

Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191

Sky Oaks Elementary

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www.isd191.org



Future Ready. Community Strong.

August, 2016

Dear Parents or Guardians,

In order to align Sky Oaks Elementary practices with the health and wellness of elementary children in Independent School District 191, we will be implementing a "no birthday treats" policy, starting this fall, 2016. This decision was made after much thought and discussion at the building and district level. There are a variety of reasons why we are making this change, the main one being to coordinate with our district's wellness policy on making healthy choices, in alignment with federal regulations.

Other rationales for restricting treats at school include the following concerns:

Loss of instructional time

Although staff will continue to find creative ways of celebrating birthdays/special events with students, it is important to protect the instructional day so that it is not spent on cutting cake, cleaning up messes and dealing with hurt feelings.

Equity

Some parents are not able to provide treats for their child on birthdays or special days because of financial hardships.

Allergies / Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

Due to the increasing number of students with food allergies, schools have had to be extremely careful with any food items entering the school building. It is a safety issue and something that we need to take very seriously.

The purpose of this change is to assure a school environment that promotes and protects students' health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating, physical activity and healthy choices. This change brings together current research to create guidelines that help us with healthy choices for all of our students. If you are interested in reading the district's policy on wellness, it is available on the District 191 website: www.isd191.org under District Policies.

Please know that we are not trying to take the fun out of birthdays. Classroom teachers will continue to recognize children on their special day in special ways.

This change in how we handle birthdays has been successfully implemented in a number of neighboring elementary schools during the past few years.

Thanks in advance for your flexibility and for caring about the health of our students.

Sincerely,

Jon Bonneville, Principal