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*Food Allergies at Angling Road School*

To Parents/Guardians,

Severe food allergies are becoming more and more prevalent in children. Severe reaction can occur due to contact, inhalation and/or ingestion of the allergen. Reactions to specific foods can range from rashes and hives to anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a reaction that leads to difficulty breathing, a drop in blood pressure and shock which are potentially fatal. **Over 150 deaths per year occur from food anaphylaxis, mostly from peanut and tree nut allergies.**

At Angling Road Elementary, we have a number of children with life-threatening food allergies, particularly to peanuts and tree nuts. If exposed to peanuts/nuts these students may develop life-threatening allergic reaction requiring immediate medical treatment. **The most important aspect of managing food allergies is avoidance and prevention.** To assist these students in being safe at school, we have developed specific procedures, including having students wash their hands regularly and the establishment of a "peanut free" table in the cafeteria. **We are also requesting parents/guardians avoid sending peanut or nut containing products to school with your children to eat in the cafeteria and/or as classroom snacks.** We appreciate your support of these procedures and understanding of the challenges these students and their families have in dealing with extreme food allergies. Thank you for your cooperation the feel free to contact Karen Witvoet (323-6000) with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

The Angling Road Staff