



February 22, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In January, St. James became a peanut/tree nut safe school. At this point, we believe it would be helpful to provide further clarification on how this policy impacts the food the children eat while at school. We are asking all families to try, to the best of their ability, to have all food brought into the school for snacks, lunch, class parties etc. to be peanut and tree nut free. This means no peanut butter, Nutella (this is hazelnut spread), or any food containing peanuts or tree nuts.

In order to comply, food labels must be read. If a label states "manufactured on equipment that also processes peanuts or tree nuts or made in a facility that also processes peanuts or tree nuts" that food item is allowed in school for students without these allergies to bring in for their daily snack and lunch.

For daily lunch and snack, students may bring in homemade /home baked nut free food. Sharing food during lunch or snack is not permitted between students. Therefore, homemade nut-free food is allowed since these food items are consumed only by the individual child. Proper nutrition and healthy habits are a priority for all of us and we all recognize that homemade foods are often healthier to eat.

For class parties that are teacher approved, the policy is different on home baked items. During class parties, the food served is shared among the children. Therefore to ensure the safety of every child, no home baked food is allowed. Cross contamination can occur and mistakes can unintentionally be made causing a potentially serious allergic reaction which can be life threatening. For this reason food for parties must be prepackaged with ingredient lists attached.

Pre Baked items are available at stores such as Stop & Shop or B.J.s. These pre-baked items are clearly labeled nut free. Even in these instances, we ask for your support in reading all of the label's ingredients. For class parties or any instances of 'shared food being served', if the product label reads that the item 'is processed on the same equipment that processes peanuts or tree nuts or made in a facility that processes peanuts or tree nuts', the food item cannot be brought into school for a party or shared food event.. For every party or shared food events, ingredient lists must be included on the Food Permission form.

All food sent in for a party must be discussed with and approved by the teacher. Any food sent in for parties must have ingredient lists detailed on the school's Food Notification/Permission form. It must be sent home at least seven days prior to the event for the parent/guardian to review, sign and return back to school. We ask for the cooperation of all room parents to ensure that families have advance notification of upcoming food

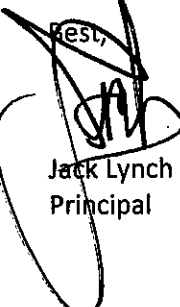
events. If the food notification form is not returned for a particular student, they will not be allowed to eat the food being served.

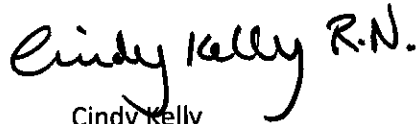
Labels for granola bars or breakfast bars, must be carefully reviewed since many contain nuts or tree nuts. Please read them carefully.

We fully recognize that this initiative takes effort on all members of our community. However, ensuring the safety and well-being of every child is the highest priority of our school. Please know that we are grateful for your support and effort.

If you have specific questions about the information above, don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you.


Res.
Jack Lynch
Principal


Cindy Kelly
School Nurse