

Dear Rancho Families,

I am excited and encouraged by the beginning of the 2009-10 school year. Staff and students are ready and eager to learn and grow academically and socially. I want to commend our Rancho community for being positive role models and partners in helping to advance optimal academic and social achievement in our students.

As we strive to achieve the academic and social progress of our students, we also want to promote healthy habits regarding physical activity and diet. The School Board has created a Student Wellness policy as a nutritional guideline for schools to follow with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity. (42 USC 1751 Note)

The Board believes that foods and beverages available to students at district schools should support the health curriculum and promote optimal health. Foods and beverages sold to students during the school day, including foods and beverages provided through the district's food service program, fundraisers, and other activities, shall meet or exceed state and federal nutritional standards.

(cf.3550-Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)

(cf.3554-Other Food Sales)

In keeping with the district's Student Wellness policy and in the best interests of our students, food items will not be used as a reward for students' and/or class achievements for fundraising or any other purpose.

When parents donate food and beverages for occasional class parties, the snacks and beverages need to be nutritional. There are numerous nutritional snacks available that children enjoy such as bagels, fruit, popcorn, yogurt, and dried fruit. No more than one snack or beverage that does not meet nutritional standards is allowed per party.

Birthdays are special days in everyone's lives and a time for celebration. However, in order to keep classroom disruptions to a minimum and to follow the District's Student Wellness Policy, birthdays will no longer be celebrated in the classroom with special snacks. If you would like to do something special for your child on their birthday, send a birthday note or special snack in their lunch. Teachers always recognize each student on their birthday in the classroom. I will also continue to recognize every student's birthday weekly during lunch periods and monthly in each Kindergarten class.

I am confident that as we partner together, we will positively impact and improve the education, social well-being, and health of the children at Rancho.

Thank you,

Hope Fuss