



October 16, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is committed to creating an allergy-safe and aware environment. Management of students at risk of life-threatening allergies is a shared responsibility among students, parents, the school system and health care providers. Although we cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment, we work to ensure a safe environment for those with life-threatening allergies.

In our school this year, there are students and staff with severe allergies to a variety of foods. Some of which include: peanuts, nuts, seeds and milk products. Ingestion of even tiny amounts of these items could be serious and life threatening. We can all play a role in preventing such a dangerous and frightening situation. Children with allergies and their parents will take initial responsibility to avoid exposure to allergens. Vigorous hand washing with soap and water after eating or being in contact with food is a measure which all of us can take. This is the simplest and most effective method to protect people with allergies. Any volunteers working within our classrooms will need to be aware of this precaution as well.

While there are many foods which can cause allergies, peanuts and nuts are a common and potent cause of food allergies. Labelling regarding peanuts/nuts is generally very clear. However, as the children with allergies need to learn to protect themselves, we too play a role in being "allergy aware". Please:

- Check the list of ingredients on items that you send to school.
- Avoid sending products that contain or "may contain" peanuts/nuts to school.
- Avoid sending Wowbutter and other "imitation peanut butters" to school.
- Teach your children to understand this serious situation and encourage them to support their classmates.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the school.

Sincerely,

Shelby Hines, M. Ed.
Principal