

The North Country community has a number of families and students who celebrate and enjoy Halloween. It is a fun tradition and we cheer on all who choose to celebrate it in a positive manner. We also respect those within the school community who, for various reasons, choose not to join in Halloween celebrations.

The school hosts many activities throughout the school year celebrating various events and holidays. We will continue to do so. We have consistently respected the right of families to choose to have their children participate, or not, in such celebrations. However, when the number of students choosing to not participate becomes significant, it is incumbent on the school leadership to re-evaluate and determine if the event is truly meeting the social and academic needs of its student population.

Such was the case in this instance. Halloween has traditionally been a low attendance day at North Country. Following the pattern of recent years, last year the parents of roughly one-fourth of the school population chose to withhold their children from school during the day's events. With well over 100 students not participating, the school leadership determined that a change was necessary to meet the needs of many more of its students.

The school likewise recognizes it's important community role in fostering cultural traditions. As such, the school has planned an evening harvest festival to which all students and their families are invited. Further, the school administration is currently working with its PTO to look at future options where voluntary after-school or evening events may provide opportunities for the community to come together to celebrate this holiday in a fun way.