**Parties Are Simply A Waste!**

I have never understood the importance of parties in the classroom. As a mother of two school age children, I do believe that the public schools should no longer allow classroom parties during the school day.

Time is precious to the students in school today. Our school year is already too short.

Teachers can barely get all the basics of the curriculum into the required instructional minutes of the day. Certainly, there is no time for the impractical or silly. School time is best spent focusing on the primary goal----learning.

And what about food? For health and safety reasons, schools often require that foods for these celebrations be purchased from a store. This is a real difficulty for many families. Cookies for 30 students, plus drinks and napkins can add up to what it costs a family to eat a meal at home. The cost of a classroom party is easily a problem for many people, particularly in these difficult economic times. And we all know that our children consume enough sugar and junk food without the school promoting such unhealthy choices.

All the waste that a party can create is overwhelming! I remember those birthday parties when I would just buy the disposable plates, cups, silverware and napkins so that I didn’t need to do any clean up! But even squeezing and pushing, I barely managed to fit all the party time rubbish into the trashcan. Multiply this by an average school of 16 classrooms and over 400 students. Such unnecessary waste only adds to the problem of our ever-growing landfills.

I am not sure when our public schools decided that classroom parties needed to become a part of the school calendar, but I do not see the importance. Children are watching adults all hours of the day and looking up to these adults for guidance. Showing an interest in homework and volunteering in classrooms should be our PTA responsibility, not preparing for parties.

Therefore, I do believe schools should ban classroom celebrations. Our tax dollars must be focused on the learning of our children.