

Hello Parents and Guardians,

As we approach Halloween, we wanted to send some reminders and expectations to ensure we are inclusive and safe in our learning environment. We recognize that not all students/families celebrate Halloween and may not be interested in participating in certain activities offered at school. Their choice will be respected and the activities planned in their class shouldn't interfere with their schooling. The day can be recognized with students wearing costumes or black and/or orange clothing.



#### **Parade (kindergarten to grade 4)**

We will be having a parade for our main floor students. Parents and guardians are welcome to join us on Thursday October 31st at 9:30 am in the gym. For the safety of all students, please ensure:

- Your child arrives on time (9:15am) to their classroom as usual for attendance and opening routines.
- Parents/guardians enter through the front doors at 9:30 AM and continue straight to the gym.
- In the gym, please stand and remain in the middle portion -inside the large black floor lines.
- Students and staff will enter the gym in a long line and will travel around the perimeter.
- Parents are asked to remain in the middle until all students and staff have left the gym and returned to class.
- There are no photos allowed by visitors -not all students/parents have media consent on file.
- **Have your child arrive to school already dressed in their costume.** Please send in a bag for students to place costumes in before we go out for recess. Students will be going out for recess, send in appropriate clothes for when costumes are taken off.

#### **Treats**

There will be an opportunity in the day for the students to have a celebration in the classroom with their classmates. To keep the amount of food reasonable for each student, we are going to have a "class party in a bag." This way parents can send in an individual treat for their child specifically to have during that time. 25 sets of cupcakes are way too much! If you would like to send a treat with your child, please ensure peanut and nut free items as we do have students with allergies.

#### **Costumes**

Please review the following suggestions with your children when choosing a costume to avoid being disrespectful or offensive:

- Students can wear costumes or black and orange to school as per prior years practice.
- Students choosing to wear a costume should come to the school, **wearing the costume.**
- No weapons- real or fake.
- No masks worn on face.
- No inflatable costumes.
- No cultural appropriation: taking or borrowing a look or a trait from a culture that is not your own.
- Costumes based on other people's culture are offensive, harmful, and insensitive.

#### **Important questions to consider:**

- 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?

Let's make our celebrations fun for everyone!