PROCEDURE: SCHOOL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

FOOD AT ELEMENTARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN THE GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

August 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians of Greenwich Public School Students:

A child's birthday can be a very special day, at home and at school. Traditionally in elementary schools in Greenwich, parents have helped their children celebrate their birthdays by bringing in cupcakes or other food items for the class. 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 a child's birthday an inclusive celebration for his/her classmates, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, food is not permitted at any classroom birthday celebrations.

Effective August 28, 2026, there is no outside food permitted for classroom birthday celebrations. 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. ***At Glenville, we will celebrate birthdays by announcing each child's name during morning announcements. Students will then come down to the office and have their picture taken with Snappy. The picture will go home in a custom Glenville birthday card. Please note, weekend birthdays will be announced on the Friday prior, and summer birthdays will be announced before we leave for summer recess in June.***

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.

Best,

Klara Monaco

Klara Monaco
Principal
Glenville School