

Skwo:wech Newsletter

From the Office of
Skwo:wech Elementary
October 31 - November 25



Fuel Up! School Lunch Program

The November Menu is here!
[Order online](#) by noon on
Saturday, October 29 to
ensure delivery on Tuesday.



FALL
Turn Clocks Back Nov 6

Photo Retakes! November 3rd

Please bring back photo proof on photo
retake day

2022

October / November



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
31-Oct Halloween Assembly	1	2	3 Individual Photo Retake Day	4 Family Reading
7 2023/2024 Kindergarten & New Student Registration Opens	8	9	10 Remembrance Day Assembly	11 Remembrance Day School Closed
14 Non-Instructional Day School closed for students	15	16	17	18
21	22 PAC Meeting - 7:00pm	23	24	25

Mark Your Calendar



October 31
Halloween Assembly

November 11
Remembrance Day
School Closed

November 14
Non-Instructional Day
No school for students

November 23
PAC Meeting

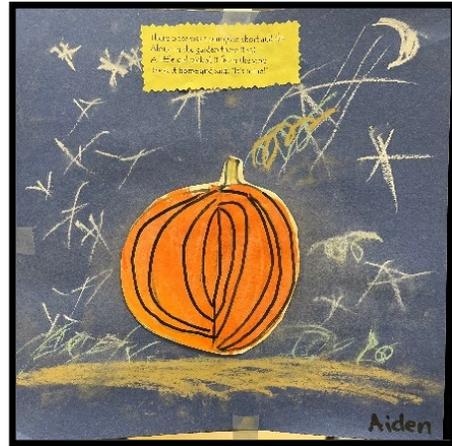
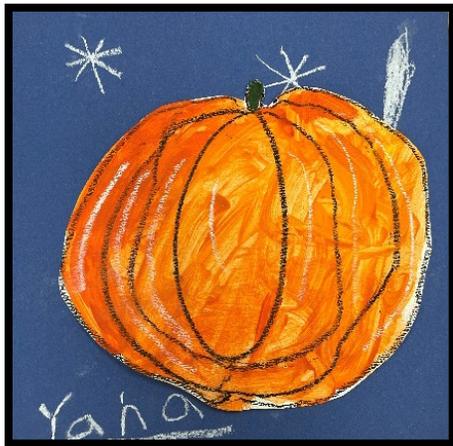
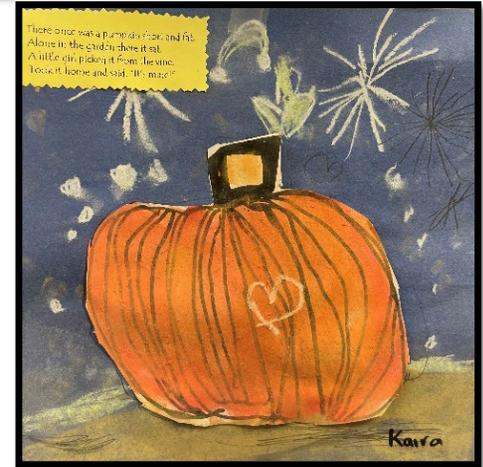
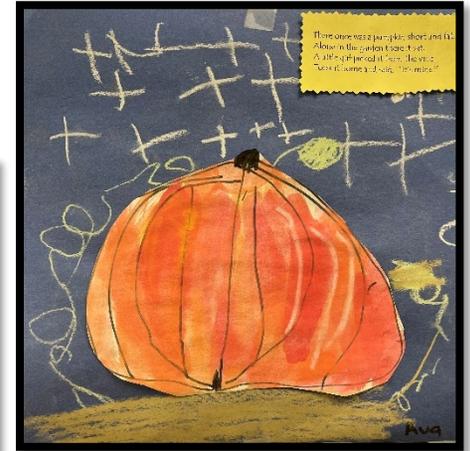
Dear Skwo:wech families,

Thank you to our PAC (Parent Advisory Council) and all the amazing parent volunteers who spent their day today setting up the gym for the Halloween Howl that takes place this evening, starting at 5:30-7:30. Please enter through the gym doors at the front of the school (Not through the courtyard.) Reminder that children must be accompanied by an adult to attend the Howl! and that all school-based costume expectations are in place for the Howl as well as Monday. Please see the message sent last week regarding costume expectations. On Monday, we encourage students to arrive wearing their costumes, with a change of clothes in their backpack in case they feel the need to change. Unfortunately, we do not have staff available to help the children put on their costumes. Please check with your child's teacher regarding any special celebrations that might be happening in their classroom. We had so much fun this morning with the pumpkin draw from the pumpkin run!

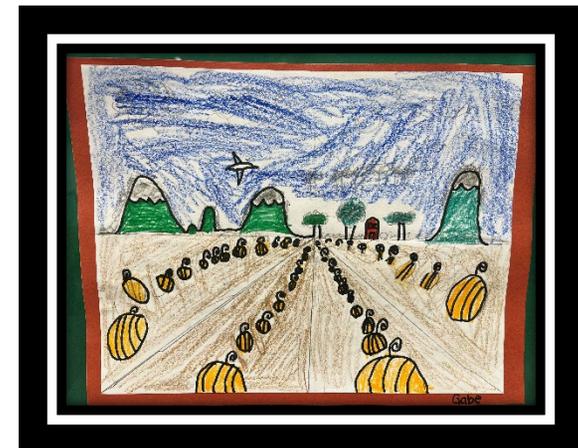
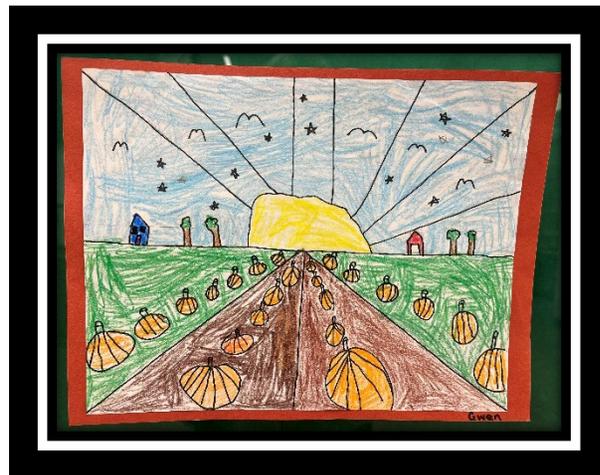
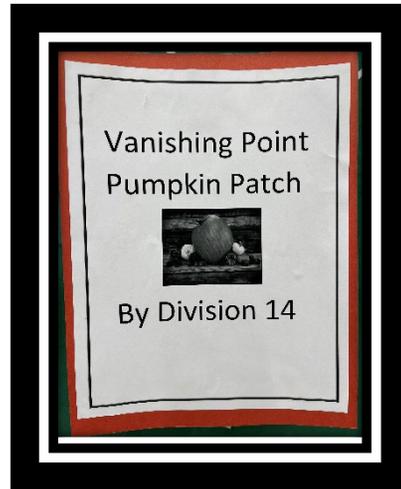


HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN PATCHES AT SKWO:WECH ELEMENTARY...

DIVISION 17 AND 19



HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN PATCHES AT SKWO:WECH ELEMENTARY...



Halloween Consideration

As Halloween approaches and people prepare their costumes, we wanted to provide you with a few quick reminders about safety and appropriate costumes at school.

Halloween can be an exciting holiday for many young people. Kids get to be creative, have fun, and engage in celebration. Dressing up in costumes is an anticipated tradition for many students and staff members alike.

It's also a time when we're a little more aware of what we need to do to keep each other safe in all ways. And those safety considerations that parents, students and staff need to consider at school are:

- Students in costume at school (where and when permitted) should be easily recognizable and/or be able to identify themselves to staff or other students when asked. No full-face masks are permitted.
- We celebrate diversity and inclusion in New Westminster schools. Costumes that are offensive or in poor taste are not permitted ... when selecting a costume, please consider whether it violates rights or appropriates identity, based on rights maintained under the Canadian Human Rights Act: race, ethnicity, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic characteristics, or disabilities.
- Research and reflect on cultural appropriation when it comes to costumes. If you'd like to learn more about navigating cultural appropriation, we've created some quick guidelines on how to approach it [here](#).
- No replica weapons (guns, knives, etc.) are allowed on school property.
- School codes of conduct must always be followed. This means acting respectfully to peers and staff and maintaining good care of school property. Vandalism is never acceptable and is a crime.
- The possession or use of firecrackers or fireworks at school is strictly and always prohibited.

Your school or classroom teacher may have provided additional information about how Halloween will be celebrated this year. Please contact the school if you have further questions.

We appreciate your help in making Halloween an enjoyable event for all participating staff and students.

Safety tips for trick-or-treaters

- **Be visible:** Choose costumes that are lighter in colour, bring flashlights or glow sticks, and add reflective material to costumes, candy bags and shoes to ensure that children are visible to drivers.
- **Go as a group:** Trick-or-treating in a group can be fun and makes everyone more visible to drivers, and an adult should always accompany children younger than 12.
- **Follow pedestrian rules:** Remind children to always walk on sidewalks, cross only at crosswalks and refrain from walking between parked cars or through front yards.

Farewell!

We wish Dr. Kentel farewell! She is leaving our District for a position closer to her family. Her last day at Skwo:wech is Friday, October 28th. We are very sorry to say farewell to Dr. Kentel but wish her the very best in her new position. Dr. Kentel wanted all her division 6 families to know, "in the short time I have been at Skwo:wech it has been a delight to work with such exceptional students and a supportive parent group. Your amazing children will remain in my heart". Dr Kentel



We were so fortunate to have beautiful sunny skies for our pumpkin run on Wednesday



New Registration for 2023-2024 school year

New registrations for the 2023-24 school year will be accepted from November 7, 2022 to January 27, 2023. Appointments are required to submit your application.

As long as you register within the above regular registration window, your timing will not determine placement – so if you're having trouble finding an appointment time within the busier first few weeks, you don't need to worry about it affecting your chances of being placed at your catchment school. Please note that while we will continue to place every new student we can into their catchment or preferred school, we may not always be able to do so, given our significant capacity challenges. In accordance with Administrative Procedure 300, in the limited number of cases where the number of in-catchment requests made within the regular registration period exceeds our capacity to support all the students, a randomized lottery may be used to determine placement at that school. We will confirm enrollment requests, for all families, by the end of February.

(For more on capacity status at our schools: <https://newwestschools.ca/our-schools/registration/school-capacity-status/>)

Here's the process and what you need to know to register a new student:

- To register, parents or legal guardians need to book a 10 minute appointment with our Registration Team, where you bring a completed [registration form](#) and the documents outlined in the Document Guide for Parents and Caregivers, or you can bring the documents outlined in the [Document Guide for Parents and Caregivers](#), and the team will help you print, photocopy and complete all required paperwork.
- If for any reason you do not have the documents suggested within the guide, we would be happy to have a confidential conversation with you to see if there is another solution.
- If you need support of a translator for your registration appointment, please let us know in advance and we will do our best to see if there is someone within our new Welcome Centre team who can support you through your pre-arranged appointment time.
- To book your appointment to register, you can use this link: <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/RegistrationsCalendar@sd40.bc.ca/bookings/>

PLEASE REMEMBER: We can not accept registrations for the upcoming year before the window opens. Please ensure you book your appointment for November 7th or later if you are registering a new student for the 2023-24 school year.

Please find more information on registration, including the forms and guides, here: [REGISTRATION IN NEW WEST SCHOOLS](#)

When it is time for your appointment, please note that the Registration Team works out of the Welcome Centre, located at New Westminster Secondary School (accessible via an exterior entrance on the South side of the building, at 820 6th Street, New Westminster).

Applications for Programs of Choice will be available online from 9am on January 16th to 4pm on February 10th, 2023. More information about those options will be provided closer to those dates. But please note: any student applying for a Program of Choice must first be enrolled to register at their catchment school, through the above process.

We look forward to new opportunities to connect with your family.

- The New Westminster Schools team

P.S. Looking for dates in one central place? Here's an information sheet outlining key registration dates for new students, for the upcoming school year: [PDF: One page document outlining key dates for the 2023-24 school year registration timelines](#)