



August 9, 2023

Dear Parents:

A student in your child's class or even in a classroom in the building has a serious peanut allergy - the food allergy that claims more lives each year than any other. A child with a serious peanut allergy can suffer a reaction merely by touching a peanut-containing food. Therefore, we will continue to follow the same safety guidelines that are in effect:

- Please do not send any peanuts, peanut butter or foods containing peanuts or peanut butter to be eaten as snacks in the classroom. It is fine to send these products for lunch, which is eaten in the cafeteria.
- Birthday parties or holiday parties are a special time for children, but can be a difficult time for the food-allergic child. It would be especially helpful if you could let your child's teacher know a few days ahead of when you'd like to celebrate your child's birthday, so that the food-allergic child can provide his/her own safe treat if necessary.
- Suggestions for parties: Walmart mini cupcakes that say peanut free, Rold Gold pretzels, yogurt, Pop tarts, Goldfish, Nilla Wafers, Ritz crackers, Cheez its, chocolate chip cookies, Oreo's, Gummy fruit snacks, name brand chips
- We will keep a box of wipes in the classroom and have wipes available at lunch. We will request that all children who ate peanut butter or peanut products for lunch use wipes to clean their hands. Similarly, if your child ate peanut butter for breakfast, we would greatly appreciate your making sure that his/her hands are washed with soap and water before leaving for school. Water alone does not do the trick!

We trust that you understand how deeply important it is to respect and adhere to these guidelines. If throughout the course of the year, you have any questions or concerns about food-allergy-related issues, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or Laura Kinslow.

Southland Academy is proud to have the opportunity to know and educate your child.

Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy school year,

Heather Yeiser
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