



GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"Setting the Standard for Excellence in Public Education"

JULIAN CURTISS MAGNET SCHOOL OF WORLD LANGUAGES

PATRICIA McGUIRE
Principal

BRENDA BRUSH
Assistant Principal

September 2020

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.

Effective August 31, 2016, 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 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. Also, summer birthdays will be announced before we leave for summer recess in June. Parents have the option of "virtually" reading a book to their child's class. The last option is that the parent can bring in a small non-food gift bag for their child's class. We appreciate your anticipated cooperation with adhering to our practice.*

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,

Trish McGuire
Principal
Julian Curtiss School