



Hello Thompson families,

A big thank you to all of our many parent volunteers who helped plan and prepare for our fun Halloween event this afternoon. There is excitement in the air and I have no doubt it will be a success.

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

School Wide Pumpkin Carving:



On Tuesday **October 31st** 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 31st**. 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.

Grade 5 Fitness Pass:

Fitness passes that allow for free entrance to Richmond Recreation facilities were distributed to all grade 5 students last week.

Choir:

Students interested in performing for the Remembrance Day Assembly have now signed up and are expected to attend practices on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at lunch. An email will be sent home next week to the families of students in the choir with information on the performance. Students wishing to join the choir now will be able to do so after Nov. 22nd.

Ongoing events:

Volleyball: Volleyball season is in full swing! Our teams had two very successful home games and have their first away game Monday Oct. 30th, after school at McKay Elementary. Please contact Mr. Badyal for more information

Student Council: Grade 6 and 7 students interested in planning school wide events and initiatives are encouraged to come to student council meetings, on Thursdays at lunch. Please contact Ms. Bone for more information.

Important Dates:

Oct. 31st- Halloween Pumpkin carving

Nov. 2nd- Grade 6/7 immunizations

Nov. 3rd- Hot lunch- pre ordered on-line

Nov. 7th- Photo Retakes

October 27th 2023

Nov. 9th- Gr. 6 Immunizations

Nov. 10 -Remembrance Day Assembly at 10:45 a.m.

Nov. 13th- no school for the Remembrance Day Holiday

Nov. 15th- PAC meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the library

Dec. 1st- Pro D Day

****New Date* Our Winter Solstice Celebration will be Wed. Dec. 20th-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

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sharon Hoffinger

Principal, James Thompson Elementary School

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