

Good afternoon,

We are nearly to the end of Week 7! Here are a few items and reminders.

### **Hallowe'en Festivities**

It's a favourite time of year for our young 'uns and, like just about everything else in 2020, this year's scary holiday is going to look different for those who choose to celebrate.

Please remember....

If students are planning to wear costumes to school on Friday, they must ***wear their costume to school***, and be able to wear it throughout the day, as opportunities for changing into or out of a costume will be very limited. Students may also be outdoors during the day, so costumes that can get wet are best.

At this time, the weather is *not* looking favourable, so we are not going to have our physically distanced Hallowe'en parade we had previously been planning. Students will celebrate the day with their learning groups in class tomorrow.

As was highlighted in the letter from the school district Superintendent yesterday, please remember these guidelines:

- Students in costume should be easily recognizable and/or identify themselves to any staff member when queried.
- Replica weapons (guns, knives, etc.) are inappropriate, as are costumes which are hyper-sexualized, or costumes which depict elements of sexual exploitation.
- Please encourage your children to avoid glamorizing sexual exploitation by refusing to allow them to wear Halloween costumes that re-victimize those who have suffered the devastation of this crime.
- It is also important to note that costumes which portray individuals of a marginalized race, which are stereotypical and/or condescending, or that demean any group of people and make fun of anyone's suffering are inappropriate.
- A costume is not funny when it is making light of someone's religious, cultural, ethnic or racial group, or which is a caricature of this group.
- Students "in character" are to conduct themselves appropriately. Behaviors which intimidate, harass or humiliate members of the community, or other behaviors which are inappropriate at the expense of others, do not contribute to a fun, festive, and safe environment.

I also add that at the elementary level, we need to be mindful of the *scariness factor* of our costumes. Our littlest little ones are just 4 and 5 years old and we want the day to be fun...not scary! Costumes that depict blood, gore, injuries, etc., are not permitted, along with full face covering masks.

One last little reminder: please do not send treats for sharing – even individually wrapped ones. At this time, we are not able to distribute food items at all.

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) has put together a page with recommendations for safe Hallowe'en celebrations at home and in the community, if you would like some more information:

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

### **Dress for Success....at School**

As the weather continues to cooler...and wetter!....please remember to send clothing best suited for our new circumstances.

Recall that as part of our COVID-19 protocols, students may be outdoors more than they have traditionally been used to. Additionally, to encourage ventilation and air circulation, windows and sometimes doors may be open during the school day.

Dressing layers is encouraged, so students are comfortable for learning. We will continue to monitor and work to find the right balance between comfortable temperature and increased air circulation.

### **PAC Meeting Tuesday**

The PAC meets, generally the first Tuesday evening of each month. Of course, right now, we are meeting via ZOOM, so if you'd like to join us, follow the invitation below:

David M is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: My Meeting

Time: Nov 3, 2020 07:00 PM Vancouver

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3631963770?pwd=Rzh6bFo4SE1SaE1aSUxxK2RQN1U0QT09>

Meeting ID: 363 196 3770

Passcode: 7vhdmb

### **Do What U Luv**

As I mentioned last week, this is a reminder of some of the *virtual programming* that is being offered by *Do What U Luv*. Some of their programs begin next week, so do sign up right away if you're interested. See the attached flyer.

### **COVID-19 Safety Reminders**

Thank you again for all of your cooperation and understanding as we experienced a COVID-19 exposure event.

Staff and students were very respectful and continued to carefully follow the protocols that were in place to ensure safety of the school community.

All of our decisions about how we will run programs – or not run them – have student and staff safety as the foremost criterion in our decision making. It is why we have had to postpone and cancel some activities, and why it sometimes takes awhile to determine if others can occur.

Please be assured we will continue to do everything we can to keep Coquitlam River a safe and welcoming learning community.

A quick reminder about coming to the school. Parents and caregivers are reminded to *not* enter the building unless you have made an appointment ahead of time – and adults ***must*** wear a mask upon arrival.

If you are picking up for an early dismissal or dropping off after 9:15, please call the office at (604)942-0241, when you are in the traffic loop, and we will do an *adult to adult* handoff.

Have a great weekend!

David