

FOOD ALLERGY POLICY RELATED TO PEANUTS AND OTHER NUTS

Purpose of this communication

- Inform new parents of this medical condition especially if they have arrived from countries where it is not widely publicized
- Explain the school policy to all parents

Background

The possibility of severe allergic reactions to peanuts, other tree nuts and their derivatives is now well documented proven medical fact. As many of you already know, some individual responses to touching, inhaling or eating a peanut or other nut product can be life threatening. In the case of peanut butter there is the added problem that it is sticky and therefore can be easily spread. As a result of the above, airlines no longer serve peanuts and many schools, including the Arlington Public Schools to not allow peanuts or peanut butter.

The number of children in our school with such allergy has increased over the last few years.

The school believes that the correct way forward is through a preventive and educational process.

Preventative

- We ask you to help us provide a safe and healthy environment for every child in school
- Avoid sending to school any food containing nuts, nut extracts or nut oils (whether this be for morning snacks, lunch or parties)
- Check all labels for hidden ingredients (especially on snacks such as granola bars)
- Instruct your child not to share food and to wash hands regularly.

I wish to underline that our lunch program provider operates a 100% compliance with our request not to use any nut product or its derivatives in the hot lunch program

Educational

The school will:

- Continue on a daily basis to reinforce aspects of personal hygiene, especially in our Maternelle and Lower Sections with regular washing of hands before and after playtime, lunchtimes, etc. Parents are asked to cooperate by doing the same at home with explanation of why it is important.
- Emphasize through the course of the year aspects of the healthy living and healthy eating, again especially aimed at the Maternelle and Lower Schools Sections. In the Middle and High School these already form part of the Science program and will be further developed through cooperation between the nurses, Science and Social Studies teachers.
- Emphasize in its development of student's social relations skills the need to protect others from danger that may be outside of their control.
- Periodically remind students that it is a School for students not to share food and explain to them why.
- Only serve snacks and party treats that do not have nuts or their derivatives in them.

The School reserves the right to change this policy if it judges that the level of cooperation received is insufficient to assure the health and safety of the total School community.