



Weekly Update October 25-29, 2021



Halloween



Halloween will still be happening at Earl Kitchener on **Friday, October 29**, however, it will look a little different. Please find below the School Board protocols that will be in place to ensure everyone remains safe.

PLEASE READ THE PROTOCOLS BELOW CAREFULLY AS THEY WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO IN ORDER TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE:

- Students can wear costumes to school as per prior years practice (e.g., no cultural appropriation, no offensive and insensitive costumes, no weapons, no costume masks that might impede vision, no inappropriate images, etc.)
- Students choosing to wear a costume should come to the school already wearing the costume and keep the costume on for the duration of the day. Staff will be **unable** to assist students with costumes (this includes washroom breaks).
- Parents will not be allowed to drop costumes off.
- Student costumes must be able to accommodate a face covering as per COVID requirements.
- Costumes can not have hand coverings, as students need to be able to sanitize hands on a regular basis.
- Many students will have gym that day, and must be able to fully participate in gym class.
- A costume mask is not a substitute for a face covering. A costume mask should not be worn over a non-medical mask or face covering because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe.
- No costume parades are permitted indoors or outdoors.
- No in-person assemblies are permitted.
- Activities must take place within a student cohort and not involve a mixing of cohorts.
- If classes would like include treats for students during activities, these must only be purchased and individually packaged treats (no home made foods). There is no need to clean or disinfect pre-packaged treats. **These treats MUST be brought by the student and cannot be dropped off later in the day.** All snacks must be nut free.
- Maintain safe practices including physical distancing and hand hygiene.
- Don't assume that all students will participate in Halloween activities. Remember there are students who do not celebrate and/or participate. Their choice should be respected and the activities that are planned in their class should not interfere with their schooling.



Daily Attestation

Thank you to all those families that are signing the daily screeners that come home. We understand that this might get missed on occasion, however we are **mandated** by Public Health, and the School Board to reach out to these families when they are not initialled. Please try to make this part of your daily routine. Thank you again for your understanding and cooperation.



Masking On Playground

This is a reminder that students are to wear their masks while walking on the playground to and from their pods, and must keep them on if they are yelling or in very close contact with others in their cohort. Masks may be removed if safe distancing can be maintained while in their cohort.

Student Nutrition Program

Our student nutrition program will begin on Tuesday, November 9, 2021. Snacks will be made available to all students prior to announcements each Tuesday and Thursday. Snacks will be a nutritious start to the day, and will be nut free.

Dropping Items Off

At this time, we are unable to accept items being dropped off late. Please ensure that your child has everything they need prior to dropping them off at school (water bottle, lunch, backpack etc). A check list for the student is a great way to help them learn to gather their items up. Any items dropped off would result in multiple people touching the item, which increases exposure. We thank you for your assistance and understanding with this.

Illness at School

We take illness very seriously at the school, so if a student says they are not feeling well, we will call for them to be picked up, and all Covid protocols must be followed. Please encourage your child to speak up if they are not feeling well. With this in mind, we are also asking parents to talk to their children about the ramifications for saying they are sick when they are not. These instances must be treated like all other illnesses, however, it puts unnecessary burden on the school if they are not really ill, and just want to go home.



Parking During Drop-Off/Pick-Up

Please ensure that you are **NOT** blocking **ANY** driveways during pick-up and drop-off. Many residents have called the school complaining that they cannot get in and out of their own driveways. Several neighbours have called the city, and parking enforcement will be monitoring and ticketing as needed. Please be respectful, and if necessary, park further away, and walk to the school.

Attendance ✓

Please ensure that your child/ren arrive to school on time. Our morning bell rings at 8:50am, so students should be on the playground by 8:45am. Late arrival can disrupt the start of the class for both your child, as well as the rest of the class. Prompt arrival allows all students to learn the morning routines, and be fully ready to start the day.