



Steward Elementary School

261 Perkins Row Topsfield, MA 01983 978-887-1538 Michelle Costa, Principal

Fall 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

After continued discussion between the Superintendent, Dr. Creeden, the Topsfield School Committee, concerned parents, principals Mrs. Costa from Steward School and Mrs. O'Leary from Proctor school and all three school nurses, it has been decided that the best way to keep our students safe is to make all teaching areas tree nut/peanut free. This change will end confusion regarding what is safe to send in for which classroom. Because students frequently travel to other classrooms in the school the risk of accidental exposure was high. With all the teaching areas being tree nut/peanut free our students will be less likely to be exposed to a life threatening allergen. As before snacks or foods labeled "manufactured in a plant which also processes peanut/tree nuts" are acceptable for snacks. If your child accidentally brings in a peanut/tree nut product it will be placed in their backpack and they will be given a safe snack. Our cafeteria policy will remain the same: students eating tree nut/peanut products must sit at the end of the table and wash their hands prior to leaving the cafeteria.

This is a challenge for our young children, but ensuring the health and safety of all our students continues to be a priority in the Topsfield schools. For the families of those students who are affected, it is a constant daily requirement. Your understanding and support is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, we urge you to call the Health Office.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Costa