

LIVINGSTON AVENUE SCHOOL



Kevin Deacon,
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September 5, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I wanted to inform you of a new regulation going into effect for this school year. It concerns the management of allergies for children with them, and it involves changes to what we have done previously.

Because of the increasing prevalence of severe allergies in our children; because school nurses have reported extremely close calls when food items brought in for birthday or other school celebrations almost resulted in a severe allergic reaction in a child; and because we want to ensure the safest environment possible for all your children, this regulation was developed in conjunction with our district and school administrators and the Board of Education.

Though a copy of the Regulation is attached for your review, I wanted to stress the most salient points:

1. Except for Foods classes, class lessons and presentations shall no longer include any type of food item, either as part of the lesson or as a reward for good work.
2. Birthday celebrations in classrooms shall no longer include any type of food item sent in by the parent/guardian. Rather, we are establishing a new tradition of noting your child's special day in ways that do not involve food. The regulation lists some examples, but the teacher and class parent(s) may be able to add to that list. We welcome all ideas to ensure that a child's birthday is celebrated appropriately while ensuring that it can be celebrated safely.
3. Our school will have 4 school-wide celebrations this year that can involve the consumption of food items related to the celebration. Such celebrations will be announced in advance to permit the parents of children with allergies to consult with their child's teacher, class parent(s), or the school nurse and plan appropriate ways for their child to participate in the celebration while remaining safe.
4. Daily snacks will pretty much remain the same as now, with parents/guardians providing nutritious but welcome snacks for their children. Early in the year, however, you will be notified of the allergies present in your child's class. We urge you to make every effort to provide snacks for your child that are less likely to result in an allergic reaction on the part of another child.

I invite your careful review of the regulation in its entirety.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you for joining us in our effort to keep our school safe for all children.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2017-18 school year.

Sincerely,

Kevin Deacon

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