

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

In an effort to address and clarify the questions we receive concerning how we “celebrate” a child’s birthday in our environment, here are a few helpful hints:

- We prefer to make the day a “child-centered” day rather than a “food-centered” day.
- Therefore, we ask that in terms of the food and special snacks, parents bring something healthy such as in-season fruit, muffins etc. (Please complete the Snack Form).
- **There would be no need for birthday cakes, cupcakes, ice cream, or favors of any kind (balloons, hats, etc.)**
- There is a special celebration unique to the Montessori Curriculum called the “Celebration of Life”. It involves the telling of the child’s life story as well as a symbolic lesson of the relationship between the Earth and the Sun and passage of years. As the birthday child carries the globe around the ellipse in which an object in the center (symbolizing the sun) is set, the parent or teacher gives the class brief highlights of the child’s birth, first year, second year, etc. You may discuss the details with your child’s teacher.
- The parent may prepare a simple pictorial sequence from birth to the child’s present age. You may even include a photo of yourselves as expectant parents if you wish.
- These pictures can be put on a poster board and labeled “this is Jane at 9 months” and so on. By using this method we can all see

how the child has grown over time to become his or her present age. We hang the poster in the environment on the day of the child's birthday and have "a little talk about it". The children love to look at the pictures so we keep it up for several days so the children can refer to it again and again.

- Birthdays are such a special time – in your homes and in your own special way you let your child know how happy you are that he or she was born. In the school environment we approach this special time from still another angle – growth through the passage of time.

Thank you.

The Montessori Staff