

Dear Parents and Guardians of North Street School Students:

A child's birthday can be a very special day, at home and at school. Given the increasing number of children whose access to food is limited by allergies, dietary restrictions, custom or religious affiliation, food at birthday celebrations has led to exclusion for some students rather than inclusion. A few years ago, the district determined there would be no outside food permitted for classroom birthday celebrations in an effort to make a child's birthday an inclusive celebration for his/her classmates. This rule will continue to be enforced this year.

In keeping with the goals of our Wellness and Food Allergy policies, outside foods (cupcakes, cake, candy, etc) are not permitted for classroom birthday celebrations. Each child's birthday may be recognized in school, but only with non-food items or activities. The school administrators have consulted with the representatives of the PTA, and determined how birthdays will be celebrated in the classroom. North Street School has again chosen to have each child celebrate their birthday with the class signing of a birthday t-shirt. A plain white t-shirt will be purchased for each child through the classroom funds collected. On your child's birthday he/she will be given their t-shirt and all of their classmates will be provided time to sign it and sing Happy Birthday. Your child will be able to wear this special shirt for the remainder of the day and take it home as a small gift. All birthdays will also be announced over the loudspeaker during morning announcements.

The goal of this decision is not to diminish the joy and excitement of a birthday, but to celebrate in a way that sends the message of inclusion, belonging and respect for all.

I am confident that we can work together to make all our birthday celebrations great fun and make your child's birthday very special.

Sincerely,

Jill Flood  
Principal