



# Earl Kitchener Elementary School

**October 2024.**

**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 inclusive in our work. 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 provide alternatives for students where possible. For those intending to 'dress up', please consider your choices carefully as costumes that are based on other cultures are offensive, harmful and insensitive.

**Halloween Plan @ EK for Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.**

(Costumes) FDK children wishing to wear costumes should arrive on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> already dressed and will remain in costume throughout the day. Students in Grades 1-5 are welcome to arrive in costume however they may also change at some point prior to their parade/class celebration. 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 out back 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 back playground AFTER student entry, and we anticipate that the K Parade will make its way outside around 9:15 after morning announcements.

(Grades 1-5) Grade 1-5 classes will also participate in a parade that leaves out the front/main entrance of the school and up Dundurn to Aberdeen Gardens Retirement home. They will return via the back playground gates (vantage points on Dundurn, front lawn, and back playground). This parade begins after 2<sup>nd</sup> Nutrition Break just prior to 2:00 pm.

The 'ideal' vantage point for the morning FDK parade is likely the wood chip area out back! For the afternoon Grade 1-5 parade, either the front lawn on Dundurn, or the back playground for when we return from A.G. (see above).

Classes organize their own celebrations and children are welcome to bring in (nut-free) pre-packaged treats and any questions/clarification should go directly to your child's teacher.

**Thank you and sincerely,**

**The Staff of Earl Kitchener School**