Dear Parents,

On behalf of the clinic welcome back to school! We are thrilled to welcome over 75 new children to the St. James family this school year!

This summer, like every summer, the St. James staff took a look at how we can continue to keep our students safe and instill continued confidence in students and parents regarding that safety. In particular we looked at health related safety and how we can impact the staggering research from Food Allergy Research and Education or F.A.R.E. that 1 in every 13 children nationwide has a life threatening food reaction.

One of the biggest impacts we have on safety is how we as school, manage the life threatening food allergy and food related illness here at St. James.

We have been and will continue to be an ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL. Our food policy to date has been that all food brought in to the classroom to SHARE must be store bought with a label that states the food is peanut/tree nut free AND is manufactured in a peanut/tree nut free facility.

This year we are expanding on our premise that we are Allergy Aware.

**The primary wing- grades K,1, and 2 are now**

**PEANUT AND TREENUT SAFE CLASSROOMS.**

***What does peanut/treenut safe mean for k-2?***

***This means 2 things;***

***1. All shared food must continue to be store bought with a label that states the food is peanut/tree nut free AND is manufactured in a peanut/tree nut free facility.***

***2. All individual snacks, with the intent to be eaten in the classroom, must be peanut and tree nut free AND manufactured in a peanut/tree nut free facility.***

If a teacher has a question as to the safety of the snack, the student will be prompted to choose another snack or item from their lunch box. If there are no other safe options available you will be contacted to bring another snack for your student to enjoy.

While we highly discourage peanut and tree nut products at all, students will continue to have choice in the lunch room. We are working closely with all the staff to maintain exceptional cleaning procedures to minimize and cross contamination while eating lunch.

While no school can ever state they are totally peanut and tree nut FREE we at St. James are committed to making our school a safe and comfortable school for all our students and families.

For additional information please check out the following website from Food Allergy Research and Education

https://www.foodallergy.org