

**Community Action Council HEAD START  
of Howard County**

410-313-6443

410-313-6479 (fax)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

One of the goals at our Head Start program is to provide a safe, positive, and healthy learning environment each day for all of our students. To support our efforts to do this, all of our celebrations, whether for a holiday or a child's birthday, or the end of the year transition activities, will be program initiated and supported, and management approved.

**Parents may not send any food to the school for any occasion.** This policy will allow us to protect children who may have life-threatening allergies and provide healthy celebrations which shift the focus from food to the special child or holiday. Remember, holiday treats and traditional birthday party fare can still be available in your homes!

Parents need not worry that children will be disappointed if typical party food is not served in the classroom. Staff will continue to celebrate a child's special day or holidays by planning special games and activities. We may occasionally have cooking activities or special snacks; however, Head Start will provide all of the materials for those activities.

Parents, if they wish, may send non-food items to recognize a child's birthday; items that are acceptable include:

pencils, stickers, crayons, coloring books, non-toxic bubbles, sunglasses, hula hoops, balls, jump ropes, small notepads

Parents may choose instead to purchase a book for the classroom library in their child's honor. We would love for you to attend school on your child's special day and read the book!

Healthy classroom celebrations demonstrate our ongoing commitment to promoting healthy behaviors and positive lifestyle choices. We look forward to a year of unique and creative celebrations!