



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. We have a lovely ritual to celebrate this special moment with your child in the classroom. **Please call or email us at least one week ahead of time to schedule which day you would like your child to 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.*

PLEASE SEND IN AT LEAST ONE DAY AHEAD OF TIME:

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

***Photos:** Please send in one photo for each year of your child's life.*

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, the child carries a small globe, representing the earth as she (he) walks slowly around a candle that has been lit and represents the sun. (One time around for each year the child has been on the earth and with each orbit we light a smaller candle). The children love the ceremony, the singing of the song, and the 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 11:40 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 be aware that the parents' primary reason in attending is to celebrate and be present. No video cameras, please.

** Please note that to avoid multiple celebrations at the end of the year, please schedule half-birthdays during winter months.*

Thank You!

(over)

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.")

"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.

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

Please fill the spaces in with very brief passages!