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Prevent Home Fires



Fire Prevention Month

October 2008

Bayonne Board of Education



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669 Avenue A

Bayonne, New Jersey 07002

October 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Fire Prevention Month and Halloween occur during the month of October. In collaboration with the City of Bayonne Fire Department, the Bayonne Board of Education has developed this brochure to ensure safety for parents and students.

The "Learn Not To Burn" educational program was implemented in 1975. The district continues to make a strong commitment to fire safety education by coordinating efforts between the Fire Department, school, and community to improve all aspects of public safety.

This year, Fire Prevention Week will be held October 5-11. As part of the week-long celebration, Bayonne firefighters will be visiting each school to discuss various fire prevention and safety skills. The firefighters will be distributing information concerning the theme for Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is **"It's Fire Prevention Week: Prevent Home Fires!"** Firefighters will also stress the importance of this year's theme and discuss basic fire facts and home hazards.

It is important to improve safety through education. Coordinating efforts between the Fire Department, schools, and the community will improve all aspects of public safety. Our hope is that our students will utilize and share with their friends and family what they learn in school about fire safety.

Please take the time to review this very important information about fire safety and important tips for Halloween.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. McGeehan

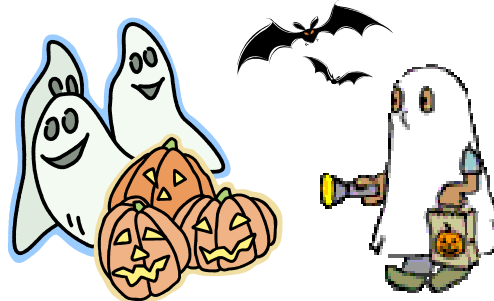
Patricia L. McGeehan, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Halloween Safety Tips

- ~ Parents should set a good example by being excellent role models for children: be a good pedestrian - instruct children to use sidewalks and cross at crosswalks.
- ~ Children should carry a flashlight. Costumes should be brightly colored or have reflective tape to highlight them. Check to make sure that all parts of the costume are labeled flame retardant.



- ~ Adults should walk with their children door-to-door.
- ~ Children should wear comfortable, sturdy shoes and temperature-appropriate clothing in regards to the child's costume.
- ~ In order to avoid crowds or any potential encounters with strangers, you may want to attend a planned Halloween event.
- ~ Any treats that are brought home by your child should be checked before your child eats a single treat.
- ~ Use flashlights in jack o' lanterns...it is safer than candles.



It's Fire Prevention Week: PREVENT HOME FIRES

(Reproduced from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week, www.firepreventionweek.org)

Your home should be a safe haven. But do you regularly check for home fire hazards? If not, there is the potential for danger. Fire departments responded to nearly 400,000 home fires in 2006. That's why the theme of Fire Prevention Week 2008 is **"It's Fire Prevention Week: Prevent Home Fires!"** From October 5-11, fire safety advocates will spread the word to their communities that, with a little extra caution, preventing the leading causes of home fires - cooking, heating, electrical, and smoking materials - is within their power.

My Fire Inspection Checklist

Make sure your home is safe and inspect for risks:

- Electrical cords are in good condition (not damaged).
- The clothes dryer has a clean vent and filter (no lint build-up).
- Appliances and lights are plugged into separate electrical outlets.
- A grown-up always stays in the kitchen whenever food is cooking on the stovetop.
- All smoke alarms work when tested by a grown-up.
- All extension cords are used safely (not under carpets or across walking areas).
- All escape routes are clear of clutter and easily accessible.
- Portable space heaters are 3 feet away from anything that can burn.
- Curtains and other things that can burn are away from the stovetop.
- The furnace has been inspected in the past year.
- Portable space heaters are off whenever a grown-up leaves the room and goes to sleep.
- The chimney has been inspected and cleaned in the past year.
- Use candles with care. When you go out, blow out!