

The Spirit of Halloween

Has New Hallows Eve been exorcised from the school setting?

by Asher Lowrey and Liam Decker

Witchcraft! Witchcraft? Has a dreadful curse fallen upon DeKalb High School? Has the District School Board banned dressing up during school hours on New Hallows Eve?

It is a common rumor among students and parents of the DeKalb school district that students are not allowed to wear costumes. Many people are upset by the thought of Halloween dress up being shoved out of the school scenario.

Not much besides gossip and misguided frustration were found on social media posts centered around the topic. To explore this rumor, we scoured the DIST 428 parents page and the student body to find more information. Junior Craig Decker says, "I find it unfair that certain students [referring to Big Sis Lil Sis] would be allowed to dress up for spirit week and such, but the rest of the student body wouldn't be allowed to dress in costumes for Halloween."

The celebration of Halloween is centuries old, and, in the past few decades, it has become tradition for students and teachers to dress up to honor the holiday. Though descending from ancient Wiccan and Pagan ritual, the holiday is enjoyed by people of expansive and diverse religions, races, and ethnicities. It has become a widely accepted tradition in American and DHS Barb culture.

In recent years, parties and treats have been banned from classrooms for understandable reasons like food allergies. However, no one could grasp why costumes would be shunned. This includes new Dean Maurice McDavid. "I can't speak officially in terms of what the school board is trying to do, but I can tell you that we have had this conversation already as an administrative team. The approach that we are taking is that as long as whatever the person is wearing that day is school appropri-

ate, and follows dress code, then it will be allowed." Assistant Principle Mr. Biancalana highlights that "We have not been given any indication that students cannot dress up."

While talking with Biancalana, many points were touched upon. One concern was the difference in dress code enforcement when comparing Big Sis Lil Sis to Halloween. Many more exceptions appear to be made when it comes to Big Sis Lil Sis, but Biancalana pointed out, "[referencing Spirit week] It's good for the overall spirit of the school. As long as we can identify the students in those circumstances [Face paint, Headgear, etc.], we pretty much just allow them to have some fun."

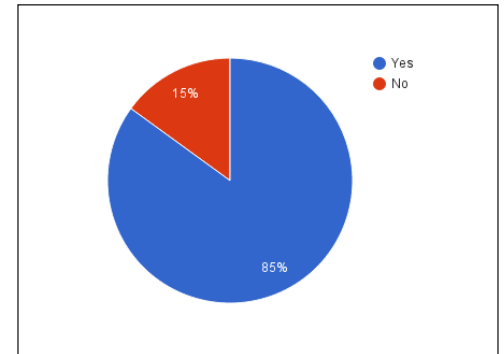
Biancalana and McDavid also confirmed that, though there was some talk amongst the school board, costumes are still permitted as long as they are appropriate and follow dress code. "We're not celebrating it as a school; it's the student's choice," concludes Biancalana.

After the long witch hunt, the truth has risen from the grave through rumors, gossip, and assumptions. It's safe to say the costumes are on and the rumors are off!

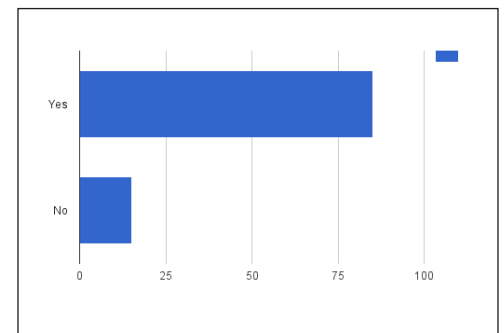


*Halloween masks and headgear
Photo by Cris Rojo.*

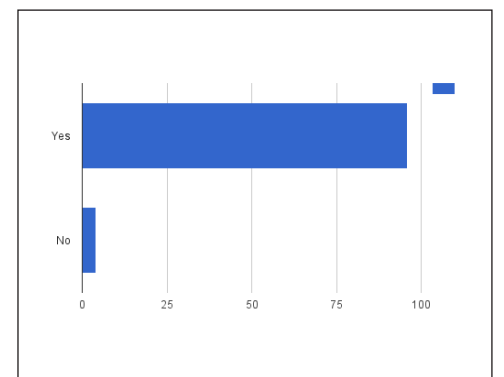
Halloween Twitter Polls



Q1; Do you find it unfair that Students could be allowed to dress up for Big Sis lil Sis but not Halloween?



Q2; Are you upset by the district banning Halloween parties at school?



Q3; Do you celebrate Halloween?