



# Sir William Osler Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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October 25, 2023

Dear Families,

The recognition of Hallowe'en takes place October 31<sup>st</sup>. We will be having a Halloween parade for our main floor students (K- 4/5). Parents and guardians are invited to attend. We would ask families to arrive at 9:30 am in the gym. Parents are invited to attend. Please enter through the front doors and head into the gym. Please stay in the center area designated by the black lines. The parade will start at 9:35.

We ask the following:

- Students come to school already dressed in their costumes.
- The parade will take place in the Gymnasium, please take **NO** pictures as not all students/parents have media consent on file
- While the day will be one our Nutritional exception days and Halloween candy will be allowed, please be mindful that **all food should NUT FREE.**
- These must only be purchased and individually packaged treats (no home baked foods).
- Treats will only be handed out and taken home to consume -we will not be eating the treats at school

Further details will be provided to you by your child's teacher in a separate email.

It is **OPTIONAL**. If your child does not want to participate in the parade, there will be accommodations provided for them to go to another room and do an activity under staff supervision.

The following guidelines are provided to support staff, students, and families, in the optional recognition of Hallowe'en:

### **Inclusive, respectful practice: Dressing up**

- The opportunity to dress up is **optional** for students and can incorporate the colours orange and black or fall colours.



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## Keep in mind:

- The Truth and Reconciliation commitments

## Avoid

- Hurtful or demeaning representations of cultural and/or creed beliefs in symbols, images/graphics/caricatures, texts.
- Images/graphics/caricatures of social identities that stereotype and promote prejudice and racism
- Costumes that stigmatize abilities, mental health, and wellbeing experiences
- Mischaracterizing and/or stereotyping gender identity and expression at any time of the school year including Hallowe'en Costumes that promote violence (real or fictitious) towards marginalized groups (including but not limited to misogyny, homophobia, Islamophobia, anti-Black racism)
- Pandemic-themed costumes that may cause distress for those impacted by the Covid-19 virus
- Costume dress that includes such paraphernalia as swords, shields, batons that potentially can be used as a weapon to ensure student safety. **These are not to be brought to school.**

Curriculum activities will be planned inclusively with options to meet the varying levels of student participation in Hallowe'en and other festive celebrations related to the harvest season.

Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brent Wallace,  
Principal

Umar Qureshi,  
Vice Principal