

ALLERGY AND MEDICAL CONDITIONS AWARENESS PLAN

School staff and parents are responsible for creating safe and healthy environments for students within the limits created by legislation, school configuration, number of students with allergies or any medical conditions and available school staff. The Ontario Allergy Society tells us that “it is impractical to achieve complete avoidance of all allergenic foods as there can be hidden or accidentally introduced sources.” However, “it is definitely possible to reduce children’s exposure to allergenic foods or triggers within the school setting.”

To this end, the following steps will be taken in order to attempt to establish and maintain an “allergy safe” environment, which recognizes the need for safety with regard to life threatening allergies or other medical conditions. Please note that your child may develop sensitivity to a food or develop a medical condition. **Please inform the school immediately if you notice any changes to your child's health.**

1. Letter sent home to all families which:

- Requests that lunches and snacks not contain nuts, nut products, or other ingredients as indicated on students’ emergency forms.
- Lists products / foods to avoid
- Advises MSK community of “Allergy Safe” environment and of “no food sharing” rule.

2. Staff and volunteers will:

- Be trained to recognize signs of an anaphylactic reaction and how to take appropriate action.
- Know how to administer the Epi-pen or other medical device (asthma puffers).
- Each term or when needed, the Medical and Anaphylaxis committee will review with all staff and volunteers.
- Become familiar with the specifics of the child’s allergy/health issues.
- Inform parents of the allergies that exist in the class.
- Review information of allergies in the school regularly (by Term)

3. Teachers, volunteers and Students will:

- Discuss anaphylaxis and medical conditions with the class in age-appropriate terms.
- Outline the allergen or medical condition in the class, describe symptoms of an anaphylactic or asthma attack and procedures to follow should an attack occur.
- Regularly remind students to help minimize risk by not bringing food allergens to school.
- Establish a “no food” sharing rule.

4. Food in the school:

(a) Lunches will be:

- Eaten indoors. **Sharing is strictly prohibited.**
- **Nuts or nut bi-products are to be strictly avoided throughout the school.**
- Children in this classroom will be asked to be vigilant about what they bring in to eat.
- When nut products are brought to school or products that have been listed as allergens for a particular class: the snack will be removed from the child **and** parents will be notified.

(b) Snacks for all grades will be:

- Eaten indoors. No food is allowed outdoors. **Sharing is strictly prohibited** monitored by classroom teacher for potential allergens.

5. Classroom Celebrations (examples: Birthdays, Thanksgiving, Halloween, Valentine’s Day, etc...)

- No food brought in by parents will be allowed in the school for any classroom celebrations.

6. School Functions or Fundraisers:

- Products used or sold will be Allergy Safe.
- Parents will be made aware to take precaution when hosting events such as BBQ's and other community building events. We will do our best to advise and ensure that these foods are not available on the premises.

7. Day Excursions

- Epi-pens or other medical devices (i.e. Puffers) will be taken on trips.
- Parents of severely allergic children must attend and/or transport their child by car.

8. Responsibility Of Parents/Guardian and of the Student with an Anaphylactic Allergy or Asthma:

- advise school immediately of anaphylactic allergy or asthma and complete required forms.
- provide school with 2 up to date applications of the EpiPen (one for the classroom and the other to be carried by the student) clearly marked with the student's name and known allergen(s).
- provide school with 1 up to date puffer to be kept with student at all times (it is up to parents' discretion to give school a second puffer for added safety).
- Student to use best efforts to avoid allergens and recognize symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction.

If child eats peanut butter or Nutella, it is the responsibility of every parent/guardian to ensure the child brushes their teeth and washes face and hands prior to bringing them to school. PLEASE DO NOT HAVE CHILD EAT ANY NUT PRODUCTS ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL!

Let's work collaboratively to keep all Staff & Students safe and allergy aware.

I have read, understand and will abide by the above note on ANAPHYLAXIS and OTHER ALLERGY AWARENESS OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS policies at MSK. I understand the importance to only pack products that follow the above criteria and or be made aware of throughout the school year. I also am aware to make sure if my child eats peanut butter or Nutella at home to properly brush teeth and wash child's hands and face prior to coming to school. Also, to ensure my child does not eat these foods on the way to school.

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____