

# **FOOD DURING CLASSROOM CELEBRATIONS**

In order to ensure a safe environment for all students, it is important for everyone to be mindful of life threatening food allergies. Life threatening food allergies are unpredictable and when exposed require life-saving intervention. Exposure can be through ingestion or simply by cross-contamination through skin or surface contact.

This year, Deerfield will be implementing a new practice for classroom celebrations that will help to better control the foods students have access to and keep our classrooms safe for students with food allergies:

## **PARTY IN A BAG**

Our class is getting ready to celebrate.  
Here's what we'll do, it's going to be great...  
Here's your plain white bag  
Don't leave it empty; that's a drag.  
Add your favorite kind of treat...  
One that's salty, one that's sweet.  
And don't forget to bring a drink...  
Water or juice; whichever you think.  
A party in a bag is safe and fun for everyone.  
Decorate your bag to make it extra fun!  
***\*peanut/tree nut free snacks\****

The ***Party In A Bag*** has been used successfully at other elementary schools in Westwood in recent years. Here's how it will work! When a scheduled classroom celebration includes a special snack for students, each student will be provided with a plain white bag. Students are invited to decorate the bag in any way they choose, perhaps related to the focus of the upcoming celebration. On the day of the celebration, each student brings in his/her bag from home containing a snack and drink that has been packed and approved by the students' parents or guardians. During the snack portion of the celebration, students will eat the individual snacks they brought from home. Just like during our daily classroom snack times, students will not share their snacks with other students.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this new practice related to our district policy on the management of life-threatening allergies. I appreciate your support and understanding with our efforts to make classroom celebrations safe and fun for all students.