



August 2019

Dear Parents or Guardians:

There are students in our school with severe, medically documented allergies to peanuts, tree nuts, and other food products. In a severely allergic child, exposure to these products can cause anaphylaxis, a life threatening reaction. Since the safety of our students is of the utmost importance, we are asking for every parent's cooperation in ensuring the safest and healthiest school environment for all of our students. As a reminder, please follow the District's protocols regarding classroom-based celebrations.

- All PTA classroom parent representatives will be invited to participate in a safety training sponsored by the district on allergy awareness. Dates and times for these trainings will be forthcoming shortly.
- Any food item intended for a classroom celebration, purchased outside of school and brought into school by a parent, must be identified as an allergen-free food item. The *Snack Safely Guide* identifies these safe food items and is a comprehensive and regularly updated resource accessible at <https://snacksafely.com/safe-snack-guide/>. When you click on the link, you will see a red button on the homepage to download the latest version of the "Snack Safely" Guide. It is very comprehensive and gives parents many choices as to items that can be purchased in local supermarkets and brought into school. **Simply bring the Snack Safely list in as proof at the time the item is brought into school. If the item is not on the list, the food item will not be permitted to enter the classroom; no exceptions!**

The *Snack Safely Guide* is a wonderful resource for parents, even when hosting other children in one's own home as the number of youngsters with food allergies is on the rise. Additionally, as a parent you may not be privy to a child's allergic condition during a playdate in your own home, a Brownie or Cub Scout meeting, etc.

- A second option is ordering through the Babylon Food Services "Celebrations Menu" which can be accessed through our Food Services website. Please be reminded that the Food Service team needs lead time to order the items and prepare the order for delivery to the classroom. This is always a very safe and convenient option for busy parents. A copy of that order form is attached as well as ideas on alternative non-food based party options.
- **Please do NOT send in goody bags** for students in honor of your child's birthday. Although thoughtful, this presents potentially life-threatening situations for other students. Please save such treats for celebrations planned outside of school. Unfortunately, if goody bags come into the school, we will not be able to distribute them.

Thank you for your cooperation in supporting our combined efforts at keeping all of our students healthy and safe at school. We are looking forward to another wonderful year of learning and celebrating with your children.

With warm regards,

The Babylon Union Free School District