



PSI Birthday Treat School Procedure

As a part of our PSI Strategic Plan, one of the focus areas has been to *“Promote parent-teacher collaboration in providing healthy snack options in the classroom.”* As a result, a new Birthday Treat Procedure was adopted and implemented during 2012-2013 whereby Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School no longer celebrates students’ birthdays through treats, shared snacks or individual non-food items (i.e. pencils, stickers, etc.). Below are some of the reasons this procedure was adopted:

- To minimize disruption to the instructional day.
- To reduce the contamination of food allergens inside the classroom for the well being of students with food allergies.
- To create an atmosphere of equity among our students.
- To minimize sugary or unhealthy treats and their impact on our students during the school day.

Please be assured, staff members continue to recognize their students’ birthdays in special ways. For instance, teachers may have a special birthday song, birthday dance, birthday necklace or other item to recognize birthdays. The principal will also continue to hand out a birthday certificate and pencil to students on birthdays and half-birthdays (for students with summer birthdays). *If they wish*, parents may opt to donate a puzzle, game or book to the classroom, or donate a book to the media center to honor their child’s birthday.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work together on behalf of our children. Please note that we will send home any individual treats/food OR non-food items (i.e. pencils, erasers, stickers, etc.) that come in with either you or your child.

Thank you!