Hanby Magnet School
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Katie McCune, Principal

Birthday Celebration Policy

As we begin the new school year, Hanby Elementary School will continue to utilize our birthday celebration guidelines. Due to the ever-growing number of students with various food allergies, we want to protect those students from an allergic reaction. This policy also allows us to take an active role in promoting, supporting, and modeling healthy eating habits for our students.

While we recognize that our children love to celebrate special events such as birthdays with their peers and teachers, we also recognize that we have a tremendous opportunity to promote healthy behaviors and to show students how to enjoy special moments such as birthdays without making food the focus of our celebrations. In an effort to nurture healthy choices and to strengthen our school-wide commitment to wellness, we will be implementing new practices for individual student celebrations (birthdays, moving to a new school, etc.). As in the past years, Hanby will no longer allow students to distribute edible treats for these events. Instead, we have identified other celebration options.

Below are our school's approved choices for alternatives to food treats:

- Donate a book to your child's classroom or to our school library's Birthday Book Club. You may want to contact your child's teacher for book suggestions.
- Donate an indoor recess game to your child's classroom.
- Distributed small tokens such as stickers, birthday pencils, or pencil toppers to the class.
- Provide an autograph book or tee shirt for your child that classmates can sign.

We appreciate your partnership as we implement school practices. Please note that any food-item sent to school will **NOT** be opened or distributed and will be returned home with the child. We will continue to have school wide celebrations such as the Fall Party, Winter Party and Valentine Party, at which we will continue to share nutritious snacks and will allow classrooms to share some treats.

Children embrace being recognized by their peers and teachers for special occasions and our new practices will ensure the focus of our celebrations are on the student and not the edible treat.

We invite our Hanby school community to join us in our efforts to support students with food allergies and to promote lifelong, healthy, and nutritional habits in our students.

Sincerely,
Katie McCune, Principal