

Dear Parents,

As you all know, we had an “Allergy Awareness Meeting”. As a direct result of this meeting the school’s immediate focus is twofold: To educate the Saint Alexis families and students on the seriousness of this and any food allergy and to implement safety measures.

Children with peanut allergies can experience the following symptoms whether the child has ingested the product or has come in contact with the product, either by touch or airborne.

SYMPTOMS:

- ❑ **Skin becomes bumpy, red and itchy**
- ❑ **Child can develop hives**
- ❑ **Child can start to cough, sneeze, and eyes begin to water**
- ❑ **Swelling of the face and lips**
- ❑ **Vomiting**
- ❑ **Difficulty breathing**
- ❑ **A child can go into anaphylaxis shock, severe allergic reaction that involves difficulty breathing, drop in blood pressure, and loss of consciousness even death.**

Because we are blessed with so many parents that volunteer in the school, whether in the cafeteria or as playground supervisors, each parent needs to know the signs and become familiar with the children who have this peanut allergy.

If you are working in the cafeteria, take a minute to look at the students’ pictures that are hanging on the wall, those are the children with the severe peanut allergy. Those same children sit at the peanut free table in front of the serving line. That table needs to be washed after every lunch with a specific bucket designated for that table. A separate trashcan is placed by that table; only students from that table can use that trashcan so we can avoid cross contamination.

If a child shows signs of any of those symptoms, the EpiPens are located in the cafeteria manager's office. The teacher on duty or Mrs. Deemer will administer the injection.

If you are working as a playground supervisor, familiarize yourself with the students’ pictures hanging in the office wall located by the copy machine. If a child shows any symptoms outside, immediately send an adult to the office for help. The EpiPen and

medication will be taken to the child either by the secretary, school nurse, teacher, or administrator.

If your child had a peanut butter sandwich or peanut products in his/her lunch, please remind your child to wash his/her hands with soap and water to remove the peanut residue. This is a good practice before going outside or into the classrooms.

Awareness of food allergies will become part of our curriculum. We are in the planning stages of implementing a program to educate all our students about the seriousness of any type of food allergy.

As always, I thank you all of you for your commitment to Saint Alexis School. Working together to provide a safe environment for all our children is our goal.

Sincerely,

Ms.Devrnja
Principal