



Hello Thompson families,

What a thrill it was to watch our Thompson Tigers participate in the cross country fun run this week. 101 grade one to grade seven students participated- over 50 percent of our student population at those grade levels! A huge thank you to Mr. Twyford and Mrs. McCaskill for their help organizing and supporting our students. If you are interested in having your child participate in the **Provincial Cross Country Championships**, you can find information here:

<https://www.bcathletics.org/Content/bc-x-country-champs/42/>

Please see below for some further learning opportunities and school events:

### **Halloween:**



On **Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>** all Thompson students will be participating in a **school-wide pumpkin carving activity**. This activity will take place in the morning from 10:30-11:30. Pumpkins will be on display in the gym from 1- 2:15 and parents are welcome to come and see them. **Students are asked to bring the following to school:**

- 1) One small **CLEANED OUT** pumpkin on **Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**. Please clean the pumpkin out from the **BOTTOM**, so that it is easy to place lights inside. Students must be able to carry their pumpkin to and from school by themselves. Please **label your child's pumpkin** with their name and division on a piece of masking tape.
- 2) A proper pumpkin-carving tool. These can be bought at most dollar stores. See below for a photo of an example. **NO KNIVES ARE TO BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL** Below is an example of what the carving tools look like.



## **Halloween Costumes**

“Trick or Treat” Others with Respect

Halloween can be fun. However, we need to be aware that celebrating Halloween needs to be fun for ALL and not at the expense of equity seeking groups. Halloween offers an opportunity to have meaningful conversations about costume choices with students and requires consideration. In doing so, it is important to keep in mind that we need to be sensitive to groups that have been marginalized through mimicry and cultural appropriation during Halloween and other ‘dress up’ events. A few things to keep in mind:

It’s good to keep in mind that the following are NOT appropriate Costumes:

**RACE**

(black face/brown face)

**CULTURE**

(Indigenous regalia/dreadlocks)

**RELIGIOUS FAITH**

(religious figures/gods/saints/gurus/hijab)

**GENDER**

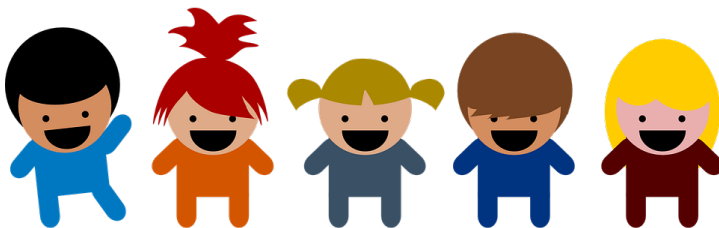
(gender switching for humour or to mock)

**TRAUMA**

(Violent characters such as ones from “Squid Games” and weapons) No replicas of weapons will be allowed- please keep these at home if they are a part of the costume.

## **PAC meeting:**

All parents are welcome at the PAC meeting at 9 am, October 19th in the library. Refreshments will be served. Please see the attached Agenda and minutes from the previous meeting. Meet other parents, find out what is happening at Thompson and hear from Mrs. Hoffinger.



## **Strong Start:**

We would like to welcome all families and children from ages 0 to 5 years to the James Thompson Elementary StrongStart Program. StrongStart BC is a free early learning program for all children ages 0 to 5. Children attend StrongStart with their parent/caregiver.

Location: Thompson Elementary school, StrongStart Program, Room 2.

Hours: 8:45 am - 11:15 am / 12:15 pm - 2:45 pm

Facilitator: Charlotte Cheung Phone Number: 604-295-6428

## Game of Apps:

The Richmond School District is again offering 'The Game of Apps' program, an extra-curricular program where students learn how to design and develop a mobile app. There are two programs - one geared towards middle years students in grades 6-9 and another for senior students in grades 10-12. The [Game of Apps website](https://gameofapps.org) (<https://gameofapps.org>) has more detailed information about the curriculum, schedule, and registration, and has a 'Contact Us' form to answer questions you may have about the program. Please consult this site for more information.

## **Ongoing events:**

**Choir:** Choir is open to all students. Practices will be on Tuesdays at lunch. Students are invited to try it out, and then make a commitment for this first term, by Oct. 18th. Students will be invited to participate each term. Please contact Mrs. Hoffinger for more information.

**Volleyball:** Intramural practices and games are on Monday and Wednesdays at lunchtime for our interested grade 6 and 7 students. Please contact Mr. Badyal for more information

**School Wide Fun Runs:** Our fabulous Tiger Track is getting a lot of use, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays we will improve our fitness by running or walking together before lunch. Once a month we will have themed runs. Please ensure your child has footwear at school appropriate for walking or running.

**Open Gym:** From time to time groups of intermediate students will be invited to open gym at lunch time to practice various skills and to have fun.

## Important Dates:

**Oct. 19th- PAC meeting 9:00 a.m.**

**Oct. 21st - Professional Day (no school for students)**

**Oct. 28th - Hot Lunch (pre-order on-line)**

**Oct. 31st- Halloween Pumpkin carving**

**Nov. 2nd- Grade 6/7 immunizations**

**Nov. 4- Hot lunch- pre order on-line**

**Nov. 8- Photo Retakes**

**Nov. 10 -Remembrance Day Assembly at 10:30 a.m.**

***\*New Date\* Our Winter Concert will be Wed. Dec. 7th-details to come***

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call the school at 604-668-6420 or email me at [shoffinger@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:shoffinger@sd38.bc.ca)

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sharon Hoffinger

Principal, James Thompson Elementary School

***Visit our webpage at <http://thompson.sd38.bc.ca>***

October 14th, 2022