



## BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION POLICY & PRE-APPROVED TREATS

Birthdays are a BIG deal for preschoolers and we want to appropriately celebrate our little friends at school while maintaining our routines and keeping our classrooms healthy and safe for everyone. While we all enjoy a sweet treat now and again, at school, we are a sugar-reduced environment and promote “healthy child guidelines”. We would like to maintain those guidelines even during special events as we often have an abundance of celebrations in a month.

Your child will be recognized by the teachers with a special song or classroom tradition even if you choose not to bring a treat. However, if you would like to contribute a special treat or non-edible recognition, please read through the following policies AND **coordinate with your child’s teacher BEFORE sending in a treat.**

- School birthdays **are recognitions, not parties**; please no balloons or decorations; napkins and paper plates are welcome if needed for the treat.
- **Treats MUST be chosen from our pre-approved list** (see back); if you have an alternate idea, it must be pre-approved by your child’s teacher.
- Please bring enough edible treats for the number of students in attendance that day
- Non-edible recognitions are welcome, but must be age-appropriate for your child’s age-group; non-edibles (i.e. pencils, yo-yos, crayons, coloring books, books, small stuffies, etc.) should be placed in mailboxes and should be enough for all students on the *roster*
- Please be ALLERGY-COMPASSIONATE – avoid allergens specific to your class (teachers will distribute at beginning of year)

Allergies stink...is there any other way to put it?!?! No child asks to have an allergy, especially one that is life-threatening or one that alters their entire lifestyle/diet from the norm (i.e. nuts, wheat, eggs, and milk). Young children have a very hard time understanding their own exclusion from eating with the group. It is our philosophy that birthdays are a time of celebration and should be enjoyable for EVERYONE. With that said, **we would like to build a community that is compassionate, understanding and inclusive of those with allergies.** Please check the allergens list for your class and avoid treats containing those items. **NO NUTS/PEANUTS** or (PEA)NUT-containing items at any time. THANK YOU!

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2*



### Hosting a Party?

If you are inviting the whole class, you may place invitations in school mailboxes. Many families opt for smaller parties due to space limitations. If not inviting the whole class, please mail or email your invitations to the respective recipients.

## CELEBRATION TREATS PRE-APPROVED LIST

"Enjoy Life" Brand Snacks	Snyder Pretzels	Pirate's Booty
"Skeeter" Brand Snacks (at Target) – Not okay for Egg Allergies	"Freedom" Brand Snacks	"Made Good" Brand Snacks
Any Fruit or Fruit Chips (Trays, skewer, bowls, shapes)	Flavored Rice Crackers Or Plain w/ Toppings (seed butter, jam, etc.)	Pudding
Yogurt/Gogurt	Pizza – Cheese Only	Cheese Sticks/Shapes
Berries and Cream or Whipped Cream	Pop Chips	Fruit Pouches or Sauces
Fruit & Whipped Cream	Multi-grain Chips (i.e. Sun Chips)	100% Fruit Leather
Veggies and Dip	Popcorn (older pod only)	100% Fruit Popsicles (i.e. Breyers or Minute Maid) or Fruit Cups
Fro-yo with Fruit Toppings (small, one flavor, toppings separate)	Jamba Juice Smoothies (small & one flavor)	100% Corn Tortilla Chips and Salsa/Guacamole
Ritz Crackers & Toppings (choose 1): sliced meat, cheese, jam, cream cheese, seed/sun butter	Graham Crackers & Toppings (choose 1): sliced meat, cheese, jam, cream cheese, seed/sun butter	NO MUFFINS DUE TO CROSS-CONTAMINATION

### GENERAL REMINDERS:

- NO TREE NUTS, PEANUTS or PEANUT/TREE NUT-CONTAINING PRODUCTS
  - No muffins due to cross-contamination
- Food must be **store bought** & have **ORIGINAL ingredient labels**
- No 'traditional desserts' – cake, cupcakes, candy, etc. These will be returned to you.
  - Low-key non-food treats are welcome if age-appropriate