

Dear Sun Valley Parents:

You've all read the headlines and seen the news stories: food allergies are a growing concern in schools across America. Millions of children - children who are perfectly healthy and normal in every other way - must watch every single bite they eat, or risk suffering a severe or even life threatening reaction. In fact, food allergies claim an estimated 150 lives and are responsible for more than 125,000 emergency room visits each year. A major health issue such as this must be taken very seriously, and it has always been the policy of this school to make the safety and well-being of our students our top priority.

There are many students at Sun Valley that have a serious peanut allergy - the food allergy that claims more lives each year than any other. A child with a serious peanut allergy can suffer a reaction merely by touching a peanut-containing food. We have not served peanut butter in our cafeteria for many years and have substituted that with sun butter in order to prevent any allergic reactions from occurring. As needed we make table arrangements during lunch to keep those students who brought peanut products for lunch away from those that do not. We are asking for your help regarding potential peanut reactions in our classrooms:

- Please do not send any peanuts, peanut butter or foods containing peanuts or peanut butter to be eaten as snacks **in the classroom**. It is fine to send these products for lunch, which is eaten in the cafeteria.
- We will not be doing any classroom projects that involve peanut butter (like bird feeders) or peanut shells (art projects). Please do not send any of these projects into the classroom with your child.
- If your child ate peanut butter for breakfast, we would greatly appreciate your making sure that his/her hands are washed with soap and water before leaving for school. Water alone does not do the trick!

This is a learning process for all of us, but we trust that you understand how deeply important it is to respect and adhere to these guidelines. If throughout the course of the year you have any questions or concerns about food-allergy-related issues, please do not hesitate to contact either one of us.

Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy school year.

Sincerely,

Sun Valley Principal

Sun Valley Nurse



*Provided by the Food Allergy Initiative, a national non-profit organization dedicated to finding a cure to life-threatening food allergies. For more information, please visit [www.FoodAllergyInitiative.org](http://www.FoodAllergyInitiative.org) or email [Info@FoodAllergyInitiative.org](mailto:Info@FoodAllergyInitiative.org)*