

## ANAPHYLAXIS POLICY

Your understanding and co-operation in ensuring the safest possible school environment for our children is appreciated.

Anaphylaxis is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although *peanuts* and *peanut products* are the most common foods to cause anaphylaxis, *tree nuts, shellfish, fish, eggs, sulphites, milk, sesame seeds, soy* or any other food can cause this dangerous condition. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students.

Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are present or consumed in the area, or shared with them. Please be aware that allergen contact does not have to be direct (i.e. in the mouth or touched), it can be indirect; on surfaces or in the air and/or environment.

**Prevention is the best approach.** We ask that you take some time to review the following information with your family (i.e. grandparents), caregiver(s) and child(ren). Please remember:

- Send snacks or lunches with your child that are **free from peanuts, tree nuts, and nut products**.
- Remind your child(ren) about our school rule that they **MUST NOT SHARE FOOD**. In addition, we ask that parents and caregivers do not share food with children on our yard or play structure.
- Please do not bring peanut products to our play structure. All of our primary students use this facility and it presents an *invisible*, but life threatening danger to our children.
- Purchased and fast food products such as "timbits" are often in contact with peanuts (or similar products) even though they may appear to be okay. We do not know what has happened in the preparation.

- To find safe products, *read the labels* and ask your food service providers if they are a "nut free" environment. Some products will indicate their "peanut free" status directly on the packaging (i.e. Chapman Ice Cream products).
- Please note, **if any foods that can affect our anaphylaxis children are brought to school by students, the items will be removed and parents contacted.**

Once again, please discuss this vital issue with your child and also reinforce the importance of **not sharing snacks or lunches** with other students.

If your child has health problems of any kind inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken. The Board has procedures for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions, including bee strings and nut allergies. If you are interested, contact the school office for further information. More information is available through Anaphylaxis-Canada (416-785-5666).