

Dear Parents,

We have created a nice tradition in our class called "Save the Elephants" adventure and I am thrilled to be continuing it with you. Our school is moving away from celebrating children's birthdays with treats, and I have agreed and chosen to move away from edible treats to celebrate students' birthdays in our classroom. This does not mean that your child's birthday will be forgotten. I love birthdays! Each student will have his/her name announced over the intercom system, receive a book from Mrs. Schwartz, birthday crown and pencil from me, and plenty of extra attention from the class on the big day. On your child's birthday, please send in a favorite book, and I will happily read it to the class.

As you can imagine, for many reasons, this "Opt-Out of Birthday Treats" program will not be successful unless we have 100% participation. Please fill out this [Birthday Form](#) at your earliest convenience so I can communicate the information to all of our families in our class and plan accordingly.

In lieu of sending in a treat, I am asking for you to consider honoring your birthday child by giving a gift of a \$5 donation to our "Save the Elephants" program. You can make a donation on this [website](#) at your convenience. There is no need to wait for your child's birthday. We are actually hoping to reach \$50 as soon as possible, which is the amount needed to foster one of our very own elephants for the year! How exciting! Two years ago we fostered 2 elephants, Jotto and Ambo, and last year we fostered Emoli.

Regardless of the success of this program, as part of our science unit, "Animals - Two by Two", the students will be learning many things about elephants as well as many other animals. They will also be learning about the wonderful organization, The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, which takes care of injured or abandoned elephants in Kenya, Africa . Please read below to learn a little about the organization.

"Founded in 1977 by Dr. Dame Daphne Sheldrick DBE, in honor of the memory of her late husband famous naturalist and founding Warden of Tsavo National Park, David Leslie Sheldrick, the DSVWT claims a rich and deeply rooted history in wildlife and conservation in Kenya. Best known for the pioneering work rescuing and rehabilitating orphaned infant elephants back in to the wild herds of Tsavo, the DSVWT's work encompasses a much broader vision that ensures the sustainable protection of wildlife, habitats and communities for future generations."

So, stay tuned and I'll keep you posted with the result of our survey. I am hoping for 100% participation and that on your child's birthday you will simply send your child off to school with a hug and a kiss and I'll take care of the rest. I will print a certificate and add it to our elephant birthday bulletin board and have lots to celebrate. I assure you that a treat will not be missed.

Thank you!

Mrs. Del Tin