

October, 2017

Dear Parents,

Halloween is near and I wanted to let you know our approach to it. Our Halloween assembly will occur on Wednesday, October 31st at 9:15 a.m. This assembly is a Wilder tradition and gives our students the chance to get together and sing Halloween songs. All classes attend the assembly but it is at each teacher's discretion to have a classroom party.

Halloween has been a traditional "kids holiday" throughout the United States for generations. Many of us remember trick or treating around our neighborhoods when we were young. But, the emphasis on the event has grown significantly since our youth. There are many examples of the increased emphasis, such as movies, books, activities and events. At school, we don't play most of the Halloween events, leaving it to you to participate in whatever manner you feel appropriate. Although costumes are not required, costumes are NOT to emphasize violence; for example, NO WEAPONS or BLOOD-n-GORE or frightening masks. Also, fog machines or large amounts of dry ice will set off our smoke alarms, so we cannot use them during the festivities. This year we ask that students wear their costumes to school on the bus. Each teacher will communicate if they would like students to change out of their costumes when class parties are done.

With such a rich and diverse population in our community, the staff members and I realize that many families have different beliefs; and, because of religious, personal or cultural reasons, some families do not wish to be involved in Halloween activities. Our librarian, Mr. Simmons, will be available to supervise students in the library who opt not to participate. They can take in classroom work or read. If you would not like your child to participate in Halloween activities, please fill out the form below and return the bottom portion of this letter to your child's teacher by Friday, October 26th. The earlier you return it the better because we would like to have a clear understanding of how many learners will opt out of the activities for planning purposes.

Steve Roetcisoender, Principal

Student's Name: _____ Teacher's Name: _____

I would like my child to go to the library during the Halloween activities on Wednesday, October 31st

Parent's Signature