



Five-year-old YMCA Kinder Prep classmates Anthony Detoro (top) and Canann Hay (bottom) can't wait for the fun at *Halloween at the Y*, scheduled for Friday evening, October 24th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Princeton Family YMCA. The event is free and open to the public.

IT'S NUTTY, SPOOKY AND SAFE—IT'S HALLOWEEN AT THE YMCA

Princeton, October 20, 2008 – Halloween can be silly—a nutty, spooky scare. But this annual night of fun shouldn't be spoiled by any *REAL* scare. For a safe, exciting Halloween, the Princeton Family YMCA is again offering an imaginative experience – an evening for little trick or treaters and their families to enjoy in an environment that's both fun and safe. This year's "*Halloween at the Y*" event will take place on Friday evening, October 24th at 6:30 – 8:30 pm - at 59 Paul Robeson Place. *Halloween at the Y* is just one of many *Family Fun Friday* events scheduled for 2008-09. *Family Fun Fridays* are intended to provide a night of wholesome fun for families to share time together. This event is free and open to the public. Participants are encouraged to come early because more than 400 children and family members are expected to attend.

This Friday evening, the Princeton Family YMCA will be transformed into a Halloween wonderland – decorations and other surprises will surely please the most discerning hobgoblins. The activities will be supervised by a team of staff and volunteers. "It's a safe, creative and social experience for all ages," said Kevin Walsh, Senior Program Director, "Families want to know that their children are being looked after at a Halloween event, while engaging in enjoyable, worthwhile activities. Our YMCA is not only a safe place, but it's also a happy and exciting destination for the whole family." Back by popular demand, activities will include pumpkin-decorating, creating creepy popcorn hands and the costume parade and contest. New this year will be the Mad Science snack room, a pumpkin free-throw and more! Children are encouraged to put on their thinking caps and use their creativity to make their own wonderful and wacky costumes to wear that evening as well.

“We guarantee that *Halloween at the Y* will deliver enough treats and spooky fun to delight children of all ages,” said Kate Bech, CEO. “There’s not a ghost of a chance anyone will be disappointed!”

Halloween at the Y is just one of the many programs that support the Princeton Family YMCA’s commitment to the holistic development of children and youth, healthy lifestyles for all, and family strengthening. For more information about *Halloween at the Y*, contact Membership Services at 609-497-9622 x204 or visit www.princetonymca.org.

Tips for Kids for a Happy and Safe Halloween from the YMCA

No matter what your Halloween plans, the Princeton Family YMCA suggests considering these precautions before heading to the Y or trick-or-treating in the neighborhood:

- Wear light-colored costumes made of material that is flame retardant
- Wear shorter costumes to prevent tripping
- Add reflective tape or striping to costumes for greater visibility
- Use face make-up—no hoods or masks that obscure the face and vision
- Take younger children door-to-door in daylight hours
- Carry a working flashlight
- Trick-or-treat within your neighborhood, only to homes you know
- Remind children: never enter homes and or accept rides from strangers
- Be alert to auto traffic, crossing safely according to rules
- Have parents or other adults inspect treats
- Check your lawn and steps for tripping hazards

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The Princeton Family YMCA is a charitable organization dedicated to building strong kids, strong families and strong communities. For more information about YMCA programs visit www.princetonymca.org or call 609-497-9622 x204.