



CASE STUDY

ALMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

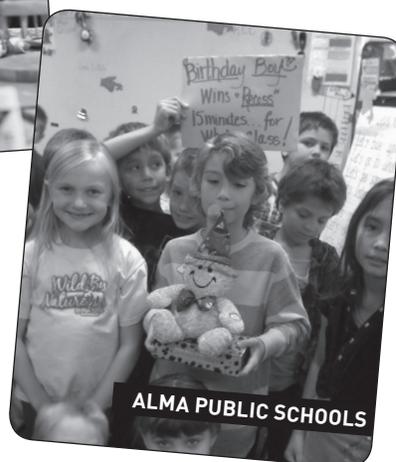
FALL FESTIVAL AT PINE AVENUE ELEMENTARY

The 4th grade teachers at Pine Avenue Elementary/ Alma Public Schools revamped their annual autumn/ Halloween celebration during the 2010-2011 school year to reflect the guidelines and philosophy set forth in the Michigan Nutrition Standards. The staff cooperated together to come up with creative options to celebrate instead of the traditional school-day costumed parade and sweet treats. The new party included:

- Craft/Art project
- Bingo
- Extra recess
- Computer games
- “Slime” making (this is such a popular event that two classrooms will provide this option)
- Movie
- Scary stories

Students chose their top four choices and were allowed to participate in three of the four opportunities. Each session lasted 25 minutes.

The students have also collected tickets throughout the school year for designated accomplishments in and out of the classroom, and redeemed them for trinkets in the “school store” that day.



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HILLCREST CLASSROOM CELEBRATES BIRTHDAYS IN A WAY THAT’S “BETTER THAN CUPCAKES”

Linda Patton, Hillcrest Elementary third-grade teacher, has approached birthday celebrations in a new way since the district implemented the *Michigan Nutrition Standards* and the children are excited about it! Mrs. Patton has a “singing clown” toy in her room that jiggles and leads the class in singing “Happy Birthday” to the honored student. She also has a box in which she keeps birthday pencils and “Big Birthday Kid” stickers to give away on the student’s special day.

When a student has a birthday Mrs. Patton’s entire class earns an extra 15-minute outside recess—a special opportunity for the classroom to spend with their teacher.

On top of that classroom activity, on the second Tuesday of each month all Hillcrest Elementary second-graders with a birthday that month go to

the gym for a special activity with the physical education teacher. The same holds true for third-graders, but on the third Tuesday of each month. Ms. Robinson, the physical education teacher, gets all participants involved in a vigorous, fun activity at 9:30 a.m., something the honorees really look forward to doing.

The principal’s office also has birthday bracelets for all students when their birthday comes around.

Mrs. Patton states that the students have not expressed any disappointment in the changes that have been made in the approach to birthday celebrations at Hillcrest, and the parents seem to appreciate the fact that the activities that have been substituted are at no expense to them.