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Dear Parents,

At SCCS we have a many students with many different needs. At SCCS, there are students with nut allergies. Any exposure to nuts or nut products, including peanut butter, can cause a life threatening reaction requiring immediate hospital treatment. To protect our students with nut allergies, our school has implemented an Allergy Aware policy. We have removed all nut products from our cafeteria and asking all students to avoid bringing food with nuts as an ingredient. Lunches from home may not contain any nut products. Nut-free substitutions such as sunbutter are o.k.

Nuts and nut product are commonly found in processed store bought foods. They are also a big part of homemade recipes. Reading labels on snack foods or class treats will be a very important task when your child brings outside food into the classroom. Even touching a nut products is dangerous, so any crafts or games involving peanut butter or nuts could be harmful.

Celebrations are a fun part if the school year. We don't want to minimize them, but we do want every student to be able to participate safely. There are many treat options that don't involve nut products. Better yet, treats can be something our students need at school. Glue sticks, erasers, band-aids, a book signed by the birthday child and donated to the classroom all make great party treats. Kids may also enjoy tattoos, stickers, balls and many other little toys. Teaching our children that sugary foods aren't necessary for a party atmosphere is a great secondary benefit. Teachers may also have more creative ideas to help celebrate birthdays and holidays safely.

It takes courage to send our little ones off to school. Imagine sending them when they have a life threatening allergy to a product you know might be present there. Please talk to your own children about allergies and how we can all work together to make the classroom a safe place for each child present.

Sincerely on behalf of our students,

Nurse Stacy

Stacy Schaap, RN
Sioux Center Christian School
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