

The Grinch Stole Holiday Parties!

Discussing the disappearance of classroom parties

by Blake Borgardt

In elementary school times were more simple, with nap time and classroom parties. A few years ago the privilege to have classroom parties was sadly taken away.

But in order to truly understand what a classroom party is, you have to learn about it. Classroom parties were always done around the holidays. They took up about an hour of time at the end of the day before the holiday break. Normally the room parent would plan the party weeks in advance and have other parents help out.

“Although the room parties were very fun for the kids, they took lots of time to plan and set up”, said a former room party planner.

Usually the food was based around what holiday it was. For the holiday party, there were delicious cookies, hot cocoa, and candy canes. The attire at the parties normally consisted of festive gear. Everyone wore Santa hats and holiday sweaters, and for Halloween parties people wore their costumes and told spooky stories. The treats typically had a spooky twist.

The activities planned at the parties were sometimes normal party games like pin the tail on the donkey, musical chairs, or festive bingo.

In addition to party games, students also receive movies or extra recess, depending on the weather. The entire school would participate in the parties, and sometimes teachers would come around and take pictures for the year book. The parties were a great way for the kids to get into the holiday spirit and to bond during school.

However, once you graduate from elementary school, the parties disappear. A few years ago CRMS attempted its own version of holiday parties. The school took a whole day just for students to tour the school watching movies, playing games, and eating food. Sadly, the school ended that in 2013.

In Sycamore elementary schools, they still have the parties; however, they have changed the names of them to make them less related to religion for those who don't celebrate the holidays.

For example, instead of calling it a “Christmas party”, they call it a “Snow party”. That allows everyone to participate in the parties.

Sadly in DeKalb, they removed the holiday theme parties altogether and turned them into “PBIS incentives”. Schools now have days when the school reaches a specific goal and they receive a reward, such as pajama day,



*Children enjoying their classroom party
Photo courtesy of Creative Commons.*

movie day, or field day.

Brooks Elementary School even does an event hosted by its PTA called Fall Fest. There they have rock climbing, food, music, games, and a petting zoo hosted by our very own FFA members. They also have pumpkins to purchase and carve as well. The problem with the festival is that it takes place after school. If you're a student who lives far away, you might not be able to go to the festival because you don't have a ride. Another issue would be that you wouldn't have enough time to do homework and then go to the festival.

Holiday parties are now, sadly, a thing of the past. Although holiday parties are gone, the festive spirit is still there. Hope everyone has a happy holiday!

