



August 2021

Dear Families,

Each year, we have a number of students entering Smith School with severe allergies. Many of these are due to bee stings or a reaction to certain foods such as shellfish or peanut butter. We have a number of students with nut allergies. Reactions to this food item can be swift and tragic. Some students have an allergic reaction by merely inhaling the vapors or playing with certain toys that have been handled previously by a student who has ingested peanut butter.

We have taken steps to accommodate those students with nut allergies. There is an allergy-free table in the cafeteria. Parents/Guardians whose children are affected are encouraged to bring in their child's snack. Mrs. Allen, our nurse, is on-site each day. She has informed our staff about the serious nature of these reactions.

It is NOT our intention to ban peanut butter or related products at Smith School. However, we do need your help. We would like you to confine your child's food intake of peanut butter and/or nut items to our lunch period in the cafeteria. For snack, **PLEASE DO NOT SEND IN FOOD CONTAINING PEANUT BUTTER, NUTS, OR THOSE, WHICH HAVE BEEN PROCESSED IN A FACILITY WITH NUT PRODUCTS. PLEASE CHECK FOOD LABELS.** This will ensure that class time and the surface learning areas will be a safe haven for all students.

Finally, please understand that a School Committee policy is in place regarding food in the school. Students will NOT be allowed to bring in birthday cakes, snacks or food to share with classmates in celebration of their day. If you would like to send in bookmarks or pencils or any non-food item, please do so.

If you have any questions, or need clarification on the above, please call the school (978) 774-1350.

Sincerely,

Violetta Powers
Violetta Powers
Principal

Kristin Allen
Kristin Allen
School Nurse