



Philomath Montessori School

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Birthdays!

The keeping of the calendar, the measurement of height and weight, the moment of birth which is the beginning of his (her) own personal time are all of great importance to your child. Let us know which day your child will celebrate his (her) birthday at school or half-birthday if they have a summer birthday. It seems that in our rushed and hurried world we spend less and less time on moments of celebration. It is an important part of the human spirit to share joyful moments with one another.

ITEMS THAT YOUR CHILD MAY WISH TO BRING IN:

The Birthday Ceremony sheet: Please complete the reverse side with information appropriate to your child. Please keep passages brief!

A Gift: On your child's birthday she (he) may be showered with many gifts. This attention tends to turn many children inward. One way for your child to express her (his) love and thankfulness on this special day is to bring a gift for the class. You might select a favorite book, a book or gift from our gift selection, or some other small item needed for the class. If you need ideas, please let us know. Even something as simple as cut flowers can be joyously given. The object is not "an accumulation of wealth" but a personal giving of self. ***Please do not feel that you need to send a gift in to the school or that you need to choose something from the gift list.***

OUR CELEBRATION:

This occasion begins by gathering the children together. We honor the Birthday Child by telling a story of how she (he) was born, lived as an infant, learned to sit up, crawl, eat with a spoon, etc. As we tell the story of the child's life, she (he) walks slowly around a candle that has been lit. (One time around for each year, with one large lighted candle in the center representing the sun, which she (he) has circled while on earth. For each year we light a smaller candle.) The children love the ceremony, the singing of the song, the opening of the gift and sharing of themselves with their friends.

We invite you to join us for your child's celebration in the classroom. Please come to the hallway door at 11:45 and we will seat you. We need to restrict visitors to only parents. Siblings under two may sit in their parent's lap. You are welcome to bring cameras, but please no video cameras.

Thank You!

Birthday Ceremony

On the child's birthday, we have a simple ceremony. All the children sit in a circle, and a candle is placed in the middle of the circle. The birthday child gets the continent globe and holds it while walking around the circle. We read the following story while the child is walking.

Please fill in the blanks with information appropriate to your child (e.g. "During the first year Jenny took her first airplane ride, took her first step, etc., and then was one.") **Please send this story and a picture for each year of your child's life on the day of or a couple days before your child celebrates his or her birthday. Be sure to let us know ahead of time in case we have a conflict with another happening that day.**

"This is the sun. The earth goes around the sun. It takes one whole year for the earth to go all the way around the sun. ____ years ago today, _____ was born at _____ hospital (or "in our home") in _____ (city), _____ (state).

During the first year she/he _____
_____ and then she/he was one.

During the second year she/he _____
_____ and then she/he was two.

During the third year she/he _____
_____ and then she/he was three.

During the fourth year she/he _____
_____ and then she/he was four.

During the fifth year she/he _____
_____ and then she/he was five.

During the sixth year she/he _____
_____ and then she/he was six.

During the seventh year she/he _____
_____ and then she/he was seven.

Today _____, _____ is _____ years old."
(date) (name)

Please fill the spaces in with very brief passages!!