



Richmond, 19 octobre 2020

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 enjoy the various Halloween activities. The Conseil scolaire francophone has diversity and inclusion at the heart of its values.

In preparation for Halloween parties in our communities, please review the following points and discuss them with your child:

- Students who choose to wear a costume must be easily recognizable and/or able to identify themselves to any staff member when asked.
- Costumes that are offensive in any way will not be permitted. Please consider the rights under Canadian human rights law when choosing costumes (for example, race, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family status, genetic characteristics, disability).
- Inappropriate or tasteless costumes will not be tolerated. For example, costumes promoting violence, hypersexuality or insensitivity to the various cultures present in our environment.
- School codes of conduct must always be respected, even when dressed 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 schools or on school grounds is strictly prohibited at all times.

**This year Halloween is even more special because of COVID-19.**

The BC Centre for Disease Control has created a resource to help us all celebrate Halloween safely. Here is a summary of the important points:

- Try to include a non-medical mask or face cover in your costumes.
- Costume masks should not be worn over non-medical masks or face covers as this can make breathing difficult.
- Remind your child to wash his/her hands or use hand sanitizer often.
- Encourage outdoor activities in addition to indoor activities. Keep your space well ventilated with windows open.
  
- Avoid using props that can cause coughing, such as smoke machines. Watch out for hand sanitizer and open flames - **hand sanitizer is highly flammable!**
- Avoid having children 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:



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- o Move the singing or dancing outdoors with physical distance, or
- o Dance only with members of your small social group.

**Be creative in the distribution of treats**

*It is unlikely that paper packages can transmit the COVID-19 virus, but you should wash your hands before offering and treats.*

- Use tongs, a baking sheet or make a candy slide to give more space when handing out candy.
- Plan to give out individual treats instead of a common bowl.
- Distribute only sealed, pre-packaged treats.
- Wear a non-medical mask that covers your nose and mouth when handing out treats.
- Be more outdoors than indoors.
- If you can, stay in front of your door to hand out treats. This way, children won't have to touch the door or the doorbell.
- If you can't sit outside to hand out treats, clean and sanitize doorbells, doorknobs and other surfaces that are frequently touched in the evening.
- If you are decorating, avoid accessories that can cause coughing, such as smoke machines.

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

- Respect physical distancing efforts.
- 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 hallway or stairs), try to pass them quickly or wait until they are gone before entering the hallways or stairs.
- Pay attention to safety around outdoor heaters and open fires, especially if children are involved.

**Source d'information supplémentaire:**

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