

Little Ferry Public Schools

Washington Elementary- Grades Pre-K -4

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Dear Parents / Guardians:

It has been brought to our attention that there has been some conversation about the letter sent home yesterday in regard to birthday celebrations and class parties. This decision was made to ensure the utmost safety of our students and to align with the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010.

Anaphylaxis is a severe, potentially fatal immune systematic reaction. According to Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE) nearly one in 13 children or roughly two children in every classroom have food allergies. More than 170 foods are reported to cause food allergies. The safety of our students will always be our top priority in Little Ferry.

In addition, we want our students to have a healthier attitude toward food. In 2010 the federal government adopted new guidelines that each district needed to begin to implement in regard to school lunches, class parties, and birthdays. Children will still be acknowledged in many ways throughout the day, and you as parents can communicate with your child's teacher about how to make the day special. (i.e. sending in a book to be read, non-food goody bags to be shared with classmates, and of course the singing of Happy Birthday, etc...) Just because food is not being served does not mean a child's birthday is not recognized. In just two days, our new birthday announcements have already created a more positive, celebratory feeling in our school community. As I write this letter cheers and well wishes for Mr. Fernandes are being heard throughout the Annex. This is a positive, cultural shift not negative, punitive guidelines.

To clarify, classroom parties for holidays such as Halloween, Winter, Valentine's Day, Spring and End of Year will still be celebrated with food, however students will not be permitted to bring in goody bags for these events that contain food. Class parents will discuss with their grade level teachers the food that will be served and decide what other activities will coincide. A strict list of allergen free foods will be provided to class parents for parties. Creating a safe and healthy, positive learning environment will always be our goal. Welcome back and we look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

For more information about the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010

<http://www.nea.org/home/38649.htm>

Yours in education,



Tonilyn Peragallo
Principal



Frank R. Scarafile
Superintendent