4th February 2016

Dear Parents of 1J, 2M, 3T, 4E, 4M, 5B, 5S, 6W

In your child’s class this year there is a child/ren who have a medical condition called ANAPHYLAXIS. Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening.

We ask parents of children in this class to avoid sending to school lunches containing peanut butter, nutella and egg. We trust that all parents will understand and cooperate fully with this request to assist with the health and wellbeing of each child at our school. It should be understood that these products are not sold in our canteen.

The care and safety of all children is of paramount importance, and we look forward to your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

John Laffan
PRINCIPAL

Please find overleaf information about anaphylaxis from www.allergyfacts.org.au
WHAT IS ANAPHYLAXIS?

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and potentially life threatening. Anaphylactic shock is a medical emergency that requires immediate treatment with adrenalin to prevent permanent injury or loss of life.

This allergic reaction can produce such severe swelling of the air passages that suffocation and death may occur within minutes. Food allergy, insect stings and medication can cause severe anaphylaxis. People with allergies, asthma and eczema may be at increased risk of having an anaphylactic reaction. Peanuts, nuts, eggs, milk, soy, sesame and shellfish are the foods that commonly trigger anaphylaxis. Even trace levels of these foods can cause anaphylactic reactions.

Avoidance of a specific allergen is the cornerstone of management in preventing anaphylaxis. In the event of contact with the offending allergen adrenalin should be administered immediately via injection.

Research shows that fatalities more often occur away from home and are associated with either not using or a delay in the use of adrenaline treatment.

MEDICATION INFORMATION

Anaphylaxis is a critical medical emergency requiring immediate injections of the hormone epinephrine (Epipen™, mini-jet, adrenaline), which opens the airways and blood vessels.

It is also treated with antihistamines, and steroids, among other medications.