Date:

Dear Parents:

The health and safety of all our students is of highest priority and is taken very seriously. Several of the students in our school have a severe allergy to peanuts, peanut products, and tree nuts. These allergies are potentially life threatening. Some people can have a reaction from simply inhaling the smell of peanuts (airborne peanut proteins). That means they cannot eat, touch or even smell peanuts or peanut products. Peanut proteins from these foods can remain on hands and surfaces unless washed with soap and water.

We want to do everything we can to protect these students. We have worked with these families, and there are emergency plans in place for unexpected exposures; however, the most effective tool is prevention. We promote good hygiene practices and encourage students to clean their hands before and after lunch, as well as other times throughout the day.

**In an effort to provide the safest possible environment and limit unexpected exposure to food allergens, our class will be peanut/tree nut *safe* this year. We have provided some general information for guidance (see below).**

* *Please read the ingredient labels on foods you are sending to school; if it includes peanuts, peanut butter, peanut flour, peanut traces, peanut oil, or tree nuts please do not send it.*
* *Peanuts and peanut oil can be found in many foods you wouldn’t expect such as bite size graham crackers, most granola bars, most trail or snack mixes, a few breakfast cereals and even some jelly beans.*
* *Our snack program requires each student bring his/her own food, so we ask that all snacks be free from any and all peanut/tree nut products.*

We ask that any **special occasion treats** (birthday, etc) be peanut/tree nut ***safe***, and do not include on the labeling: ***May contain peanuts or tree nuts***. This will greatly reduce the likelihood of an unsafe snack being brought into the classroom.

Thank you for helping provide a safe environment for our students. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact our school nurse.

Sincerely,

Principal School Nurse