**MTA Outside Food Policies 2012-2013**

MTA has adopted new policies for outside food effective August 10, 2012. Our goal is to comply with the district’s Wellness Committee which has been discussing ways our school community can have a positive effect on our children’s nutrition and eating habits. We also are adopting these policies to protect students with food allergies and to maximize instruction time. The new guidelines follow the Hall County and United Health Care Standards for School Nutrition Incentive.

**Birthdays**

We value all students at MTA, and we want birthdays to be a special time for them.

**Effective August 10, 2012, no outside food of any type may be brought in for your child’s birthday. This policy is to promote wellness, protect students with allergies, and maximize instructional time.**

Your child’s teacher will recognize your child’s birthday with a special crown/song or other gesture. You may want to consider one of these alternatives for honoring your child on his/her birthday.

• Donate a book to the classroom library in honor of your child’s birthday with his/her name inside.

• Donate a ball or jump rope (new or used) to the classroom for recess.

• Provide each student in class with a colorful pencil, stickers or eraser.

**Class Parties**

There will be two celebrations each school year: Winter Holiday Party and the End of the Year Party.

The classroom teacher will communicate these dates and times with you and coordinate party plans.

**All food brought for the holiday party must be store-bought and accompanied with an ingredient label**. If there is no ingredient label available, then the food item will not be distributed.

Please only bring in food for the class at these scheduled parties after coordinating with the teacher.

**Snacks and Lunch**

Daily snacks and lunch may be brought from home for your child only.

We highly encourage you to join your child for lunch. **Due to multiple allergies of others, we ask that no outside food from restaurants be brought in to the cafeteria or classrooms.**