



**October 28, 2023,**

Fall has definitely arrived as the leaves are turning beautiful colours and the temperatures are dropping. On November 5<sup>th</sup> daylight savings ends and we will be turning our clocks back one hour. With the increased darkness and winter weather conditions increasing, we ask that you exercise caution when dropping off or picking up your child from school. Please continue to use the 2-minute pick up/drop off area on 80<sup>th</sup> or walk your child to school. Student safety is paramount. Please do not use the staff parking lot between 8:30 and 3:30. The circular area in front of the school is only for daycare, busses and people with Gray Parking Passes or disabled parking passes. We thank you for your continued assistance in keeping our students safe.

It is also very important that students go outside to get some fresh air and some exercise during recess and lunch. We thank you for supporting us with this and making sure kids are dressed appropriately for the weather. It's been wonderful seeing them exploring outside in all weather conditions.

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### **Halloween at Gray**

On Halloween students are welcome to come to school dressed in their Halloween costumes. Students will have a chance to share what they are wearing via a Halloween costume parade at 9:15 around the outside perimeter of the school. When students arrive at school, they will go inside for attendance and then will come outside the school for the Halloween costume parade. Parents are welcome to stay after drop off to watch the parade.

A few things should be kept in mind regarding costumes:

- Should not be too scary (appropriate for our primary students to see)
- Should be age appropriate
- Should not promote illegal activities, drugs/alcohol, or be offensive or perpetuate a stereotype of someone's culture, gender, heritage, or religion (if unsure, please check with the teacher)
- Must be safe and comfortable. Students must be able to sit, walk, breathe, see and hear. Anything that limits vision or restricts movement can lead to falling and other injuries
- Toy weapons should be kept at home
- Masks cannot be worn (except during the parade)

Finally, we'd like to congratulate our PAC on organizing a very successful Halloween Dance! We appreciate that the PAC is willing to put in the enormous hours to plan community gatherings that bring us all together. We were pleasantly surprised to see the huge demand for the event and shows us that the Gray community values opportunities to gather and celebrate together. Thank you to all the volunteers who put this event together!

We would also like to wish all of our families a very happy Diwali (November 12th).

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### **School Calendar**

Tuesday, October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Halloween Parade @ 9:15 am (changed from 2:30)
Wednesday, November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Pajama Day
Friday, November 10 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Instructional Day (no school)
Monday, November 13 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day stat holiday (no school)
Wednesday, November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Kindergarten Dental Screening Day
Wednesday, November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Grade 6 Immunizations
Friday, November 17 <sup>th</sup>	Photo Retake Day
Wednesday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	PAC meeting at 7:00 pm in the library
Friday, November 24 <sup>th</sup>	Movie Night in the gym by the PAC
Monday, November 27 <sup>th</sup>	Professional Development Day (no school)

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## Erase Learning Sessions

Three virtual ERASE learning sessions for families and children will be held on **November 8, 28, and 30**, focusing on establishing safe, caring, and respectful digital communities. These online sessions are best suited for families and youth aged 10 and above.

### **Family Session: Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities – Everyone Welcome!**

**Details:** Recommended for Parents/Caregivers/Grandparents and youth aged 10 and up as a way to facilitate the conversation of safe and caring use of technology at home and in the community. This session covers all things digital, from how to be a good digital citizen, the criminal consequences of cyberbullying, and how to report and receive support in cases of sexting/sexortion. Some of the most prominent concerns currently surrounding use of social media platforms, smartphones, and artificial intelligence will be discussed.

#### **Students will learn:**

- Digital media habits, oversharing, and digital addiction
- The permanence of online posts/activity
- The significance of your digital tattoo in how others perceive you (e.g., sports teams, college admissions, and potential employers)
- The importance of caring for peers both online and offline
- Geo-locational settings and the dangers of social media and cell phone misuse
- The social and legal consequences of cyberbullying behaviour as well as possession and distribution of intimate images (sexting and sextortion)
- An anonymous student reporting tool that can help you and your friends stay safe both online and offline

#### **Schedule:**

**November 8, 2023      6:30pm – 7:30pm**  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/732334942527?aff=oddtcreator>

**November 28, 2023      7:00pm – 8:00pm**  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/732343096917?aff=oddtcreator>

**November 30, 2023      6:30pm -7:30pm**  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/732346587357?aff=oddtcreator>

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Respectfully,

Mr. J. Mann  
Principal

Mrs. T. Sohal  
Vice Principal