



BalACLAVA Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Please be advised that we have students and staff in our school with LIFE THREATENING allergies to peanuts, foods containing peanut products, or tree nuts. We would therefore ask that you send your child to school with snacks and a lunch that is free of nuts and peanut products (e.g., peanut butter, Nutella, granola bars, etc.) Even the tiniest amount of peanut or nut products entering the body of those who are allergic (through eyes, nose or mouth) can produce very strong reactions. Their faces swell, they break out in hives, and their throats swell and tighten. Immediate medical treatment is required or they could die within minutes. A quick review of a product's ingredient list usually can answer any questions you may have as most foods now list whether they contain peanuts/nut products in them or not.

In the school setting, cross-contamination poses the greatest risk. It only takes a few crumbs or the oil from a contaminated sandwich or snack to take the life of one who is allergic. Our staff takes precautions with specific cleaning tasks and in communicating to our community to ensure that our school remains as peanut/nut oil free as we can possibly make it.

This allergy is a physical condition that someone can be born with or, similar to bee allergies, can develop quickly into a potentially lethal allergic reaction. It is a condition that requires understanding, respect, and a generous spirit. Our lives may be inconvenienced by the existence of these necessary protocols. The individual with the allergy's life is, in many ways, dictated by it.

In order to ensure a safe environment for the child affected by this allergy, we need the consideration, care and cooperation of all. Signs are posted outside the classrooms where there is a particular problem with exposure. Staff is trained and practice emergency response procedures. Students will become familiar with our Emergency Plan for those students who have allergies or those who may need medical attention, through classroom instruction.

Questions about allergies can be answered by the City of Hamilton Public Health Services. They can be reached at 905-546-3570.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.