

## **Guidelines to Support an Allergy Smart School**

At Westwind Public School we strive to create a safe and healthy environment for all students. We have a growing number of students who have life threatening allergies to different foods. For some students, severe allergic reactions can be triggered not only by eating foods, but also by their touch and smell.

We are an allergy smart school and as such we make every attempt to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions. It would be challenging at best to ban/eliminate all allergens, so we endeavor to minimize and control allergens through education.

Nut allergies are more prevalent in our school, so we request that parents refrain from sending peanuts and nut products to school. We rely on and greatly appreciate

the cooperation and support of our families in keeping our classrooms and school safe and healthy environments.

### Strategies to Support a Safe and Healthy Environment

- Annually we review our anaphylactic policy along with OCDSB guidelines for creating safe and healthy schools for anaphylactic students.
- Staff receive epi pen training annually.
- Information regarding students with severe allergies is posted in classrooms and in the office.
- Information is included on our website and included in student agendas.
- We encourage children to eat only the food that has been prepared for them.
- Teachers send home notes to parents alerting them to the variety of

allergies that may exist in their classes and the protocol that is expected regarding bringing in food for birthdays, special events and curriculum focused activities.

- The protocol for bringing external food on site is as follows:

- (i) Parents are required to communicate with the teacher in advance regarding bringing food on site.

- (ii) A list of ingredients used in the food must be provided.

- (iii) The parent with the child who has an allergy is alerted beforehand so that an alternative food can be provided, if required.