

# Jennings School

Tony Vuolo • Principal

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October 22, 2015

Dear Parents,

I hope this upcoming Halloween season finds you all prepared with costumes and candy. Jennings will continue to have Halloween celebrations this year. As always, we are going to be focused on the safety and security of all of our students. As in the past, the Kindergarten will parade through the halls around 9:15 on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. The grades 1-5 school parade will begin at 2:15. This year the students will begin the march through the main entrance doors. There will be planned activities for students not participating in the parade.

I would ask those parents who can attend to line up along the sides of the bus lanes, car loop and parking lot. We will be blocking off the access to these points for safety. All classes will be forming a line and will make a couple of passes by for pictures and waves. We are limiting adult entry into the school before and after the parade. **Please do not come in during the school day expecting to go to the classrooms unless you are a planned guest.** This will create more excitement and confusion and defeat our security efforts. This includes attending the Character Assembly planned for 1:30 that afternoon. We ask you call ahead to assist us with our safety protocols.

If you are a parent and have made prior arrangements to share a story or activity, your teacher will notify the office so we know who to expect. I will be asking teachers for confirmation before the big day arrives. If you have not done so already, be sure to fill out a volunteer waiver form in the main office.

**Please do not send in candy or food of any kind as it poses extreme danger to those students with life-threatening food allergies.** Halloween is a fun and exciting time for children of all ages! For children with life threatening food allergies, however, it can also be a very stressful time because of the proliferation of “treats” all around them. In our continuing effort to make our schools safe and healthy learning environments for **every** student, we remind you it is Board of Education policy that all school celebrations are to be food free. If you feel you want to mark the day with something special, please consider holiday-themed novelties (pencils, toys, plastic jewelry, party store items, etc.) that can be provided to all students safely. Candy and other homemade treats are not allowed as they put some students at great risk of harm.

Should a child bring candy to school as a part of their snack or lunch, please tell your child that candy is not allowed in the classroom as part of snack as it is not “safe” for children with life threatening allergies. If your child brings a piece of candy, please remind them to save it for the cafeteria **ONLY**. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation in making our schools a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.

**Please see that costumes are appropriate and do not include toys that are similar to guns or weapons of any sort.** As you are aware, these are not permitted on school grounds at any time. We would also ask that you refrain from frightening “blood and gore” costumes and from masks, since they restrict vision while parading. Please also be sure that costumes can be changed into within the classroom. It will be fine if the students need to wear part of the costume to school, if appropriate to their daily activities, and put finishing touches on in the classroom before the parade. Teachers will be able to assist on a limited basis. **If the weather does not cooperate we will have to cancel the march and limit the activities to just ones planned in the classrooms.**

Dismissal will be as usual unless you are making any changes, then, please send in a note to that effect. **Children will be readied for dismissal by our staff.**

If there are any questions, please feel free to ask. I hope we will all enjoy and have a safe and Happy Halloween!

Sincerely,

Tony Vuolo, Principal

