



WEST MILFORD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Paradise Knoll Elementary School

Mrs. Jennifer Miller, Principal



103 Paradise Road
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438

jennifer.miller@wmtps.org
973-697-7142

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to a new school year! I write to you today to advise you that there are many students in almost every homeroom in the building that have a severe allergy to **Peanut/Tree Nuts**. Strict avoidance is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction. Allergic students can experience a life threatening reaction if they touch, inhale or ingest even the slightest trace of residue of the allergen.

I ask for your continued support and diligence regarding food items, birthday treats, and snacks coming into the school building. **There is a slight change to the protocol for sending in food items as birthday treats this year.**

If you would like to send in a snack item as a birthday treat for your child's class, please choose from the following list of pre-packaged items:

- Kellogg's Rice Krispies Treats-Original Flavor
- Chips Ahoy- Chocolate Chip Cookies
- Oreos-Original Flavor

These items will need to be sent into school in their original packaging and will be distributed by the teacher if they do not already come pre-packaged individually.

I would also urge you to consider an alternative "treat" if you would like to bring something to school for your child's birthday. For example, consider sending in a special book, dedicated in your child's name, to be added to the classroom library. Your child or your child's teacher can spend some time reading the book to the class on that day. Special pencils, erasers, stickers, and/or bookmarks are other fun alternatives to food.

Paradise Knoll Elementary School is an allergen sensitive school. In order to provide all students with a safe school experience, we are asking for your cooperation with the following measures:

- We will not be doing any classroom projects that involve Peanuts/Tree Nuts. If your child creates a project based assignment at home, please remember not to send in any projects that contain peanuts or nuts.

- If you choose to send in treats (food or otherwise) for birthdays, **please be sure to contact your child's teacher at least three days in advance.** This time allows for the classroom teachers to be able to contact the parents of students with allergies and to ensure the continued safety of these products with our school nurse. **Again, please choose from the list of pre-packaged items listed above.** This time will also allow for the teachers to plan a time in the day to distribute any special items such as stickers, pencils, etc. in advance of your child's birthday.

Please understand that if you have not contacted your child's teacher in advance of dropping off a birthday treat or snack, we will not be able to accept it. The ability to communicate in advance regarding the safety of these items is the only way to ensure every child's safety.

- It is important that you read the labels of foods sent in to be eaten in the classroom for snack time. **Please do not send in snacks that contain Peanuts/Tree Nuts. We must also avoid foods manufactured in the same plant as Peanut/Tree Nut products.** This information is usually marked by the ingredients. This is a great opportunity to talk to your child about everyone helping to care for each other and about the importance of healthy choices such as fresh fruits and vegetables!
- Please remind your child sharing of food will **not** be allowed.
- Hand washing will be required after snack (for sanitary reasons) and after lunchtime for all students. Following this practice at home is encouraged and appreciated.

Our number one goal at Paradise Knoll is to ensure that teaching and learning takes place in a safe environment for all of our students. In order to keep our focus on teaching and learning, **I must ask that we all adhere to this protocol concerning birthday treats and classroom snacks.**

This is an ongoing learning process. We trust that you understand how deeply important it is to respect and adhere to these guidelines. If we all work together, a safe learning environment is possible for all of our students. What a great opportunity to teach our children the importance of supporting one another! I am looking forward to another safe and successful school year.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Miller