

# Whiteford Elementary School

## Birthday Guidelines for GRADES 2-5

We know that birthdays are important to every child, and kids like to celebrate with their classmates. With the growing number of allergies and food limitations affecting our students, we are excited to offer a variety of choices for your child **instead of sharing edible treats**. Below is the list of creative ways we can celebrate birthdays in our classrooms rather than sharing food.

- **Show and Tell:** They can make a poster, bring in some of their favorite things, bring pictures, tell the kids about their favorite things or life at their house, etc.
- **Birthday box:** Decorate a box and send it in along with index cards or smaller pieces of paper. Have the teacher ask each child to use one sentence to write something nice about the birthday student and put it into the box. The birthday student gets to take the box home at the end of the day.
- **Move your seat for the day:** See the classroom from a different view
- **Class Game Time:** Bingo, Heads Up, Hangman, Silent Ball, Class Knockout, board games
- **Guest Reader:** Ask a special adult or older sibling to stop in to read to the classroom
- **Sign Something:** Bring in an item all the students can sign (shirt, sweatshirt, tote bag, stuffed animal, pillow case, autograph book etc.)
- **Class Technology Time:** Extra computer time for the classroom
- **Party favors non-edible items only:** Share items such as matchbox cars, erasers, tops, magnifying glasses, notepads, bubbles, etc.
- **Library book donation:** The birthday student may wish to donate a new book to our school library. This book will be given a personalized birthday nameplate listing your child's name and birth month. Then it will be displayed on a designated birthday shelf during the month of their birthday. Please contact our librarian for a "wish list" of book suggestions if you need help choosing.

## Birthday Guidelines for Kindergarten & First Grade

If none of these options appeal to your younger student, here's a guideline to follow when bringing treats to share with Kindergarten and First Grade classmates only:

- Treats will be given during snack time in the classroom. Suggestions to share are: pre-cut cookies, brownies, cupcakes, pre-packaged snacks. Please no cakes or cookie cakes.
- Check with the teacher for classroom food limitations, time required, and number of students. Don't forget the napkins!