

Birthday Celebrations in the 21-22 School Year

The Montessori Celebration of Life is a lovely way to celebrate a child's birthday in a school setting but this year, it may look a little different. We recognize that students want to be acknowledged on the special day that they were born and we want to provide some guidance on how we will do this safely this year.

At different ages and in different classrooms, the exact procedures may be a little different but here is some overall guidance about what is and isn't allowed during birthdays this year.

Visitors – Parents (not siblings) may come in for a birth and life celebration only if they are vaccinated. Vaccination evidence must be shared with the school nurse prior to the day of the event. Please email the nurse a screenshot of your vaccination card, and the classrooms/reason for your visit and she will let the teacher know you are approved to come in (this must be done in advance). Visitors must also bring a state issued ID for scanning at the front desk prior to entry. And, coming in is not required... we can do plenty of celebrating/honoring as a class!

* *A note on the term "parent"* - We recognize the diversity in family structures and the challenge of coming up with one word that fits all of our unique situations. In using the word "parent," we are referring to any adult who is the child's primary caregiver. Our intention is to honor/include all those who devote their time, attention, care and love to raise the children who attend FSMA.

Snacks – You will work with your child's teacher to determine if a class snack works. For example, if the celebration is at a time that the class could go outside, it might be possible. While food can add to the celebration, our focus is on honoring each child's journey from their birth to the present so snacks are not required. If choosing to send in a snack, please check with your child's teachers to see if there are any allergies to be aware of (if a snack is sent in, we hope that it will be something all children can enjoy). Please have snacks in individual portions or pre-packaged prior to arriving.

Our recommendation is to give the class individual snacks that the children can choose to eat for their snack, can take home, or can save for later. Instead of snack, we focus on the child – we want to hear stories, look at photos, and share memories. We want to use this time to let children know how cherished they are, and how our life and world is better because they were born into our family or now belong to our class – that is what the spirit of the Montessori Celebration of Life is all about!