

• Friday, October 17, 2025

Lakeview Elementary Weekly News



Dear Lakeview Community,

Thank you for supporting students to be well prepared for our Safety Week. Students participated in all drills and were able to safely evacuate the building following the earthquake drill. To complete our safety drill week, we will have one more fire drill on Monday. The fire alarm will sound, and students will be directed to evacuate to the field. We will continue to practice drills throughout the year, and I will let families know ahead of time to support any students who benefit from some pre-warning.

We have another short week next week. Friday, October 24th is a Provincial Professional Development Day, so schools will be closed.

We will celebrate Halloween on October 31st. Students are welcome to come to school wearing their costumes, so long as they are costumes that won't interfere with their ability to move safely around the classroom and school. Please ensure your child's costume is one that they can wear while also continuing with their classroom learning. If a costume incorporates a mask, we ask that students keep those in their bags until the assembly in the afternoon. Please do not send any play weapons that may accompany costumes. For more information on costume guidelines, please see the last page of this newsletter of ways to keep costumes fun for everyone.

Amelia Poitras, Principal Lakeview Elementary

Dates to note:

- Mon., Oct. 20 Photo Retakes
- Mon., Oct. 20 Fire Drill
- **Fri., Oct. 24 Pro-D Day – No School**
- Tues., Oct. 21 – Boys Volleyball Game
- Wed., Oct. 22 – Div. 3/4 Cox Quarry Field Trip
- Thurs., Oct. 23 – Girls Volleyball Game
- Wed., Oct. 29 – Div. 7 Halloween Treat Sale
- Fri., Oct. 31 – Halloween Assembly @ 1:00



Happy Diwali!

Diwali is a five-day festival marking the start of the Hindu New Year. It is held on the 15th day of the month of Kartika in the Hindu calendar. The date changes each year. This year the celebration begins on October 20th. Diwali is celebrated across the world and is the biggest, brightest and most popular event in the Indian calendar. The word Diwali means “row of lighted lamps,” with light symbolizing the triumph of good over evil, prosperity over poverty and knowledge over ignorance. We wish all our families celebrating a bright and happy Diwali.

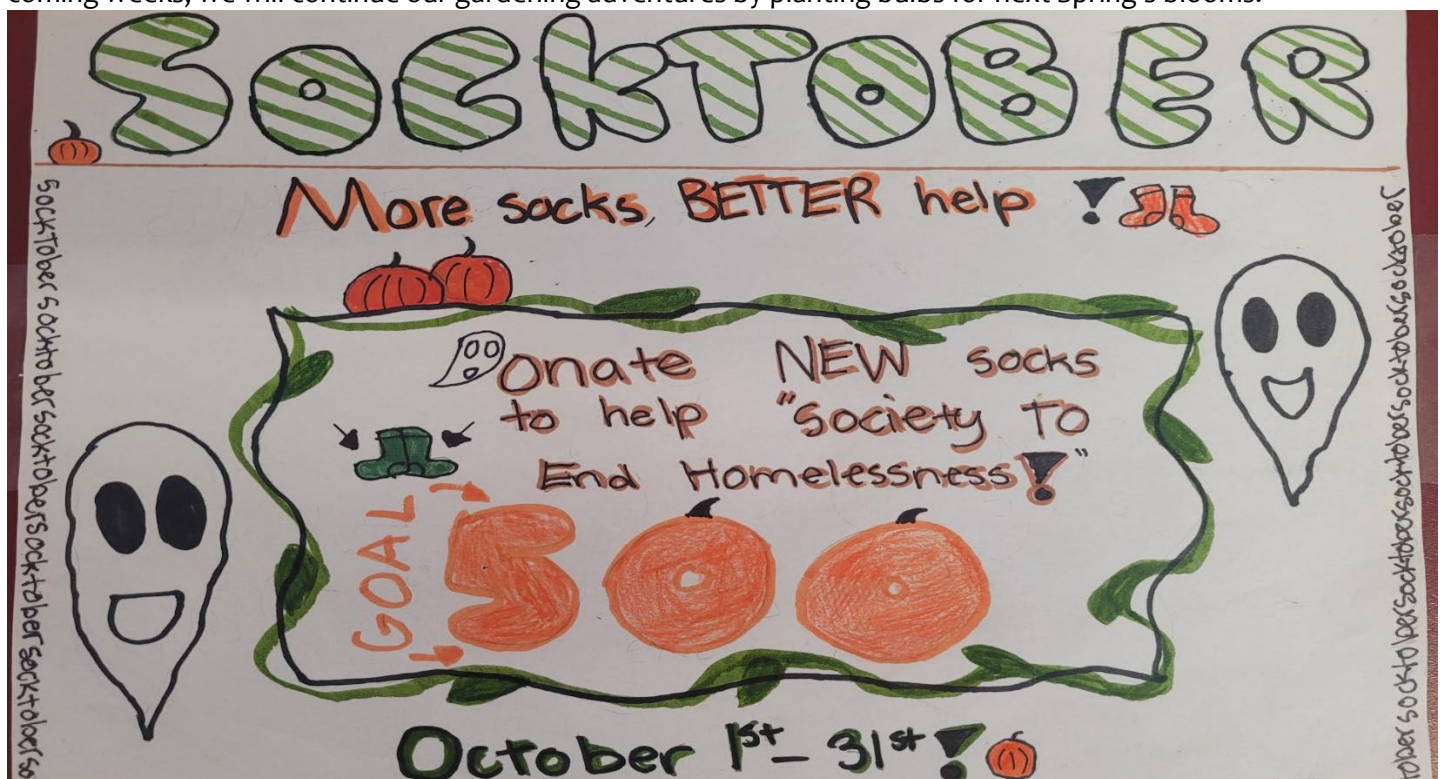
Resources:

[CBC Kids: All About Diwali](#)
[Diwali Fest Canada](#)



Grade 2 Gardening Club

Our Grade 2 Gardeners enjoyed a wonderful walking field trip to visit a local dahlia grower's garden! Students explored rows of colourful blooms. Each student brought a dahlia bloom back to school to share with their classmates and took time to observe the amazing diversity in shape, size, and colour among the flowers. In the coming weeks, we will continue our gardening adventures by planting bulbs for next Spring's blooms!



Lakeview PAC Family Photo Night Fundraiser



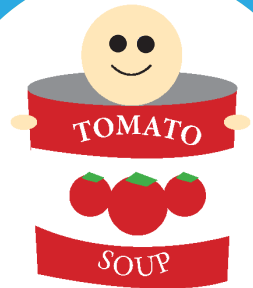
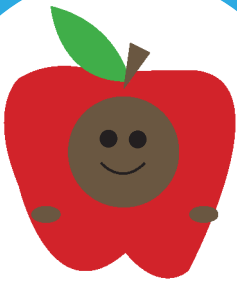
Thank you George Gomory for helping us with our family photo night fundraiser. George has completed the photography program at Langara college and we are excited for him to capture our Lakeview families. This year the fee will be \$30 with all proceeds going to the Lakeview PAC. Included in this fee you will receive unedited digital download for your personal use and just in time for Christmas cards or framed as Christmas gifts for the family!

Bring your \$30 fee in cash or cheque to your sitting in the Lakeview Library

Please use the link below to sign up for your 15 minute time slot.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E44A9AA2DA6FB6-59479205-photo>

Keeping Costumes Fun



You can be creative and have fun without causing harm.

Culture is not a costume,
such as: Indigenous regalia.

Race is not a costume,
such as: black or brown face.

Religious faith is not a costume,
such as: religious figures.

A harmful stereotype is not a costume,
such as: mocking gender.

Trauma is not a costume,
such as: weapons.

Happy Halloween!

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION & EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Happy Hallowe'en!

CULTURE IS NOT A COSTUME

HOW NOT TO CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE HALLOWE'EN

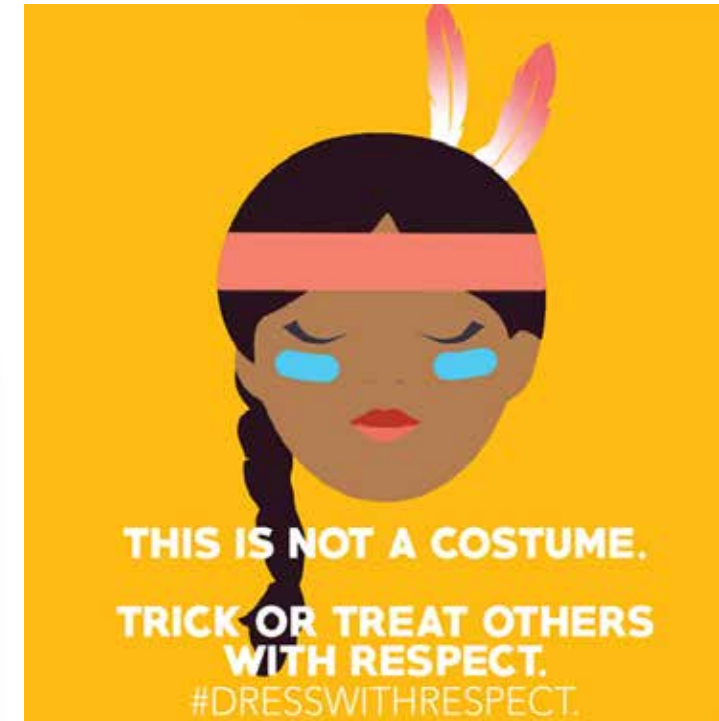
Halloween involves important decisions on costume choice. While dressing up is fun and exciting, it also runs the risk of offending others. Halloween offers the opportunity to discuss costume choices with both colleagues and students. It is important not to inadvertently mimic culture by culturally appropriating racial or ethnic groups.

CULTURAL APPROPRIATION

1. The taking- from a culture that is not one's own- of intellectual property, cultural expressions or artifacts, history and ways of knowledge (Ziff & Rao, 1997).
2. Any instance which means commonly associated with and/or perceived as belonging to another are used to further one's own ends (Shugart, 1997).
3. To take parts (symbols, artifacts, dress, words, practices, etc.) from a culture that is not your own. This can happen in a variety of forms but often around Halloween it involves wearing 'costumes' that may have some significance to other cultures.
4. A particular power dynamic in which members of a dominant culture take elements from a culture of people who have been systematically oppressed by that dominant group.

"OUR CULTURE IS NOT A COSTUME,"

said Calgarian Michelle Robinson. "We are real people with a real culture and depicting it incorrectly just adds to negative stereotypes and adds to violence we face."



Examine Your Own Practices

Ask yourself some critical questions about your costume.

Is my costume based on someone's race, ethnicity, or culture?

Am I reinforcing stereotypes with the image I am portraying?

Is my costume exploiting another culture?

Could this costume harm someone?

Engage in Dialogue

Bring up subjects like cultural appropriation with your colleagues and students. See what their views are and share your own knowledge and experiences. Dialogue is collaborative and about people working together to find a common understanding. It is about exploring, listening, and re-examining your positions, values, and assumptions.

Be an Advocate

If you see a costume that may harm someone, begin a respectful dialogue with that person at an appropriate time and place. Ask them about their costume choice. Your conversation should be about having the person think through their choice, not about right and wrong.



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Happy Hallowe'en!

Reflection Questions: **Racially, Ethnically and Culturally Based Hallowe'en Costumes**

For many people in our school communities the fun and magic of dressing up is an important tradition. Part of creating a safe school community for **ALL** students on Halloween is making sure racially, ethnically, and culturally based costumes are **not** part of our festivities. We invite you to reflect on the following questions:



1. Is the costume racially, ethnically, or culturally based?

If so, it will make most folks from those racial/cultural/ethnic group feel unsafe and disrespected.

2. Does the person (staff or student) belong to this group of people?

If the answer is no, this is not okay. Reflect on what it means to borrow someone else's culture, race or religion for a day- because for many people it is not a costume, it's their everyday lives.

3. If the costume is meant to be funny, why is it funny?

A costume that is meant to be funny because it is making light of a religious, cultural, ethnic, gender or racial group is a caricature and hurtful.

4. How would everyone feel if someone wore the costume around this group of people?

If the impact is harmful on any given day, then Hallowe'en is no exception.

5. Is the costume treating gender as a novelty?

The very idea that being a woman (or a trans woman) as a costume is really damaging. That femininity on males should become a novelty, or something humorous, is a toxic idea that is not okay.

