

PS 295 Halloween Dance & Donation Drive FAQs

When and where is it? We host our Halloween Dance on the Saturday before Halloween. This year, it will be Saturday, October 27 from 5:00-7:30pm at PS 295.

Who can come? This event welcomes current PS 295 families and friends, and recent alums.

Theme? In recent years, there has also been a theme. Last year, we celebrated Day of the Dead. This year is Carnival! “Carnevale,” meaning, “put away the meat,” is a pre-lenten tradition celebrated around the world. This Fête of all fêtes with its soca beats, elaborate costumes and tasty food makes it the perfect theme for our annual Halloween dance.

It’s a fundraiser! Admission is free, but bring your donations. Our first fundraiser is one of the most important of the year — and with your help, it’ll be one of the biggest. If each family can raise just \$20, the PTA will have \$8,000 to buy much-needed books, art supplies, and dance instruction for our kids. If you can raise more, even better! Most importantly, please join us with your family on October 27th to show your love and support for the school.

How do I donate?

- Donation envelopes are distributed in backpacks. Just bring to the dance at check in.
 - Share with family and friends this link www.bit.ly/GiveToPTA (case sensitive) to sponsor your child online. Promise to send pictures as a thank you!
- Checks to PS 295 Parent Teacher Association or cash accepted. CC processing TBD (\$20 min)*
-Label your envelope with child’s name and class for a chance to win the ice cream party!
-For online donations, include child’s name, class and the event, “Halloween Dance 2018” in the box provided to “Designate your donation to a specific program or fund”.

Can’t make it? We understand and you can still donate. Just give your donation to your child’s teacher before the dance or donate online.

Are costumes required?

Everyone in the Halloween mood should come in costume! And if you’re not feeling it that day, just come ready to boogie.

Are there prizes?: The class with the highest attendance (by percentage) will be treated to an ice cream party! So make sure to check in when you get to the dance.

Will there be food available? Will it cost money?

Yes, affordable options for dinner will be available. We are also asking our families to bring in baked goods a la Cupcake Friday that we will sell for dessert. Prices are typically \$1-\$3 per item.

I’m free on Saturday October 27 and would love to volunteer.

Thanks! This is definitely a fun event to participate in. To volunteer to help — donate chili, sell food, make masks, run the photo booth, or keep kids safe — signup is easy at bit.ly/volunteer-dance2018. You don't have to create an account, just give your email for confirmation and communication purposes. Contact Jannelle Gellizeau at jannelleg@gmail.com with any questions.

My little ones might be freaked out by darkness of the dance floor—what to do?

It’s a Halloween party, so it will be on the dark side with appropriate decorations, but the effect is more of a dance club (flashing colored lights) than a haunted house (nothing will jump out at them, no creepy noises, etc.) We hope to make it as enjoyable as possible for the whole school community—spooky enough for the older kids to find it cool, but not too scary for the little ones! Here are a few tips:

- Prepare younger kids beforehand by reassuring them that it's a costume party full of the same kids they go to school with—no actual monsters or menace of any kind.
- Show your child photos from last year's event so they know what to expect. Check out our Facebook Album "Halloween Dance 2017" at <http://bit.ly/PS295dance2017>
- Bring a flashlight or glow sticks! Having their own source of light might help turn it into an adventure.
- Keep the 18th St. courtyard and kitchen in mind. The party will start well before dark, and there are always kids playing and taking breaks outside. The kitchen will be fully lit for food sales, so it's always a good place to escape the gloom.

Any questions that we didn't answer? Contact Jacqueline Daniel Scherz (jdaniel.scherz@gmail.com) or Jannelle Gellizeau (jannelleg@gmail.com)