

FALLINGBROOK COMMUNITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT TO PARENTS

Message from the Principal

The parents of the children with food allergies join the staff and School Council members in thanking you all for your understanding and cooperation as a result of our renewed request to send foods to school that are free from peanut butter, peanut and other nut products. In addition we request your cooperation and understanding in our attempts to keep the classrooms as safe as possible for all children.

Our Peanut Butter Request and “Cross Contamination”

All parents are requested to send foods to school that are free of peanut butter, peanuts, nut or nut products to minimize the risk of an allergic reaction through “cross Contamination” for those students during the school day.

Cross-contamination: refers to a situation when very small amounts, called “traces” of a food substance such as peanut butter (an allergen) can easily be transmitted from one surface to another. These food traces may cause a reaction when an allergic child comes into contact with an allergen and accidentally ingests the substance through the mouth or eyes. For example, a trace amount of an allergen on a tiny hand can be ingested easily through mouth or eyes. As parents there are things we can do to help. One is to encourage our children to wash their hands before and after eating as we would prevent passing cold and flu germs. The only management of food allergies at this time is to avoid the allergen.

Nutrition Break Procedures

It is understood that dairy and egg products will continue to be packed for our two nutrition breaks. However, in order to avoid cross contamination of those primary classrooms which have students with allergies to other food (such as eggs, milk, yogurt and cheese), an alternate lunchroom location equipped with washrooms and hand-washing facilities will be available.

Birthday Celebrations

For special occasions like Christmas, Halloween etc., your child’s teacher will inform you as to acceptable food plans for these celebrations. Careful planning and open communication is needed at these times.

Communication

In keeping with our belief that our school should be a safe environment, there is a posted sign indicating to all staff, parent and community groups who use our school that we are an allergy aware school. We are taking the necessary precautions and are requesting cooperation from all who enter our school.

At this time the reality is that our school is not a peanut free environment. We are working to raise the level of awareness in an effort to create a safer school for all. Please be open and talk to your child about this subject. It is important that your child has the correct age appropriate information about food allergies. If you need more information about this topic please speak with the Principal.