



Coalhurst Elementary School

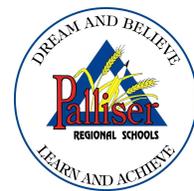
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Principal: Mr. Chris McIntyre

Vice Principal: Mrs. Krista Gaskell



February 12, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Re: Shift to Peanut-Free Environment at Coalhurst Elementary School

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you of an important update regarding our school's policies concerning allergies, specifically regarding peanuts.

Last week we learned that the allergy status of one of our students has changed. Their allergy now poses a risk through ingestion AND airborne transmission. The safety and well-being of all our students are our top priorities, and as part of our [Allergy Awareness Policy](#), we are taking proactive steps to address this situation. **While some of our classrooms have already been peanut and nut-free environments this year, we now find it necessary to implement a school-wide ban on peanut products.**

To ensure the safety of all students, we will begin the process of implementing the peanut ban immediately. While we cannot guarantee the complete absence of all peanut products in our school, by the time we return from the break on February 26th, our school will strive to be fully peanut-free.

This policy is specific to peanuts, however, it is important to note that peanuts are often processed in similar settings as nuts. This policy will remain in effect until the end of the school year (June 2024) and as part of our [Allergy Awareness Policy](#), we will reassess it next year based on the needs of our students. We greatly appreciate your support and cooperation in ensuring the well-being of all our students.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy change, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Mr. Chris McIntyre
CES Principal

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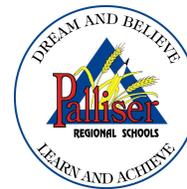
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Tips for Parents, Students, and Staff to Assist as we Strive to be Peanut-Free

Tips for Parents:

1. **Check labels carefully:** When packing lunches or snacks for your child, carefully read the labels to ensure that the products do not contain peanuts or peanut ingredients.
2. **Choose alternatives:** Opt for peanut-free alternatives such as sunflower seed butter, soy butter, or other nut-free spreads when preparing meals and snacks for your child.
3. **Encourage allergy awareness:** Teach your child about the importance of allergy awareness and the potential risks associated with consuming or bringing peanut products to school.

Tips for Students:

1. **Be mindful of snacks:** Students should avoid bringing peanut products to school and opt for peanut-free alternatives instead.
2. **Wash hands:** Encourage students to wash their hands before and after eating to reduce the risk of cross-contamination.
3. **Be inclusive:** Show empathy and support towards classmates with allergies by refraining from sharing or trading food items that may contain peanuts.
4. **Speak up:** If a student notices peanut products in the school environment, they should alert a teacher or staff member to ensure prompt removal.

Tips for Staff:

1. **Educate students:** Incorporate allergy awareness education into classroom discussions and activities to help students understand the importance of keeping peanuts out of the school environment.
2. **Monitor lunches:** Staff members supervising lunch periods can help enforce the peanut-free policy by monitoring students' lunches and snacks. Students with peanut products will need to place them back into safe storage and returned home or disposed of depending on the circumstances. The staff will then inform the parents to remind them of this policy change and we will provide an alternative food item for that day.
3. **Provide alternatives:** Ensure that any snacks or treats provided to students during school events or celebrations are peanut-free and safe for all students to consume.
4. **Communicate with parents:** Maintain open communication with parents regarding the peanut-free policy and encourage their cooperation in adhering to it.

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