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 2016-2017 school year, and continuing since then, food has not been 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.

All birthdays will also be announced on our morning announcement video.

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,

Kerry Gavin

Principal
Cos Cob School