

## NELLY MCCLUNG P.S. IS A NUT-AWARE

Staff, students and parents work together collaboratively to create and sustain a safe and healthy environment for all our learners. This poses an additional challenge and heightened awareness for school attended by children with life-threatening allergies. While it is impossible to guarantee a risk-free environment, staff, parents and classmates can take important steps to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions.

We ask for your assistance and cooperation to help us minimize the risk for these children by not sending nuts, peanuts, peanut butter, products containing peanut oil or other nut products or products with the disclaimer “may contain traces ...” to school.

Please read carefully the risks which this type of allergy presents;

- Only a minute amount of peanut oil, peanut butter or nut product is necessary to cause a life threatening reaction
- Death can happen within minutes of ingestion by an anaphylactic individual
- Anaphylactic shock can occur if minute airborne nut particles are inhaled
- Repeated reactions may worsen over time within individuals so that a child may have mild reactions followed by a fatal or near-fatal one
- In a severe reaction, the throat closes and the child cannot breathe
- This allergic reaction differs from other allergies in that it is life-threatening

Isolating these students from the rest during lunch and snack times will not solve this concern because upon their arrival to class a reaction is possible.

**WHY:** Children play in close proximity to each other. Peanut butter or crumbs can be left on rugs, desks, chairs, books or other school equipment and no matter how hard we try to clean these areas, we may miss spots. When the child returns to class, a severe reaction is possible.

**TREATMENT:** Administration of an epipen followed by a trip to the hospital is usually needed.

**Being proactive is the key.** Our Board Policy #662.0 indicates that all students are entitled to safe and healthy environments, including an allergen safe environment, in our schools. Should your child/ren have a nut product at breakfast, please ensure that he/she thoroughly washes his/her hands and face and brushes his/her teeth.

**Please do not send nuts, nut products or those products which may contain traces of nuts to school!** We do appreciate the inconvenience that this may cause, but preserving the safety and well-being of all our children is well worth the effort and sacrifice.