

# EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP

## C.J. DAVENPORT SCHOOL COMPLEX

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### **IMPORTANT: Food Allergies and Classroom Celebrations**

As we begin the new school year, please be aware that we have a number of students that have potentially life-threatening food allergies. Children with food allergies can have a severe reaction with exposures to even tiny amounts of an allergen. It is our goal to ensure that every student in our school can learn in a safe and supportive environment. To achieve this goal, it will be necessary to limit certain foods entering the classrooms for parties and celebrations.

#### What is a food allergy?

Food allergy is an immune system reaction that occurs soon after eating a certain food. Even a tiny amount of the allergy-causing food can trigger signs and symptoms such as digestive problems, hives or swollen airways. In some people, a food allergy can cause severe symptoms or even a life-threatening reaction called anaphylaxis.

#### Are food allergies curable?

No. There is no cure for food allergies. For this reason, it is important that food allergens are avoided. It takes dedication from the parent of the child, school staff and you.

#### I want to send in treats for my child's birthday or holiday party – what do I do?

**All classroom parties and celebrations will be NUT FREE. This includes products with advisory statements on the label. No homemade items will be permitted. Cupcakes must have a label on the container clearly stating the product is peanut and tree nut free.** See photos on the back of this paper for examples. Also, please refer to Davenport's Homepage listed under "Schools" on our district website [www.eht.k12.nj.us/](http://www.eht.k12.nj.us/) for a complete list of our approved treat list. Always consult with your child's teacher or nurse regarding any other kinds of food allergies in the classroom before sending in treats. Remember, treats don't necessarily have to be food (pencils, stickers, erasers, etc.).

As a parent, you have an important role in the safety of food allergy students. I want students to be able to celebrate birthdays and holidays – they are meant to be fun! I realize it takes longer to find appropriate treats, but your consideration is greatly appreciated on behalf of myself, teachers and parents of a food allergy student.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.  
Thank you for your support in this important matter!

Sincerely,

Mary Kay Nell RN BA, CSN (Ext. 1312)  
Judith O'Rourke RN, BA, SCSN (Ext. 1310)

Primary Nurse, Grades Pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup>  
Elementary Nurse, Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup>