

## SHARED FOOD AT SCHOOL POLICY

### **Rationale**

Schools are now being expected to take a leading role in developing students' healthy food habits. This means that we are expected to provide a model for students. With the alarming increase of food allergies amongst students and the risk of sharing food; overweight students and anti-discrimination laws (ie. must provide food which doesn't discriminate against diabetics etc.), it is important that we do not provide food in the classrooms. The exception being fruit as part of the school's fruit program.

Celebrating with food for very special celebrations can continue on our end of year Fun Day, the year 3 cultural food day, the year 6 Presentation and at sporting events such as the athletics carnival, when all parents have been notified and have had the opportunity to clarify any special requests or concerns and written permission is given.

### **Implementation**

No food is to be distributed at school by staff or shared by students.

#### **Birthdays and farewells to students and pre service teachers, etc:**

The celebration is not to include food. There are many creative alternatives that teachers, students and parents can devise, such as: whistles, balloons, party hats, a favourite story or song to share etc. If you choose to do this, the class teacher will set aside 10 minutes within the day.

There is an expectation that both staff and parents support this policy, as it is part of how we demonstrate CARE for our students by:

- Providing a non-food alternative to celebrate birthdays.
- Using non-food rewards with students.
- Not purchasing food from the canteen for other students.

#### **Shared food with regards to special occasions involving PPPS staff:**

Planned celebrations for the following occasions may involve the provision and sharing of food, preferably including a selection of healthy foods and strict monitoring of foods that cause allergic reactions to students and staff.

All celebrations need to be approved by Principal and/or Assistant Principal with appropriate written notification to parents.

- Retirement, resignation, zero birthday or family leave of PPPS staff member.
- Transfer of PPPS staff member to another school during the year. The end of year class celebration can include the celebration of a staff member leaving at the end of the year.

### **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed in line with best practice and DEECD guidelines.