

St. Paul Catholic Elementary School



Halloween Costumes



Dear Parents and Guardians:

On Friday, October 30, students will have the opportunity to wear Halloween Costumes for the day. Of course, the emphasis is always on safe and respectful fun at Halloween! Please make sure that your child understands that we do not approve of practical jokes or attempts to frighten or surprise others.

In the past, we have had a high percentage of students and staff dressing up in costume! Anyone not wanting to dress in costume may want to wear **black and orange** as an alternative.

COSTUME REQUIREMENTS



Costumes must NOT

- Impair vision or breathing;
- Present a trip hazard to the wearer or the bystander;
- Represent disfiguring injury or, to put it bluntly, "blood and guts";
- Promote themes or activities inappropriate for a Catholic elementary school;
- Be too revealing or suggestive;
- Include weapons or replica weapons;
- Require staff to apply or remove costume pieces and/or make-up;



Costumes MUST

- Allow the student easy, **independent** access to the washroom. This is especially important for students from J.K. to grade 2.
- Allow the student to wear sufficiently warm clothing over or under the costume as weather/temperature dictates.



We ask that you please not send special treats to the school as we have a number of students with food allergies or sensitivities. No Food/Candy is permitted in the school for distribution.

The following are suggested questions to reflect on when choosing a costume to avoid being disrespectful or offensive:

1. **Is my costume making fun of a group of people, their culture or religion?**
2. **Does my costume reinforce jokes and stereotypes about certain groups, cultures or religions?**
3. **Am I altering my skin colour, facial/body features to make it darker or like a particular race, ethnicity or cultural group?**
4. **Am I dressing up as a culture or borrowing from a religion that is not my own or or is part of my background?**
5. **Do I understand and respect the history or tradition of the culture that I am borrowing my costume from?**

Thank you for your support. Happy Halloween!
Mr. N. Costa