

AQUILA BIRTHDAY TREAT SCHOOL PROCEDURE

As part of a districtwide plan, all St. Louis Park elementary schools adopted and implemented a new Birthday Treat Procedure during the 2015-2016 school year. Effective immediately, Aquila Elementary School will no longer celebrate students' birthdays with 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 wellbeing of students with food allergies.
- To create an atmosphere of equality among our students.
- To minimize sugary or unhealthy treats and their impact on our students during the school day.

Please be assured, staff members will 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 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.

Thank you!

Shelley Nielsen & Aquila Teachers