost for the dance will be a toonie (\$2), and this money will go toward Grade 8 Graduation celebrations.

Students not wishing to participate in the Dance are invited to Room 104 where board games and card games will be offered by supervising staff.

Staff will be communicating to their classes and families the details specific to their classroom plans. Please reach out to your child's teacher for information if needed.



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We look forward to a light-hearted celebration and an opportunity for everyone to enjoy one another's company in a safe and caring setting.

Laura Bartkiw, Principal and the Dundas Central Staff

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A note regarding costumes communicated by HWDSB:

Halloween Costumes and Cultural Appropriation:

Don't assume that all students will participate in Halloween activities. There are students who do not celebrate and/or participate. Their choice should be respected and the activities that are planned in their class shouldn't interfere with their schooling. Cultural appropriation means taking or borrowing a look or trait from a culture that is not your own. Costumes that are based on people's culture are offensive, harmful and insensitive.

The following are suggested questions to reflect on when choosing a costume to avoid being disrespectful or offensive that schools can share with their school community:

- 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?

*Student Achievement, Equity and Safe Schools*