

NORTHBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teaching Learning Caring



Meadowbrook Elementary
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

We want to update you on our District's practices for including food in celebrations that take place at school. We have implemented these procedures with the goal of providing a safe environment for students with allergies and promoting sound nutrition for all students. These procedures are aligned with our District policy, which is outlined in the District 28 Resource Guide for Supporting Children with Life-Threatening Allergies. We would like to make sure that you are familiar with these guidelines at the outset of the school year, so you can help us provide a consistent experience for our students.

We have agreed as a District that class parties for Halloween, the winter holidays, and Valentine's Day may include treats that have been purchased from a commercial vendor, with ingredients listed on the packaging. While we understand that some parents would prefer to bring baked goods from home, we have implemented this requirement to prevent our students from coming into accidental exposure to allergens.

Please note that we are limiting food treats to the three holiday celebrations. We are recognizing students' birthdays by providing them with non-edible gifts and allowing them to enjoy a variety of fun privileges on their special day. For example, Mr. Thome gives each student a birthday pencil and hat, and each child's birthday is announced during morning announcements. In addition, we believe it is important that students do not come to associate food as a reward for positive behaviors, and we have developed many alternative ways to provide recognition when students reach a goal. For example, students may be treated to a kickball party or receive another non-edible reward.

While teachers may incorporate food into a lesson if there is a clear connection to the curriculum, we are asking our staff members to limit these instances and to have the activities approved by the principal in advance.

We are grateful for your support as partners in educating the children of our District, and we appreciate your assistance in providing a safe, healthy learning environment for our students.

Rosanne Dwyer
Director of Student Services

Pat Thome
Meadowbrook Principal