



# Rosedale Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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October 2024.

Dear Rosedale Families;

## **Regarding Halloween Celebrations on Thursday, October 31, 2024.**

### K to Grade 5 – Halloween Parade

Students will parade around the block on the sidewalk wearing their Halloween costumes after morning attendance is taken. Families are welcome to view the parade beginning at 8:40 am. The best view of the parade will be across the street on the sidewalk. Please keep the parade route sidewalk adjacent to the school clear for classroom lines. The parade will be cancelled for families to view if there is rain. Students should come to school dressed in their costume. Please dress for the weather. Please do not send your child with pretend weapons that accompany their costumes.

### Booo-gie-a-thon

On Thursday, October 31st the students and staff will participate in our Hallowe'en Booo-gie-a-thon Fundraiser, where music will keep everyone dancing, moving and shaking throughout the day! Bring a \$2 donation and you will be entered to win a prize in the class draw! Online Payments Only! No cash will be accepted Draw Closes Wednesday, October 29th!

### **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. We also have students who experience allergies to milk products and other chemicals and preservatives in candy and treats. Teachers will communicate with you about classroom parties and treats. Please reach out to your child's teacher for more information if needed.

Please note that this year Diwali, also known as the *Festival of Lights* in India falls on October 31<sup>st</sup>. It is a time of joy for families celebrating Diwali, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness.

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 Rosedale Staff



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A note regarding costumes communicated by HWDSB:

## Halloween Costumes and Cultural Appropriation:

We cannot assume that all students will participate in Halloween activities. There are students who do not celebrate and/or participate. Their choice is 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*