PROCEDURE: SCHOOL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
FOOD AT ELEMENTARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN THE GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

August 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians of Greenwich Public School Students:

A child's birthday can be a very special day, at home and at school. However, 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. In an effort to make each child's birthday an inclusive celebration, food is not permitted during any classroom birthday celebrations.

In addition, parents joining their children for lunch for their birthday, or at any time during the year, may only bring lunch or treats for their own child. Please do not bring food to distribute to other children in the cafeteria as you will not be able to do so.

In keeping with the goals of our Wellness and Food Allergy policies, outside foods (cupcakes, 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 chosen to have each child celebrate their birthday by receiving a tshirt that all of their classmates will sign in the morning. The student can then wear their special shirt for the rest of the day at school. All birthdays will also be announced over the loudspeaker during morning announcements.

The goal of this practice 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.

Best,

Jill Flood
Principal