



October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We hope this newsletter finds you well! These past few weeks have been very busy around Gray. We want to congratulate the Grade 3-7 students who participated in the Annual Sunshine Hills Cross Country Challenge Run on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Halloween Dance was *spooktacular* and we appreciate all the hard work by the PAC to organize this event. Last Monday's Diwali assembly was a true highlight, bringing our community together to celebrate and appreciate our cultural diversity. Our Grade Six and Seven Volleyball Teams play on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school, both at home and away at a nearby Delta elementary school. Feel free to come out and cheer them on. Go Gray Owls!

## HALLOWEEN PARADE

Gray's Halloween Parade will be held on **Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:15am**. Families are invited to gather around the perimeter of the building and classes will parade around the building. We are predicting a break in the forecasted rain for the morning however, if it is too wet, the parade will be relocated to the gym.



## HALLOWEEN REMINDERS

As Halloween approaches, we want to remind families of the importance of choosing costumes that are fun and respectful. Costumes that use traditional clothing, cultural symbols, or stereotypes can hurt people, even if unintentionally, and show disrespect to members of our community. Choosing costumes that don't use or make fun of someone else's culture demonstrates kindness, respect, and care for everyone in our school. This expectation aligns with our code of conduct, and students whose costumes are harmful to others will, at the very least, be asked to change or remove them. We look forward to a creative, fun, and thoughtful Halloween.

We encourage all students to celebrate Halloween safely with the following hints and tips:

1. Practice costume safety: Make sure all costumes, wigs and accessories are fire resistant. Make sure the costume is comfortable and doesn't pose a tripping hazard for your child.
2. For costumes worn to school:
  - Please ensure your child's face is visible at all times. Masks and any other items that prevent students from being identified will not be permitted at school.
  - Costumes must not include weapons, replica weapons or objects that can be mistaken as such.
3. If using makeup, choose non-toxic cosmetic products and test on a small area first to see if any irritation occurs. Many kids have sensitive skin.
4. Give kids a refresher on traffic safety. Tell them to look both ways and only cross when no cars are coming. Cross at marked crosswalks and intersections and never cross between parked cars.
5. Increase your child's visibility – bright costumes make it easier for drivers to see children. Use reflective tape or give them flashlights or glow sticks to carry to ensure they are visible to motorists.
6. Encourage kids to stay together for trick or treating, and have them stick to familiar, well-lit areas.
7. Reiterate that they should only approach homes with lights on and they should never enter a stranger's house or accept a ride from someone they don't know.
8. Inspect your child's candy before they indulge and make sure to remove any treats that aren't age appropriate (e.g., gum or jawbreakers) or that contain food items they are allergic to.

For additional helpful hints, please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/home-safety/halloween-safety.html>

*Thank you for talking with your child(ren) and helping to ensure that Halloween is a fun, safe and respectful celebration for our entire community.*

## IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDERS

We would like to remind all adults to check-in at the office. Please **do not** enter the school through the pod doors. For the safety of all students, we must know who the adults are in the building. Staff will be happy to assist if your child needs help getting to their classroom. We want to ensure that our protocols create a safe learning environment for all our learners.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLIES

Our annual Remembrance Day Assemblies will be on Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Families are welcome to attend. The first assembly will be at 9:30 for primaries and the second assembly will be at 10:40 for intermediate grades. The assemblies will be the same for both groups but due to the size of the school, we are required to have two assemblies. These assemblies will be a time to reflect on the freedom and peace we have in Canada.



## PAC NEWS

This year, the PAC will have a Coffee Tent, sponsored by *Amit Saini Real Estate*, selling coffee, chai tea and baked goods to keep you warm while you watch the parade. Cash and Tap accepted.

The PAC Annual Winter Market is happening on Saturday, November 29. We are still accepting vendors you or anyone you know are interested in renting a table to please email [grayscalementarypac@gmail.com](mailto:grayscalementarypac@gmail.com).



## EXTENDED ABSENCES

Over the course of a school year, students may be absent for short periods of time for a variety of reasons. Extended absences, for reasons other than student health, should be carefully considered by families. To ensure that our students miss as little time as possible from school, we ask for parents' cooperation in scheduling family holidays outside of school time.

Schools are not in a position to approve or deny permission for student absences for family holidays or other extended absences. This decision lies with the parent/guardian. Please do inform the office and teacher in advance of the absence so they are aware. Should parents wish to remove their child from school for a lengthy period of time, consideration should be given to the implication this may have to their child's education. Important learning is missed by students during any absence which puts them at a disadvantage compared with those in regular attendance.

Should a family decide to remove their child for an extended absence, the school is not required to provide educational materials. Being present and engaged in the school setting goes beyond the materials provided. Teachers are not able to replicate the school experience by providing homework. Please note that teachers are not obliged to provide learning materials or assignments during an extended vacation absence. Should a student be absent for a significant period of time and therefore is not able to demonstrate the learning outcomes for a particular course, it may not be possible to provide an appropriate proficiency scale in reporting on their learning.

## DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

We are approaching the time of year when it is cooler and will be rainy. Please ensure your children come to school dressed accordingly for playing outside at recess and lunchtime (e.g. boots and a coat), and perhaps also pack an extra pair of socks and pants into their backpacks for very rainy days.



In the case of **extreme** weather, a decision will be made by staff to designate the recess and/or lunch hour as an “in day”, which means that students are to stay inside and play quietly in their classrooms rather than venture outdoors. **We refrain from doing this unless absolutely necessary, as children need the opportunity to get out in the fresh air** and be physically active before heading back into the classroom.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>  
Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

Halloween Parade 9:15 a.m.  
Individual Student Photo Retakes  
Remembrance Day Assemblies:  
Primaries (K-Gr3) at 9:30 a.m.  
Intermediates (Gr4-7) at 10:40 a.m.  
Remembrance Day, No School  
Professional Day – **Classes Not in Session**  
PAC Meeting @ 7 p.m. (All Parents/Caregivers Invited)  
Gray Winter Market

Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>

Respectfully,

Mr. J. Mann  
Principal

Ms. S. Hodgins  
Vice Principal



Div. 10- Zentangle Pumpkin Art



Div. 20- Our Funny Pumpkins