

# Island Trees Memorial Middle School

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August 2009

Dear Parents:

Some of the children in our school live with peanut, tree nut and other food allergies. The major difference between nut allergies and other allergies is that nut allergies may be life threatening. In some cases, a child possessing these allergies can go into shock just from coming in contact with a peanut, tree nut, or any nut product. Accidental ingestion can be fatal. I cannot imagine what it must be like to send a child to school each day knowing the potential danger that may lie ahead. With this in mind, we would like to make our school as safe as possible for these children. The following procedures and actions will be implemented commencing the 2009-2010 school year:

1. We will educate all of our children, staff, and school community members about the issues surrounding nut and other food allergies.
2. We are attempting to make our classrooms nut free. Therefore, we ask that you refrain from sending in snacks containing nuts. We realize that this may be difficult since ingredients in snacks may not be easily identifiable. Families with children with nut allergies will have to send in alternatives for parties. A suggested safe snack list is attached.
3. Regarding class birthday parties, many parents have opted to send in non-food items to share. This is very much recommended and appreciated. However, if you opt to send in food items, they must be prepackaged with ingredient labels so that ingredients may be identified.
4. Peanut butter and jelly will not be on our lunch menu. We do understand that occasionally there are children who will eat nothing else but peanut butter. I am asking that you talk with your children this summer about the issue and perhaps attempt to try a few alternatives to a PB & J, such as cream cheese and jelly. We recognize as parents you must do what is right for your child and your child might eat only peanut butter and jelly. While your child may bring in a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for lunch, we are asking that this be the exception and not the rule.
5. We will establish two nut free tables in the cafeteria. Children can sit at these tables with the understanding that there are restrictions. These tables will be cleaned with separate cloths and detergents.

This school community has always tried to do what is right for children, and we have no doubt that we will do the same with this issue. Thank you for your extreme compassion and understanding. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call me at 520-2157 or e-mail me at rbloom@islandtrees.org.

Sincerely,

Roger Bloom  
Principal

RB:ls