REGION 15
POMPERAUG
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 15
Serving the Communities of Middlebury and Southbury, Connecticut

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Frank H. Sippy, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

2 August 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In the 2010-11 school year, we implemented a District-wide practice of using non-food items for incentives, rewards, and celebrations during the school day in order to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all students. At the end of the school year, the Administrators and I reviewed the practice and were pleased with the outcome.

Throughout the 2010-11 school year, more children were identified with various food allergies. Prepared foods, as well as home-cooked foods, may provide ingredients that could be indirectly or directly harmful to some children. In recent years, we have had a growing number of students with serious and even life threatening food allergies. In addition, with concerns about childhood obesity and the increased frequency of juvenile diabetes, the administrative team and I feel the use of non-food rewards is a safer and healthier alternative for our students. To protect children and alleviate the oversight from teachers' growing instructional responsibilities, we have decided to maintain the practice in the 2011-12 school year. As always, our main concern is the well being of all students.

Celebrations are an important part of school culture, especially at the elementary level. We will continue to recognize student birthdays, holidays, and other significant learning landmarks; however, food will not be part of those celebrations.

As always, we appreciate your assistance in supporting the needs of all students in the Region 15 Schools.

Sincerely,

Frank H Sippy

Frank H. Sippy

FHS/GIU