Greetings, Falcon Families!

In an effort to balance our academic routines with important social and cultural opportunities for our students, we’d like to share information on our classroom celebrations. We hope this helps your family to plan and enjoy some exciting social milestones in your elementary child’s experience.

Several holiday-centered celebrations have developed into traditions in our building. Students and their families look forward to these special themes and celebrations, and it may be helpful to know these traditions as your child progresses through school. Halloween, in particular, is an exciting time. We wish to tie our school celebration to curriculum to use our time wisely, create excitement surrounding learning pieces (such as reading, Wisconsin history, and science), and remain sensitive to families’ unique approaches to this traditional holiday. Our grade levels celebrate at the end of October in the following themes:

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| EC, 4K and Kindergarten | When I grow up, I want to be: Students dress to reflect an idea they have about what they will do when they grow up! |
| First Grade | Story Book celebration: Students dress as their favorite story book character and share their favorite book. |
| Second Grade | Everyday Heroes: Students can chose to dress up as an **everyday** hero that they admire! Someone who is strong, brave, selfless, honest, and/or kind. Some examples are: a military member, a sports hero, a family member, a community hero, or a past hero. |
| Third Grade | Mad Scientist day: Students dress as scientists and participate in a day of science demonstrations, experiments, and more. |
| Fourth Grade | Wisconsin theme: Students dress to reflect our Wisconsin heritage. This can include sports team apparel or Wisconsin history. Accurate creativity encouraged! |

We ask that families refrain from dressing their child with potentially scary accessories such as fake blood, weapons, masks, etc. Please also keep in mind that costumes worn for the entire school day still need to allow for daily activities. Students will still need to go to recess, physical education class, perform typical daily tasks, eat lunch, etc. These guidelines help all students to enjoy the day.

While our themes are intended to spark creativity and support learning, we understand that the themes may not coincide with your family’s chosen costumes for this traditional holiday. Please don’t feel that you need to make an additional purchase to enjoy this school dress-up experience. Our school mission, vision, and commitments emphasize **innovation**, so it’s great to see creative use of common clothing or materials to share the excitement of **imagination!**

Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher or the school office with specific questions.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Lynn Bub, SFES Principal

For your reference, here are our overall guidelines for celebrations:

* School celebrations typically occur during a portion of the day (as opposed to an entire day). Students may wear themed attire on a variety of special days (100th day, pajama day, Dr. Seuss celebration, and many other examples), but the actual “party” or “activity” does not typically last all day.
* Grade level teachers communicate with one another to offer a similar experience for all students at each grade level.
* Parents may be invited to assist with a celebration; grade levels plan these opportunities together, as well. Every attempt is made to share opportunities with multiple families, just as we do for field trips (some celebrations may not require parent helpers).
* While it is tempting to attend every activity or celebration with your child, these events are meant to extend our academic learning during a portion of the day and are not all meant to be performances or family events. We welcome your presence whenever possible, and try to balance family pieces with student independence and appropriate social development.
* Please check classroom communications for information on upcoming celebrations so you can prepare your child for their experience.