

Good evening Parents/Guardians & Families,

Halloween is considered a fun and exciting day for many children and adults. There are a lot of fun activities and of course candy. While many classes at Oakridge will be celebrating Halloween, this occasion will look different compared to previous years. For instance, students and staff will be required to wear masks and face coverings even if they are wearing costume masks. Physical distancing, proper hand hygienic practices and all other health and safety protocols will continue. Visit the Toronto Public Health website ([click here](#)) for safety tips if you're considering celebrating Halloween.

It is also important to have critical conversations with your child around the appropriate choice of costumes. Our anti-oppressive, equitable and inclusive practices do not align with costumes that promote stereotypes, cultural caricatures, cultural appropriation and inaccurate representations of members from the 2SLGBT communities. Please speak with your child's teacher if you require more information or visit the links below. Accommodations will be made for students who will not be participating in Halloween activities.

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/News/Article-Details/ArtMID/474/ArticleID/1549/Appropriate-Halloween-Costumes%e2%80%94MyCultureIsNotACostume>

#IAMNOTACOSTUME (Elementary)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGh3JM_uEQM

Demeaning Costumes

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/indigenous-halloween-costumes-calgary-1.4837220>

Is Your Child Ready for Virtual Learning?

There may come a time when Toronto Public Health recommends your child's class self-isolate for a period of time. If this is the case, your child's class will be switching to virtual learning until Toronto Public Health has given the approval to return to school. Teachers have a virtual platform and our classroom teachers have been or will be assessing whether students are prepared for this scenario. Please continue to work with your child's teacher. We also recognize the challenges of understanding Google Classroom and Brightspace so we're in the process of organizing workshops to assist parents. More information to follow.

Attestation Form

We are asking that the **Back to School Confirmation Form** be completed and presented to the principal if your child was absent from school because of a

suspected illness or because they were identified as a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

Switching to In-School

There have been some requests from parents wanting their child to return Oakridge from virtual school. Please note, decisions are based on health and safety (i.e. maintaining cohorts, physical distancing, spacing etc.) reasons and our staffing model (i.e. the ratio of students to teachers and class sizes). If you're considering a switch, please send an email to wanda.skrlj@tdsb.on.ca.

Switching to Elementary Virtual School (Reminder)

The next opportunity to switch from in-school to virtual school will be the end of January.

Virtual Students @ Oakridge

Following the health and safety guidelines is very important. This is why we highly discourage virtual students from visiting Oakridge teachers, staff and their peers during school hours. As much as we want to see all of our students, safety is a priority.

I wish you all a great weekend!!

Stay Strong! Stay Safe! Stay Positive!

Mr. D. Parker
Principal

