

## Birthday Celebration Guidelines

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**GUIDELINE TITLE:** Margaret Hendry School Birthday Celebration Guidelines

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In many cultures, the anniversary of the day that someone was born is a time for celebration with family and friends. At Margaret Hendry School we respect and acknowledge the traditions for each individual child and celebrate accordingly. Through the introductory letter children and families write at the beginning of the year, families are invited to share their culture, traditions and celebrations. This information equips Learning Coaches with the knowledge they require to celebrate children's birthdays appropriately with respect to each individual family's cultures and traditions. These guidelines have been developed to ensure that birthdays are celebrated in an appropriate manner with respect to individual children's home traditions, educator's time, all children's dietary requirements and prioritising teaching and learning time.

Each learning community acknowledges birthdays in different ways which may include:

- Birthday hats & crowns
- Group singing
- Card making

### **Provision of birthday treats from home**

Families often like to provide birthday treats to be shared with their children's friends. The time to distribute the birthday treat is at the Learning Coach's discretion. Learning Coaches are happy to facilitate this and generally will do this prior to a break or at the end of the school day.

If providing birthday treats, please keep the following in mind:

- Please ensure that you liaise with the Learning Coach at least two days prior to providing birthday treats to allow educators time to review dietary requirements of the children in the class. Children at Margaret Hendry School have diverse dietary requirements and we have students that cannot have any foods with nuts or eggs in them. If your child has a food allergy and you would like to discuss alternatives for your child, please see the front office team.
- Learning neighbourhoods are designed for 150 children. Your child's home learning coach group has 18-25 children. It is best for families to provide treats to cater only for the children in the home learning group to ensure that nobody is disappointed.
- Birthday treats are to arrive at school in single portion serves as Learning Coaches do not have ready access to knives for cutting and plates and serviettes for serving. For health and safety reasons we cannot use candles.



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- We are a Fresh Tastes school and promote healthy food options at all times. Some suggestions for more healthy options include fruit icy poles, fruit kebabs, cheerio necklaces, popcorn and healthy muffins. There are many other ideas available online.

### **For your information**

Students are required to wear Margaret Hendry School uniform when at school. A birthday badge or hat can be worn to celebrate what a special day it is so that all children and staff can acknowledge the birthday.

No party items (e.g. piñatas, lolly bags, other party food & drink) are to be bought to school. These should be reserved for the home or family celebration.

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We pay respect to the United Ngunnawal Elders Council and to the Elders both past and present of the Ngunnawal Nation for they hold the hopes and dreams for the future of the ACT and surrounding region.

