

Headline News

August 31, 2011

Food Safety Clarifications

We know that some of our children have severe food allergies and/or dietary needs that require special conditions. It is our goal and responsibility to maintain a safe environment for all students during the school day. The most effective way to accommodate a wide variety of food allergies is to implement grade specific guidelines that recognize developmental awareness of our students. Kindergarten requires the most managed and restricted environment. As our students mature, we encourage them to take more and more responsibility for their food allergies and dietary needs.

All of our schools have open campuses after normal school hours, on weekends and holidays. As a result, we cannot guarantee that our students may not be exposed to nuts or other food residue left on the school grounds. We work with families and encourage precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure when children are at school, and have trained our staff to be ready in case an allergic student has an incident while attending school.

Due to the viscosity and unique nature of nut products, schools in our District have implemented varied grade specific safety measures to meet the needs of students with nut allergies. This year we asked ALL families to minimize the possibility of a student with severe nut allergies coming in contact with nuts to please not send nuts or nut products to school. While we cannot guarantee no nuts will be on campus, it will help to protect our students with this allergy.

Related to this topic, there have been several requests to create 504 Plans for students with food allergies. A 504 Plan is most appropriate for academic modifications and accommodations that substantially limit student learning and are pervasive throughout the school day due to a medical condition. Students with food allergies are most likely to need a Health Plan, which is for students with a medical condition that might need medical or first aid attention in case of exposure.

Transportation Update

Since the first day of school several of the bus routes to and from school have been late getting to their destinations. We are working with our two transportation providers to correct this situation. Please make sure your child (ren) are at their bus stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled time of departure. This will aid with getting the buses loaded promptly for a timely departure. Thank you.

Safety Updates

Parents have heeded our call for avoiding Corte Palos Verdes as an alternative drop off/ pick up location near Bel Aire School. **Thank you.** We have contracted

through the Tam Transit Authority to employ a Crossing Guard on Reed Ranch Road near the entrance to Corte Palos Verdes. We expect to see this new Crossing Guard on the job soon. Parents using this area for drop off or pick up are asked to use Reed Ranch road near the painted cross walk. If you like to walk your children to the campus, please park along Reed Ranch Road too. Thanks again for helping to ensure our children are safe.

Whooping Cough (Pertussis) Vaccination Requirement (AB 354)

A reminder that all 7th & 8th graders must provide proof of immunization for Pertussis within 30 days from the first day of school (September 26th) or **your child will be sent home from school**. Please take care of this requirement so your children will not miss any school. We still have 22 middle school students who need this vaccination. Thank you.

A Website Note:

Please look for fliers regarding community activities on our new "Bulletin Board" page located under "News".