



Earl Kitchener Elementary School

October 2022.

Re: Halloween (and celebrations in schools) PLAN

Dear Earl Kitchener families,

Cultural and religious practices, which may include holiday and other celebrations, are important aspects of a person's identity. Our learning as educators around equity continues, and we are consistently exploring our efforts to be more inclusive. Staff are regularly engaged in discussions around our approach to various activities that have traditionally been part of the school experience for children, and Halloween is an example.

Not all families participate in celebrating Halloween and we do our best to have meaningful alternatives for students where possible. For those intending to 'dress up', please consider your choices carefully as costumes that are based on others cultures are offensive, harmful and insensitive.

Halloween Plan @ EK

- Children wishing to wear costumes should arrive on Monday, October 31st already dressed and will remain in costume throughout the day. It is important to note that children will need to feel comfortable participating and moving about and please no 'weaponry' or masks that cover the eyes.
- (FDK) Shortly after entry, and once attendance is complete, there will be a Kindergarten Parade that loops outside for any parents interested in joining us to see (please ensure that children are on time for accurate attendance taking). Parents will be invited onto the playground AFTER student entry and we anticipate that the K Parade will make its way outside (on back playground) sometime around 9:15.
- (Grades 1-5) Grade 1-5 classes will also participate in a parade that loops outside for parents waiting on the playground at roughly 9:30.
- The 'ideal' vantage point for parades is likely the wood chip area!
- Classes organize their own celebrations and children are welcome to bring in (nut-free) pre-packaged treats (store bought pre-packaged items can be shared with classmates, homemade items unfortunately cannot be shared).

Thank you!

Sincerely,

The Staff of Earl Kitchener School

