

Scituate boy thinks of others on his 'second' birthday

By Patrick Ronan

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SCITUATE

Beth Tierney greeted her son Nicholas with a "Happy Birthday" as he stepped off his school bus Wednesday afternoon. Nicholas may be the South Shore's only 2-year-old attending elementary school.

Nicholas was born on Feb. 29, 2004. The Scituate boy goes to classes and plays sports with other 8-year-olds, but technically he celebrated his second birthday Wednesday.

"Before, he was a little embarrassed about it (his birth date)," Beth Tierney said. "When people asked him his birthday, he would look away and not want to say."

"Now, I think he's coming around to thinking it's a cool thing."

Nicholas had two parties Wednesday, one with his friends in the afternoon and another with his family in the evening. With the exception of leap year in 2008, Tierney has held separate birthday celebrations for Nicholas every Feb. 28 and March 1.

"We kind of overcompensate because it's kind of a weird thing," she said. "You wake up and say 'Happy Birthday' even though it really isn't his actual birthday."



Nicholas Tierney

family to donate money to a charitable cause instead of giving him birthday gifts.

"We talked about how we have a lot of stuff in the house, and he has a lot of toys," Beth Tierney said. "He said he doesn't need any more gifts."

Last year, Nicholas asked people to donate money to Scituate residents who were displaced from their beach-side homes during the Dec. 26, 2010, winter storm. This year, he's requested that all gifts go to the Scituate Community of Resources for Special Education Foundation.