Jennifer Benbrook, PRINCIPAL
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October 9, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are very excited to be coming together as a whole school community for our Halloween Parade at MJT Park! Thank you to all of the magical helpers bringing this vision to life. On Thursday, October 31st, students will follow the guidelines for parties and parades from their host schools. Please keep an eye out for details specific to your building.

On Wednesday, October 30th Laura Donovan School will hold its annual Halloween Parade at Michael J Tigue Parke beginning at 10:00 A.M. for all of our students. The parade route starts at the tennis courts, down the path near the "great lawn" and curves back around around to re-enter the tennis courts. Students will loop the route twice. Get your cameras ready!. This large area will accommodate all of our parents, guardians, relatives, etc. and provide plenty of space for you to wait and watch our students parade out of the courts area. Please keep all pathways clear and use the "great lawn" grassy area for the best viewing spots.

If you do not want your child to participate in the school parade/party, please reach out to the homeroom teacher and Mrs. Jessica Harris. jharris@freeholdtwp.k12.nj.us Students will remain behind in an alternate placement at their host school.

In order for everyone to experience a safe and Happy Halloween Day while at school, we are requesting that you please adhere to the following guidelines:

SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURES:

- For security reasons, we are requesting that parents do not come to the parade dressed in costumes.
- Spectators **will not** be permitted to visit their child(ren) or the pavillion/blacktop student/teacher area after the parade. Parents are kindly asked to return to their cars as soon as the students have stopped parading.
- Parent helpers assigned for grab and go stations, pre-arranged with Mrs. Benbrook, will be permitted to assist in the classroom during specified celebration times. No other visitors will be permitted. Please understand that although we always appreciate our parental support and assistance, we simply cannot accommodate the large number of parents while still maintaining excellent security.
- If we experience inclement weather, there is not a rain date. (Keep your fingers crossed for no rain!)

SPECTATOR AREA:

- Spectators should line up on the great lawn (the lawn where the stage is located) facing the path near the tennis courts. The grassy area closest to the tennis courts are usable as well.

COSTUMES:

Students choosing to participate in the Halloween Parade should note the following:

- All students are invited to dress in costume, and all students must wear their costumes to and from school. **There will not be an opportunity for students to change into costumes at school**. Since your child will be

wearing his/her costume all day, please be sure it is an appropriate length to avoid tripping or being stepped on.

- In choosing a costume, please remember that students will be participating in regular school day activities such as gym, art, etc. If your child's costume will interfere we ask that you send your child in with a change of clothes.
- Costumes should be SAFE. It is important to remember that your child's costumes should not interfere with the safe boarding or exiting from the school bus.
- All hair color and make-up should be applied at home.
- Masks and props should be kept in a labeled bag until the parade. Masks should allow for adequate visibility.
- Shoes should be comfortable to walk in and should be appropriate for walking on varied grounds. For reasons of comfort and safety, you may want to have your child wear sneakers.
- Please choose costumes RESPONSIBLY. Child friendly and appropriate for elementary school. Costumes should mirror our dress code as far as being appropriate length and coverage (no crop tops).
- **No props or accessories are permitted for the parade.** Please refrain from costumes that are violent or gruesome in nature. No accessories at all will be permitted (toy weapons, swords, guns, etc.) must not be a part of your child's costume. Any props of this nature will be held in school and returned home at the end of the day.

PARKING:

Parking may be limited due to the number of parade spectators. We encourage you to carpool if possible. All families should park in the main parking lot near the basketball courts/main building. Alternate parking would be near the Lacrosse field when you immediately enter the park on the left. **The parking in the rear of the tennis courts is reserved for buses only.**

Thank you for helping to provide a safe and Happy Halloween for our children at Laura Donovan School. Enjoy the festivities! As always, we thank you for your help and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Benbrook

Jennifer L. Benbrook
Principal

Cathleen Rosen
Supervisor