

KATZIE NEWSFLASH

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HALLOWEEN UPDATE

Halloween is only one sleep away. Please remind students that replica or toy weapons are not allowed at school even if they are a part of their Halloween costumes. As per Safe & Caring Schools Policy 9410 & Regulation 9410.1 "It is expected that students will not use, possess or display any weapon, replica weapon or toy weapon, on any school property or at any event that is organized or sponsored by a school." A reminder that any masks covering the entire face or any gore is also not allowed. Keep in mind that we have some very young eagles that may be frightened by scary or graphic costumes, so we ask that all costumes be appropriate for all ages.

Please see below for some Halloween safety tips, and a letter from Safe Schools.





10 tips to keep your kids safe on Halloween

1. Find the perfect frightful fit

Cold Canadian autumns can often spoil some of the fun of Halloween with sneeze-fearing mothers zipping heavy coats over their children's costumes. Before you buy or make a costume make sure it will be loose enough to fit over layers of warm clothing. Also, be sure the outfit doesn't hang too low, posing a tripping hazard. Young revellers should dress in brightly coloured outfits with reflectors so they can be seen by motorists. Health Canada also notes parents should ensure that accessories such as swords are made of a soft, flexible plastic.

2. Masks versus makeup

In the debate over the superiority of masks versus face paint, face paint appears to have won — at least in terms of safety considerations. Safety experts say that since masks narrow the field of vision, children should opt to use makeup. Faux blood and ghoulish powders can closely mimic the effects of frightening masks. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eyeholes are large enough for the child to see through properly. Also check that the nose holes allow for proper ventilation.

3. Halloween night all aglow

Jack-o'-lanterns may provide festive cheer but they also pose a fire hazard to small children. Never leave a candle in a pumpkin unattended and consider using a small flashlight as an alternative means of illuminating your pumpkin. Keep pumpkins, matches and lighters in a secure place out of the reach of small children. As with all clothing, caregivers should check the label to ensure that costumes are flame resistant.

4. Visit all your old haunts and make a map

Planning a route is crucial to an abundant candy harvest but a strategy also offers some practical benefits as well. Establish a route for children in pairs or small groups to walk in familiar neighbourhoods. Discourage children from zigzagging back and forth across the street, to ensure road safety. Parents who aren't accompanying their children should know the areas in which their children are walking in case of emergency. Children should also carry a flashlight and if available, a cellphone.

5. Don't let slowpokes be spooked

Choose a well-lit, central, local landmark to be a meeting place if anyone in the party gets separated. Keep a running headcount of children in your group so stragglers won't be left behind.

6. Build a spooky but safe and well-wired haunted house

With spooky smoke machines, lights and screeching soundtracks, Halloween enthusiasts can put on a haunting good show. Secure extension cords so trick-or-treaters can easily pass by without stumbling. When buying lights, check for certification from the Canadian Standards Association or the Underwriters' Laboratory of Canada. Also, check for frayed wires and be sure not to overload outlets.

7. Trash the unwrapped candy stash

Caregivers should tell their children not to eat their treats until the end of the evening when their candies can be properly inspected. Any treats that aren't wrapped or have torn, damaged packages should be thrown out. For children under the age of five, check for any hard or large chewy candies that might be a choking hazard.

8. Considerations for children with diabetes

The Canadian Diabetes Association says that children with diabetes should be allowed to keep potato chips, peanuts and sugar-free gum, along with a few extra treats. Younger children should be encouraged to stay home and hand out treats in costume.

9. Carve carefully

Let children draw the faces on the pumpkins with marker and leave the carving to the adults. Use a carving kit, equipped with blunt tools, and place the pumpkin on a sturdy, flat table. Don't try to saw the pumpkin but make a series of incisions along the drawn lines.

10. Start the evening early

Send your little ones out early so they can enjoy the evening before it gets too dark and make it home at a reasonable hour to rest and recover after a frightfully fun evening.

Ref: CBC News



Safe Schools Department

14033 – 92 Avenue, Surrey, BC V3V 0B7 • Tel: (604) 595-6196

October 28, 2019

Dear Neighbour,

Re: Safe Schools Halloween Initiative

As you know, Halloween is approaching. We are writing to request whatever assistance you can provide to help us keep our schools and neighbourhood from being vandalized.

In the last school year, the Surrey School District took close to **\$275,443.34** out of its budget (our taxes) to repair acts of vandalism. This money could have supported our students in many different ways. The Surrey School Board remains focused on reducing this expense.

While we do our best to educate young people to convince them of the senselessness of vandalism, we are also looking for other ways to deter vandalism on our schools and in the area. One approach is to enlist our neighbours' help to watch for anyone "hanging around" our schools, particularly after dark on Halloween.

For many years, the school district has organized patrols of district staff (including trustees) in which small groups take shifts of an hour or two to walk around the grounds of the school. This small effort does a great deal to deter youth from even approaching our schools.

Please help us out by keeping your eyes and ears open to any activity at our schools and don't hesitate to notify us if you notice people milling about. If there is obvious, active vandalism taking place, please immediately notify police by calling 9-1-1. We also welcome your call to a special Surrey School District phone number set-up for Halloween at **778-776-9991** to report any suspicious activity so a security patrol can be dispatched.

School vandalism affects our entire neighbourhood. Defaced walls or damaged property can be seen by everyone. News reports about such activity generate a public perception about our neighbourhood. Vandals allowed to congregate at a school typically spread their activities to neighbouring homes and vehicles. Vandals frequently choose to return and congregate where they have not encountered any deterrents in the past.

Please join us as we demonstrate to vandals that they are not welcome at our schools, or in our neighbourhood!

Thank you for your help.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Rai", enclosed within a circular scribble.

Rob Rai
Director, School & Community Connections

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff McMillan".

Jeff McMillan
Manager, Security/Infrastructure