GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"Setting the Standard for Excellence in Public Education"

JULIAN CURTISS MAGNET SCHOOL OF WORLD LANGUAGES

EDUARDO CALDERÓN
Principal

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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 with the 2016-2017 school year, food is not permitted at any 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 Julian Curtiss School we will celebrate each child's birthday the following three ways:

- ***Each child will be recognized during morning announcements, with weekend birthdays being announced on the Friday prior and half birthdays announced for summer birthdays.***
- ***Parents have the option of reading a book to their child's class.***
- ***Parents have the option of bringing in a small non-food gift bag for their child's class.***
- ***Parents have the option of having lunch at JC with their child during their scheduled lunchtime. Parents may bring outside food of their choice for their child only.***

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,
Eduardo Calderón
Principal

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