

Dear Parents,

As we head back to school this is a reminder that there are children at SES who have life-threatening food allergies. Therefore, there **MUST NOT** be any peanuts, tree nuts or chocolate\* in the Music/Art/One Planet classroom, the Pre-K/K and 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms. All the teachers in these classrooms will check snack/lunch items daily. Any items containing peanuts, tree nuts or chocolate, or if the teacher is unsure whether the item contains peanuts, nuts or chocolate, it will be tagged with your child's name and taken to the Front Office where it can be retrieved at the end of the day. The teacher will offer the child a substitute food. Food items left at the Front Office for more than one week will be thrown away. Sharing food is not allowed in these classrooms. If the item is home-made or a bulk- food item transferred to a smaller container the teachers appreciate it if you would take an extra moment to label it as "No Nuts."

Please read food ingredient labels carefully. Be aware that there are many baked goods (eg., muffins, breads, cookies), prepackaged foods (granola bars) and candies (eg., nougat, marzipan) that contain either peanuts or tree nuts. We will continue to wash down tables daily and have children wash their hands when they arrive at school, and before/after eating a snack or lunch. This is a good habit anyway, but also reduces the risk that even a tiny amount of nuts could get left on a table or chair, then accidentally transferred to the allergic child's hands, then into their mouth, resulting in a severe allergic reaction and/or death.

\*The only exception to the chocolate rule is if the item is manufactured by Vermont Nut-Free Chocolates out of N. Hero, VT and the item is in the original packaging. (Check them out – they make great chocolate products and their entire manufacturing process is nut-free!) Other chocolate containing items (eg, from Hershey's, Nestle's, and Quaker Oats to name a few ) may be cross-contaminated with nuts during manufacturing.

If you have questions about the policy or a food item, please contact me (763-7425) or Ellen Bald, RN, the School Nurse. She is at school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and can also be reached at [sharonnurse@verizon.net](mailto:sharonnurse@verizon.net). We would be happy to discuss any concerns with you. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Barrett Williams  
Principal