Dear Families,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the staff to announce that we will be having a school-wide Halloween Parade & Sing on Wednesday, October 31st, including a Flash Mob Dance presentation!

This fabulous event will be short and sweet. To make it a successful parade, we need you to know the following. Please review these details with your children at home:

* Children will begin parading 9:00 AM.
* In order to get a smooth and safe start, we ask **all parents/caregivers to wait for the children outside and along our route. Please DO NOT come into the school building. We are very grateful for your cooperation.**
* Our route: We will march south on the west side of Water Street then turn left on Beekman.  Next we march east on the north side of Beekman to Front, where we turn left. We walk north on west side of Front Street back to Peck Slip and the cross left back to our street. **Please keep our sidewalks and those on the route clear for our marchers**.
* After the kids return to our block, they will gather on and in front of risers at the east end of the playstreet and sing a (very slightly) spooky and festive Halloween song.
* Parents, please feel free to join the parade or watch from the other side of the street. When we return to sing, please stand in the street outside the roped-off performance area.
* After the song, your kids will take a bow, blow you kisses and head back to classrooms. **No parents, please. Kids will get assistance from classroom personnel to change into street clothes.**
* We expect the entire event to take 20 - 30 minutes max.

While the children are allowed to wear their costumes to school, they will have to take them off once the parade is over. For safety and practical reasons:

* Send your child in a costume that s/he can put on/take off independently & with school clothes to wear afterward. Ideally costumes will be worn over school clothes.
* Please avoid face paint for this Halloween outing. Too hard to remove.
* NO MASKS ARE ALLOWED. They are simply way too scary for some kids (plus we need to see faces to keep everyone safe).
* And no weapons of any kind - please remind your young super heroes, Jedi knights, ninjas and other warriors to come unarmed.
* Please do not send in candy or treats.

Following the parade, believe it or not, classroom instruction will resume for the rest of the day.

Boo!

Maggie

PS. ChildMind.org, my one of fave websites, has two articles on Halloween you may want to check out:

[*Taking Halloween by the Horns*](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fchildmind.org%2Farticle%2Ftaking-halloween-by-the-horns%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7C3cbcc267fd8f42b6a85608d632b6ab23%7C18492cb7ef45456185710c42e5f7ac07%7C0%7C0%7C636752157461679240&sdata=gMv5TlicX7EBTPFDBoPmOkQeQy7jxwMu22d5MhnWpwE%3D&reserved=0)

[*Are Kids’ Halloween Costumes Getting Too Adult?*](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fchildmind.org%2Farticle%2Fare-kids-halloween-costumes-getting-too-adult%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7C3cbcc267fd8f42b6a85608d632b6ab23%7C18492cb7ef45456185710c42e5f7ac07%7C0%7C0%7C636752157461689252&sdata=dfwhZWXRVr2tqJhpg0sJmK%2FPJmYbLAJ%2BTiwIzQNLZUE%3D&reserved=0)