

## Class Party Guidelines

The \$20.00 per student **Class Party Fund** contributions collected at Back to School Night should be divided up to cover the cost of parties, crafts and goodie bags throughout the school year. The Lead Parent, dependent on responsibilities, may hold this money and share as needed, or divide it evenly amongst all class parents. Please exhaust the class party fund before reaching out and asking for further donations. If the teacher has included the parents of **all** children in the class, in a specific event, and the party needs exceed a standard class party, you may then ask the parents to bring items in.

**Class Party opportunities, dates and times are decided by the teacher.** In your early communication ask she/he what they have planned for the year ahead, they will not have exact dates/times but you will have an idea by month what is on the agenda and you will know when to check back to confirm details and then coordinate with the other class parents and volunteers. Most classes have four to five parties per year including Halloween, Winter Holiday, Valentine's Day, Spring Holiday, and End-of-year (but there are some grade specific celebrations as well).

**It is very important to always ask the teacher if any students have food allergies.** If there are students with allergies in the class, contact their parents before each party and make them aware so they will have an opportunity to send in a safe, special food for their child to enjoy. Avoid bringing known allergens into the classroom.

The "**menu**" for class parties should be well balanced and reasonable for children to eat during the school day. This is not a meal, just a festive snack.

- Bite size is better: Bring food that is individually sized, pre-cut, easy to eat and to serve.
- Don't go overboard: Keep portions small, kids do not generally eat large quantities.
- Tame the sugar: For the sake of both the students and the teachers, organize a mix of foods - a sweet, a fruit/veggie and a salty/savory item (e.g. mini cupcake, clementine, cheese & crackers, water or no sugar-added juice) a little something for everyone.
- Remember paper goods: Plates, napkins, cups and serving utensils

Some teachers will have plans for an activity during the party time slot, others may be looking for the class parents to come up with something. Whatever the situation, keep things brief, simple and mess free.

Plan to clean up any party mess and take away unused food items when you leave.