



McKenzie Weekly



Friday, October 14, 2022

McKenzie Elementary School wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.

Principal's Message:

We are very excited to celebrate Halloween on Monday October 31st.

While you are working alongside your child(ren) to determine what would make the best costume, please keep in mind to choose costumes that are respectful and do not borrow something from someone's culture; as defined below:

'Cultural appropriation is the taking or borrowing of something from someone else's culture without their permission and/or without understanding its significance. While wearing someone else's cultural attire is not always cultural appropriation, wearing it as a costume is.'

Unfortunately, shelves of many stores will stock costumes that have inappropriate aspects of many different cultures. Costumes should not become opportunities to turn a person's identity into a stereotyped image. Some examples of inappropriate costumes are:

- Indigenous costumes with headdresses or feathers, fringes, fake suede, and braids
- "Arab Sheikh" outfits with the sinister mustaches
- "Mexican" costumes: wide sombreros, ponchos, handlebar mustaches.
- Disney costumes such as Jasmine, Mulan, Pocohontas, and Coco are not great Halloween costumes.
- Any costume that portrays a narrow or negative stereotype about a specific ethnicity, religion or race.

You can use Halloween as an opportunity to build their sociocultural competence. Here are a few discussion points you can address with them.

- Is there a history of discrimination against this identity group?
- Does my action perpetuate negative stereotypes?
- Am I depicting the culture incorrectly?
- Am I using someone else's cultural or religious symbols out of context?
- Does this offend anyone from the cultural group of origin?

The costumes worn at school may have to be slightly different than the costumes worn on the evening of the 31st. Please keep in mind we have very young children at the school (some are still just 4 years old) and we do not want to scare anyone. For this reason, we also ask that costumes being worn at school do not include:

- Masks
- Weapons of any kind (swords, knives, axes, spears, etc.)
- No graphic gore / fake blood.

Being proactive can help all of us to avoid uncomfortable situations at school and can help us ensure that Halloween is a time where all students feel safe and honored.

We will be hosting our first annual Halloween Parade outside, first thing in the morning of the Monday 31st. Stay tuned for more details.

Mark your calendar!

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------|---------|-----------|---|---|
| Oct. 17 | Oct. 18 | Oct. 19 | Oct. 20 Great Canadian Shake Out (a.m.) | Oct. 21 Pro-D Day (no school for students) |

DATES TO NOTE:

Oct. 22 – Bottle Drive (see below)

Oct. 25 – Fire Drill

Oct. 26 & 27 – Parent Teacher Interviews

Oct. 28 – Pumpkin Run

Oct. 28 – Halloween Dance

Oct. 31 – Costume Parade @ 8:55 a.m.

Nov. 6 – Daylight savings

Nov. 10 – Remembrance Day Assembly @ 10:45 a.m.

Nov. 11 – Remembrance Day (**Statutory Holiday**)

Nov. 14 – Pro D-Day (**No school for students**)

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS:

We are looking forward to meeting with parents and guardians on October 26th and 27th for parent teacher interviews. This year we are trying something new; interviews will be scheduled using School Appointments.com and will go live for booking beginning on Monday evening. **Please watch for link to be sent via email on Monday.**

Upon review of our calendar, we realized that we had inadvertently put both of our early dismissal dates in October. As a result we have made the following changes:

Wednesday Oct. 26th – students will be **dismissed at 11:50 am** for parent teacher interviews

Thursday Oct. 27th – students will be **dismissed at the regular time** of 2:37pm

Our second early dismissal date for this school year will be moved to Feb. 9th for our Student Led Conferences and Art Show.

Dog Owners:

We have a number of students that are either very scared of dogs or allergic.

We respectfully ask that if you bring your dog to morning drop-off or after school pick-up, you keep your dogs on a leash and close to you at all times when on the school property. If you have a 'retractable' leash, we ask that you 'lock' your leash at a short length when you are close to the school.

Thank you to all of you that are picking up after your pets; we have extra doggie bags in the school if you have forgotten and need a bag.

REMINDER: STUDENT AGENDA PAYMENTS DUE

Please ensure you pay for your child's agendas to help us offset the costs. We are asking for \$5 per child, which is a great deal this year!

Please send cash or refer to our website, where you will find a quick link on the menu at left side calls "school cash online payments". <https://mckenzie.sd61.bc.ca/>



SPECIES REMOVAL EVENT AT KNOCKAN HILL PARK

On Saturday October 15th, the Greater Victoria Green Team, in partnership with the District of Saanich, is hosting an invasive **species removal event at Knockan Hill Park**. The event is scheduled to run from **9:45 AM to 1:00 PM**, with a break halfway through for refreshments. This event is targeted towards strengthening community connection to nature and to each other through physical activity.

Event RSVP and further details about the event and where to meet can be found on the Meetup event page here: <https://www.meetup.com/greater-victoria-green-team/events/288610263/>

Note: No experience is required, as all training and tools will be provided on site. Adaptations for different abilities are available, as we seek to bring people together to restore and enjoy beautiful green spaces in Saanich.