

Jennings School

Tony Vuolo • Principal

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October 22, 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I would like to make you aware that we are requesting that your child's classroom be peanut and tree nut free this year. We are asking you to adhere to this important request to assist those who suffer from a life-threatening food allergy to peanuts and tree nut products. It is imperative that these children do not come in contact with any tree nuts, peanuts or peanut products (including peanut butter, peanut flour, and any products with peanut oil or peanuts in them), as ingestion of even a tiny amount can cause a severe reaction. Your cooperation in adhering to the following requests will help to ensure a safe classroom environment for all students.

- Please check all ingredient labels on foods that will be sent to the classroom for snacks and please avoid products containing peanuts or any nut products. Peanuts, nuts, peanut and nut products, or contamination with such products may be found in unlikely foods such as some types of popcorn, jelly beans, candy corn, snowcaps, and plain M&Ms.
- Please send your child with a suitable snack. Healthy choices for snacks, such as fresh fruit and vegetables, yogurt, half sandwiches of meat and whole grain bread, cheese and pretzels will be a topic for classroom discussion during the year.
- When planning for a classroom party, please be reminded of the long standing policies at Jennings School which include celebrating these special days without food. This information is also included in the Opening Day Guide sent out during the summer. As in the past, end of the year parties should be discussed with input from the school and parents of each classroom included in this request.
- If your child has peanut butter for breakfast, please encourage him/her to wash his or her hands and face before coming to school.
- Please teach your child never to share his or her own food with other students.

These precautions are taken because the allergies are truly life-threatening and avoidance of exposure is the best preventive strategy. Careful examination of the ingredients in all foods that will be brought into the classroom is a critical part of that strategy. Although discouraged when possible, it is permissible for your child to bring in a daily snack – **for his/her consumption only** – that is labeled with wording such as “manufactured on equipment that processes peanut/nut products” or “may contain traces of peanuts/nuts.” That wording on labels is so commonplace now as to make it unreasonable to restrict non-allergic students from eating snacks with such labels.

Finally, remember that these requests do NOT affect what your child may bring for lunch. There are practices put into place to keep children safe in the cafeteria. If you there are nut products you intend to send in for lunch, it would be important that lunches and snacks be sent in separate bags or containers.

Over many years we have had several peanut and nut free classrooms in our school, and they do work well for elementary students. Thank you so much for your concern and cooperation. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Mr. Vuolo