

Floral Park-Bellerose
Union Free School District

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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Dear School Community,

As we move ahead into the New Year this seems like an ideal time to let you know about a shift we need to take with regard to our class parties.

District- wide we have been examining areas of concern around the complex issue of food allergies. Along with procedures already in place, additional measures have been added such as pre- packaged peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, increasing education with our staff and an ongoing dialogue with parents of students affected by food allergies to increase student safety. I encourage you to look at our district website where we have added revised procedures and resources.

As we review the areas of vulnerability for our students sensitive to many different types of food allergies, it has become apparent that we create some additional ground rules on what foods are brought in to the classroom. We must keep in mind that for some of our students, accidental exposure to an allergen will have an immediate anaphylactic and life threatening reaction that must be medically treated immediately to avoid a tragedy.

I realize a time honored tradition has been to allow occasional short breaks in the daily routine for celebrating important events with our students. Ranging from birthday, holiday and other celebrations we all have fond memories of these special moments

And no one is suggesting we change that.

However, we are now asking that you no longer send in **home baked goods** but **commercially prepared and fully labeled** food items for these events. We can then compare the ingredients with the food allergy list we keep with each class. The food item should be nut free and prepared in a nut free facility. There are also many other food allergies and the labeling will give us better information for all of our students.

Your cooperation will allow the tradition of these special events to continue and widen our food allergy safety net.

I thank you in advance for your help and understanding on this very important matter. Our school nurses are ready to assist and answer any questions on food allergies. If you have any other questions please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

James J. Opiekun
Superintendent of Schools