

MASON-RICE SCHOOL
149 Pleasant Street
Newton, Massachusetts 02459

September 18, 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing to enlist your support in a potentially difficult situation. Many of our Mason-Rice K-5 students have life-threatening food allergies to peanuts (a legume) and/or tree nuts. If these children accidentally ingest either peanuts or tree nuts or other foods that contain peanuts or tree nuts, they could potentially have a life threatening allergic reaction requiring emergency life-saving treatment.

We're asking for cooperation from all of our families to ensure a safe environment for our students. Exposure to peanut and/or tree nut allergens present on hard surfaces poses a very serious risk to students who are allergic. If a student comes in contact with a peanut and/or tree nut allergen and then touches their mouth, eyes or nose they could have a life-threatening allergic reaction.

I have informed the Newton Health Department of this situation. The Newton School Committee's Life Threatening Allergy (LTA) guidelines support the voluntary ban of peanut and tree nut products in our classrooms. **In each of our K-5 classrooms, I am asking all parents to refrain from sending any peanut or tree nut products to school during this school year.** Additionally, students are reminded that sharing food is not allowed.

It is important that students and their families feel safe and supported by the Mason-Rice community. I appreciate your understanding and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

I would also like to make families aware of the following website that provides information about life threatening food allergies called "AllergyHome.org." Through this website you can access videos geared towards parents and children. You can access this website at <https://www.allergyhome.org>. Having a greater awareness and understanding of life threatening food allergies is a benefit to our whole school community.

Truly yours,

Jake Bultema