

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

286 Whittemore Road
Mailing Address:
Post Office Box 395
Middlebury, Connecticut 06762-0395

Telephone 203•758•8259 Ext. 110
FAX 203•758•1908

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

21 June 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

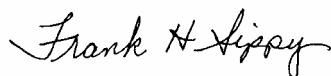
Beginning with the 2010-11 school year, we are implementing a District-wide practice of using non-food items for incentives, rewards, and celebrations during the school day in order to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all students.

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.

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 over 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.

Given that this change has a greater impact on elementary age students, elementary principals have worked with their faculty to create a list of non-food alternatives for celebrating important events with students. Elementary students will have a second page attached to this letter highlighting the alternatives. At the end of the 2010-11 school year, the administrative team and I will reflect on the practice and consider any further refinements necessary so that we are best meeting the needs of all students. As always, we appreciate your assistance in supporting the needs of all students in the Region 15 Schools.

Sincerely,



Frank H. Sippy

FHS/GIU

Attachment