

Our Incredible Half-Birthday Party!

Susan was very organized. She kept a small calendar on her desk at school. She would put an “X” across each day before leaving school. She was so organized, that she even asked our teacher if she could come to school on Saturday and Sunday just to mark off the day. I thought she was crazy!

Sometimes it bothered me that she always wanted to be so organized. However, one day, I became very grateful that Susan kept track of every detail of every day.

Susan raised her hand one day and exclaimed, “We have a birthday to celebrate this week!” We all looked around the class – we couldn’t think of anyone that was having a birthday. She said again, “We have a birthday to celebrate . . . the 1/2 birthday of our class!”

Our teacher was impressed. “You’re right! This week means we are 1/2 of the way through the school year. We should have a class 1/2 birthday party.”

Then our teacher said, “Let’s have the party 1/2 way through the week . . . on Wednesday. We’ll do it 1/2 way through the day, when the two hands of the clock cut the clock in half. Any other ideas?”

“Let’s play some games,” suggested Jason.

“Yes, and let’s have some treats,” said Brian.

“Great idea,” said Allison, “I’ll bring some treats for the whole class.”

“We can have treats,” said our teacher, “but there is one rule we must all remember. This is a 1/2 birthday party and you may only bring things that are 1/2 of what they normally are. Let’s think of some foods that we could easily cut or break in half.”

“Bananas.”

“Candy bars.”

“Carrots.”

“Apples.”

“Donuts.”

“Cupcakes.”

“Oranges.”

“Brownies.”

“This will be so fun,” said Sarah. “Do you think we could play some games?”

“Your assignment for Wednesday will be to bring something to either show the class or share with the class that is only a half.”

“Let’s list a few more items that are not foods that you might want to bring.”

“One shoe.”

“One earring.”

“Half of a newspaper.”

“Half of a book—well, I guess I shouldn’t try to cut a book in half.”

“One glove.”

“Great! Good luck with your assignment—think hard and be CREATIVE! I’m excited to see what you come up with. I will think of some 1/2 games that we can play.”

“. . . but be careful—don’t cut anything in half that your Mom may want to stay whole. Have fun and we’ll see you tomorrow.”