



*"Dream Big and Make It Happen!"*

**MALCOLM S. MACKAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
111 Jefferson Avenue • Tenafly, N.J. 07670-1698

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**Brenda B. Yoo, Principal**

Tel. 201-816-7700 • Fax. 201-568-7687 • E-mail: [byoo@tenafly.k12.nj.us](mailto:byoo@tenafly.k12.nj.us)

Dear Mackay School Parents,

Below are the new guidelines and instructions for students' birthday celebrations throughout the year.

1. Students will **NOT** bring any food or treats from home. Please do not send in any gifts/items to share either;
2. Birthdays will be announced and acknowledged during classroom morning meetings and teachers will highlight each child in an age-appropriate way. For example, the primary students may get to wear crowns for the day;
3. Ms. Ryan and I will present each student with a birthday pencil and sticker from the office;

By eliminating food from our birthday celebrations, we are addressing the following:

1. Dealing with food allergies;
2. Distributing too many treats and unhealthy calories;
3. Time for setting up, eating, and cleaning;
4. Too much variation for each celebration based on parents' culture, availability, and work schedules; and
5. 400 students times 20-25 students per class means approximately 8,000-10,000 cupcakes coming through the doors!

We have many classroom parties throughout the year including holidays, writing celebrations, and International Week, so our students will be eating and celebrating throughout the entire year. Thank you for your help and support.

Sincerely,

Brenda Yoo