



GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
The Primary Schools at Hemlock, Homestead and Locust
The Elementary Schools at Stewart and Stratford

Garden City, New York 11530
gardencity.k12.ny.us

Inspiring Minds
Empowering Achievement
Building Community

August 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to inform you of a change in practices that addresses the health and wellness of the primary and elementary students at Hemlock, Homestead, Locust, Stewart, and Stratford Schools.

We hope to create an environment for learning that promotes and protects students' health, well-being, and the ability to make healthy choices. Our schools will be implementing a "no birthday treats" practice, beginning in the with the start of school in September. This decision was made after much thought, consideration, research, and discussion by the Site Based Teams at all schools.

Please know that we are not taking the fun out of birthday celebrations! Classroom teachers will continue to recognize children on their special day in special ways. A "birthday menu" will be provided for students to select how they would like to celebrate. Examples of choices include: parent(s) joining the class to read a favorite picture book (K-4), donating a special book to the classroom or school, etc.

Thank you in advance for your flexibility, cooperation and care about the health of all our students.

Sincerely,

Audrey Bellovin
Principal, Hemlock

Linda Norton
Principal, Stewart

Jean Ricotta
Principal, Locust

Suzanne Viscovich
Principal, Homestead

Eileen Vota
Principal, Stratford