

## **Parent/Guardian Information Sheet**

The Schoolhouse building is over 100 years old! We need to be careful to make sure that it stays in good condition. When you visit the museum please remember that things in a museum are old and can be easily broken. Please go over these simple rules in the museum with your child:

- Ask before touching anything in the classroom
- Make sure to bring indoor shoes on rainy days and during winter months
- Do not run in the classroom
- Eat your lunch carefully so that you don't spill your drink or drop food on the floor

Parents/Teachers: When you are taking pictures throughout the day, please make sure that you don't interfere with the role-play program. Please ensure that the media release form provided by the teacher, has been signed for photo documentation.

### **Packing Your “Dinner” (Lunch)**

Students at the turn of the last century did not have the luxury of such a variety of food we experience today. Generally, most students stayed at the Schoolhouse for lunch - they would carry their lunch to school in a pail, cloth bag, or basket which would be stored in the cloak room until dinner time. Their source of food was most likely from their own garden and farm, so students relied on home-cooking and local produce.

Food generally found in a student's lunch might include:

- Home- made bread or rolls;
- Cold meats;
- Meat sandwiches;
- Muffins;
- Special occasion – pies or tarts;
- Hard boiled eggs;
- Cheese;
- Jams (no peanut butter).
- Oatmeal or gingerbread cookies
- Pickles, preserves;
- Cut vegetables, (e.g. potatoes, carrots, celery);
- Local fruit (e.g., apples, pears, plums, no oranges or bananas); and
- A mason jar of milk, apple juice, lemonade or cider.

**Please Note:** We have a different class attending the Heritage Schoolhouse each day. For the safety of all staff students we are a peanut/nut free environment, please refrain from bringing peanuts/nut products in your lunches.

## What to Wear

To enhance the effectiveness of the role-play at the Heritage Schoolhouse, students and teachers are encouraged to create their own costuming. Clothing worn by people in 1850 was very different from what we wear today.

The following suggestions may be used as guidelines for visitors to the Schoolhouse to design their own costumes.

### For Boys/Teachers:

- Add a pair of suspenders to your jeans and wear a white collared shirt
- A pair of overalls or jeans and 'work' shirt
- A bow tie
- Wear boots or dark coloured shoes
- Tuck your pants into a pair of work socks to make a pair of 'knickers'/'knee pants'
- Jacket or vest
- White cotton shirt
- Dark suit coat, vest & trousers
- Handkerchief, hat, gloves

### For Girls/Teachers:

- Dress with a fancy collar, or a white blouse with lace or frills
- Bow or ribbon in your hair, long hair would be pulled back, braided or in a bun
- Shawl over your dress
- No jewelry, make-up or nail polish
- Long full skirted dress with long sleeves and a high neck
- Hair tied back; white or black cap or hat to cover your hair

**Please note:** These suggestions follow the typical gender stereotypes that were prevalent in the 19th/20th centuries and do not reflect modern times. Costume pieces are available at the museum to all who visit, and these are merely suggestions to enhance the role play.

## Inclement Weather

When [buses](#) to YRDSB schools are cancelled due to inclement weather conditions, Schoolhouse programming is also cancelled.

## Contact Information

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