



ISLAND TREES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SPARKE SCHOOL, 100 ROBIN PLACE, LEVITTOWN, NEW YORK 11756-5799

Penny E. Fisher
Principal
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September 2009

Dear Sparke Families:


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.

Please remember that, in accordance with Board of Education Policy, we will continue to implement the following:

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. We cannot accept items that contain or may contain nut products, or that may have been processed in a facility that contains nut products.** (Unfortunately, this includes Dunkin Donuts. Please read all labels carefully. Labels we will be checked before food is distributed to students in the classrooms.)
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. We are asking that you talk with your children this summer about the issue and perhaps attempt to try a few alternatives to PB & J, such as cream cheese and jelly. We recognize that, 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 have designated nut free areas in the cafeteria. The nut free areas will be where children who purchase lunch will sit. Children with nut allergies will also sit at these tables with friends to eat lunch. 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 compassion and understanding. Please call or e-mail me if you have questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,


Penny E. Fisher

Island Trees Union Free School District

We are raising awareness regarding peanut/tree nut allergies that affect children. Since these allergies may be fatal, we ask that you refrain from sending in snacks containing nuts. The following is a list of suggested snacks that are nut free:

Apples	Mini-Yogurts*
Grapes	Goldfish*
Raisins	Carrots
Bananas	Cheese sticks
Cheese	Pretzels*
Graham crackers*	

***CAUTION:** Parents are responsible for the snacks they give their children to bring to school. Before allowing your children to eat these—or any other snack—always read the ingredients to ensure that the snacks do not contain nut products and are not processed in facilities that make nut products.
