



# School-Wide Birthday Celebration!

A very important policy at Zachary Lane is for the health and well-being of each child is the elimination of birthday treats (and prizes) served during lunch.

Nothing is more important than making a child feel special on their birthday. On a school-wide level children will receive a birthday card and ribbon to wear proudly throughout the day and are invited to stop by the principal's office to pick out a prize from the treasure chest. At the classroom level, teachers will share their own unique traditions to make each child feel special on their birthday.

Our policy is to not serve birthday treats during lunch due to the following reasons:

- Increase in student food allergies.
- Students often eat their treats first as they are passed out during lunch and are either full or don't have time to eat their meal.
- Sugar-overload directly impacts a student's readiness to learn.
- Hurt feelings—Children are extremely disappointed if a parent doesn't bring a treat or they make comparisons about the size and kind of treat brought from home with their peers.

**Important**—Parents or special friends are highly encouraged to join us for a school lunch on their child's birthday, or any other day for that matter, to make a special memory.

How you, as parents, share this information with your child will impact their response.

Thank you so much for your support and understanding.

