



**Rock Creek Elementary School**  
Fritz Gere, Principal  
Marianne Sager, Dean of Students  
Radie Haytack, Building Manager

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October 30, 2009

Dear Parents,

Recently, our school board approved new procedures for supporting students with allergies, along with new guidelines for the use of food in school. It is our responsibility to take every step possible to ensure that every child is safe at school. Each time food enters the classroom there is the potential for children with food-related allergies or illnesses to be exposed to ingredients that could be harmful. Due to this, along with other health risks, Rock Creek Elementary will no longer allow students to bring edible birthday treats starting November 1, 2009. Each child at Rock Creek is given a birthday card and pencil from the office to recognize his/her birthday here at school. In addition, classrooms are welcome to recognize birthdays in other ways, which might include sharing stickers, pencils, erasers, or a book the entire class may enjoy. Along with the discontinuation of edible birthday treats, Rock Creek staff has been asked to use something other than food in their reward systems.

However, food will not be totally discontinued as part of our classroom learning experiences. There are a limited number of classroom celebrations which will still include food along with some food-related activities tied to the curriculum. In such situations, teachers will notify the families of children with food allergies and life threatening health conditions related to food so that accommodations can be made for them to participate during the planned parties and/or curriculum activities.

If you have questions, please call any of the people listed below.  
Thank you,

Fritz Gere  
Principal  
425-413-3300

Melanie Brown  
RCES Healthroom  
425-413-3312

Michelle Zaleski  
Tahoma District Nurse  
425-413-3528