



Richmond, October 12, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Halloween is a time of celebration for our students, our families and our community. Each year, we look forward to seeing our students enjoying the various Halloween activities. Diversity and inclusion are at the heart of the Conseil scolaire francophone's values. We take many steps to ensure that our learning environments are places where all students feel safe, respected and valued. Therefore, we expect our students to be mindful and respectful at all times, and we ask for your cooperation and assistance in helping to ensure that Halloween is a safe and fun holiday for all.

In preparation for Halloween parties in our settings, please be aware of the following points and discuss them with your child:

- If costumes are allowed at your child's school, they must be easily recognisable and/or able to identify themselves to any member of staff when asked.
- Costumes that are offensive in any way will not be permitted.
- Please consider the rights under Canadian human rights law when selecting costumes (e.g. race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family status, genetic characteristics, disability).

Costumes should therefore :

- Be respectful of different cultures, skin colours, traditions, religions, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, different abilities.
- Be non-violent, i.e. without weapons, blood or other symbols referring to violence.
- Not refer to substance use (e.g. alcohol, drugs, tobacco), bullying, discrimination, pornography, vulgarity.

School codes of conduct must always be respected, even when in costume. This includes maintaining respectful and appropriate behaviour with others and with school property.

- Vandalism is never acceptable and is a crime.
- Replica weapons (guns, knives, etc.) are not permitted.
- The use and possession of firecrackers or fireworks in school or on school property is strictly prohibited at all times.

### **COVID-19**

Last year, the BC Centre for Disease Control created a resource to help us all celebrate Halloween safely. Thank you for ensuring that Halloween continues to be a fun and safe holiday for our entire community

1. Try to include a non-medical mask or face covering in your costumes.



2. Costume masks should not be worn over non-medical masks or face covers as this can make breathing difficult.
3. Remind your child to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer often.
4. Choose outdoor activities over indoor ones. Keep your space well ventilated with open windows.
5. Avoid using accessories that can cause coughing, such as smoke machines.
6. Be careful with hand sanitizer and open flames - hand sanitizer is highly flammable!
7. Avoid asking children to sing and dance indoors, as this can increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19. If these activities are an important part of your celebration, consider them:
  - Move the singing or dancing outdoors, maximizing physical distance, or
  - Dance only with members of your small social group.

Finally, here are some tips to keep in mind when attending celebrations

- Maximise physical distance.
- Practice good hand hygiene, wash your hands often or bring hand sanitizer.
- Bring your own food and drink.
- Use good respiratory etiquette and wear your mask when asked.
- If you have to pass someone in a confined space (such as a corridor or stairway), try to pass them quickly or wait until they have left before entering corridors or stairways.
- Pay attention to safety around outdoor heaters and open fires, especially if children are involved.

Source of further information:

<https://bienveillance.csf.bc.ca/halloween-celebrer-dans-le-respect-de-la-diversite/>

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/social-interactions/halloween>