



ST. GERARD SCHOOL

1204 - 96 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2V 0Y1 Tel: 403-500-2028 Fax: 403-500-2228 www.cssd.ab.ca/stgerard

September 2, 2016

Dear Parent(s):

I am writing to you on behalf of students in our school who have a potentially life-threatening allergy to **all nuts (peanuts, tree nuts and nut products)**. A surprisingly large percentage of our student population has a nut allergy.

If peanut butter, or even the smallest amount of peanut, peanut product, or any type of nut enters the student's body through the eyes, nose or mouth, the student may experience a variety of very strong reactions. Common reactions are facial swelling, hives and swelling of the throat requiring medical treatment. Therefore, we are requesting your cooperation in refraining from sending these food products to school with your child. While school administrators and staff continually work towards an **allergy-safe** environment, an "allergen-free" or "peanut-free" milieu with **zero** risk cannot be reasonably guaranteed.

All of our school staff, including lunch room staff, have been made aware of this situation and have been instructed in the correct procedures for an immediate medical emergency response. Prevention is, of course, the best approach for reducing the risk of a severe reaction.

We have told the other students of the situation and have asked them **to not share snacks, treats, or lunches**. As well, staff has attended an in-service lead by our Public Health Nurse on preventative measures and responses to allergic reactions. I have also addressed nut-sensitivity issues in my Welcome Back address sent home in packages on September 1. Teachers have made parents aware of nut allergies in their own teacher-parent communication.

We want to express our appreciation for your support and understanding about this severe allergy.

This letter and the Welcome Back address can be found on our school's website.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the school at (403) 500-2028.

Yours truly,

Christian Harries
Principal