



## JMSS School Update – Wednesday, October 28, 2020

This message will cover the following 12 information items:

1. University & College Application Information Nights
2. Next Parent Council Meeting
3. OSTA Student Travel Survey
4. Virtual Graduation Ceremony for the class of 2020
5. Halloween: Customs vs Costumes & Cultural Appropriation

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### 1. Grade 12 Parents & Students – Post-Secondary Applications & Full Disclosure Deadlines:

Dear Grade 12 Parents,  
Hope you're all doing well. We (JMSS Guidance) just wanted to send out some important reminders and information for all our Grade 12s.

#### Deadline to drop Quadmester 1 Courses

The last day that students are allowed to drop a course for Quadmester 1 is **Monday, November 2nd** (next week). If students drop a course after this date, the incomplete course, as well as the mark they had at the time they dropped will appear on their permanent transcript.

#### Post-Secondary Applications - Presentations for Parents

We would like to invite Grade 12 parents to any of our virtual post-secondary presentations next week. For each session we will begin with a 30-minute presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions. The dates, times, and Google Meet links are below:

Presentation	Date	Time	
Applying to University	Mon. Nov. 2	10:00 AM - 10:30 AM – Presentation 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM - Questions	<a href="#">Google Meet Link</a>
Applying to University	Tues. Nov. 3	4:00 PM - 4:30 PM – Presentation 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM - Questions	<a href="#">Google Meet Link</a>
Applying to College	Wed. Nov. 4	10:00 AM - 10:30 AM – Presentation 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM - Questions	<a href="#">Google Meet Link</a>
Applying to College	Wed. Nov. 4	4:00 PM - 4:30 PM – Presentation 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM - Questions	<a href="#">Google Meet Link</a>

We have already had one virtual drop-in session specifically for students to ask questions about post-secondary applications and we plan on having other sessions for students in the future.

#### How does my child apply to College/University?

The following links to handouts and slideshows were sent to students earlier in October. We have included the links below for your reference.

[Handout: Applying to College](#)  
[Slideshow: College Applications](#)  
[Handout: Applying to University](#)  
[Slideshow: University Applications](#)

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## 2. Next Parent Council Meeting

Our next parent council meeting is scheduled for:

**Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

[Google Meet Link](#)

All JMSS Parents are welcome

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## 3. OSTA Student Travel Survey

OSTA has created a survey to learn how students are using active transportation, and to collect information in the hopes of reducing traffic flow in our schools. They hope that you will complete the [Student Travel and Traffic Survey](#) about how students and their parents are getting to school and the types of issues they/you have observed.

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## 4. Virtual Graduation Ceremony for the class of 2020

All OCDSB Secondary schools will host virtual commencement ceremonies **Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 7:00pm**. Our team is working to create a virtual ceremony that will honour the achievements of our Class of 2020. In the next several weeks, we will be reaching out to Graduates and their families to collect, and to provide more information. We will be posting information to the JMSS Website as it becomes available.

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## 5. Halloween - Customs vs Costumes, and Cultural Appropriation

This year COVID19 will keep us from our regular Halloween festivities. While we might not be celebrating the way we usually do with trick-or-treating, Halloween can provide us an opportunity to explore and talk about our understanding of racism. We want Halloween at McCrae to be a safe, inclusive and welcoming experience for everyone. How we do that is we make sure that our costumes aren't harming our peers.

Often, when we choose our costumes we don't do so with the intention of being racist or discriminatory, Regardless of intention, it's important to check your costume before you arrive at school or go out. Before you choose a costume ask yourself:

- Am I using makeup to alter my natural skin tone?
- Does the name of my costume include an ethnicity in the title?
- Am I wearing garments or accessories traditional to a culture (that is not your own!)?
- Have I selected a costume that represents an offensive historical figure?
- Is my costume "funny" because it mocks the real life experiences of others?

(adapted from <https://studentlife.ryerson.ca/cultural-appropriation-halloween-their-culture-is-not-your-costume/>)

Here are some resources you might consider if this is a conversation you would like to continue at home"  
RU Student Life - "[Cultural Appropriation and Halloween: Culture not Costume](#)"  
CBC News - "[A level of respect': Choosing a Halloween costume that doesn't offend](#)"  
NPR - "[Cultural Appropriation, A Perennial Issue On Halloween](#)"

Have a great weekend,

Erin O'Grady



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We acknowledge that John McCrae Secondary School rests on unceded and unsurrendered Algonquin Territory. We thank the Algonquin Nation for hosting us and recognize their enduring presence on this land.