



Monsignor J. E. Ronan Catholic School

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"Let your light shine so that others may see the good you do and give glory to God" Matthew 5:16



September 1st, 2019

Dear Parent(s) & Guardian(s),

Within our school there are several students who have a potential life-threatening allergies to foods (predominantly to peanuts) AND scents.

In terms of foods, the best way to reduce the risk for these students of accidental exposure is to respectfully ask the co-operation of parents and guardians. Please DO NOT send peanut butter or products with peanuts listed in the ingredients. Please note that our Board's Student Health Care Policy does not permit peanut butter substitutions such as Wow Butter in order to avoid confusions that arise over accidental exposure.

This concern includes special treats (i.e. birthday cupcakes, cookies) as these food could have come into contact with nut products. We cannot distribute foods brought from home for birthdays, but please know that your child's teacher will acknowledge your son or daughter's special day in other ways.

We understand that this can present challenges in packing your child's lunch. We thank you very much in advance for your understanding and assistance in helping us to offer the safest environment that we can for all our students.

In regards to scents, we know that allergies and sensitivities to scents can have health implications, which can range from mild to severe and can even result in hospitalization. As a Catholic community, we must do everything possible to nurture a sense of belonging and inclusiveness by ensuring that those who have allergies and sensitivities are safe and fully included at school and work.

A scent is a smell or odour from products and it can be natural such as flowers or synthetic such as perfume. Fragrances or scents are found in a wide range of products including perfume, essential oils, aftershave, deodorant, soap, air fresheners, fabric softeners, detergents, flowers and candles. As part of our board's Scent-Safe program, we are strongly encouraging all students and visitors to avoid or reduce the use of scented products.

Please discuss this issue with your children and be considerate of those who are sensitive to fragrances or scents. Help your child understand the importance of avoiding the use of these products in the school. If fragrances or scented products must be used, do so sparingly. A general guideline for fragrances and scented products is that they should not be detectable more than an arm's length away from you.

Please understand that this issue is not about you as a person or about your choice of fragrance or scent, but it is about the adverse reaction the use of the product may cause. The success of our program will depend upon the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of everyone within the school community.

Not using scented products is a simple thing to do and it will help to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for all of our students and staff. We thank you for your cooperation.

God Bless,

Mr. Mauro Porco
Principal
Monsignor J.E. Ronan Catholic School
905-729-3473

Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board