



Eden Gardens Magnet School

626 Eden Boulevard Shreveport, Louisiana 71106 (318) 861-7654

Dear Parents,

Each school year has brought an increase in the number of children who have peanut allergies. The allergies have ranged from very mild to life-threatening. In the past, we have made some "peanut free rooms" and "peanut free zones" that have allowed some peanut butter in identified areas of the building, while other areas remained peanut-free.

With the yearly increase in the numbers of children with peanut allergies and the increased severity of some of them, it has been decided that beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, we will be a peanut-free school. Each year, we put plans into place to ensure the safety of our eagles when they are at school. We can plan and practice for fire, tornado, severe storms, and building security—but when it comes to the health and safety of our sweet eagles, sometimes that plan must extend beyond our school walls.

Nut allergies can be life threatening. It takes only the slightest smell, touch, or ingestion of peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oil, a product that 'may contain trace amounts of peanuts' or a product that has been 'processed in a plant that also manufactures peanut products', to cause a potential anaphylactic reaction. This can happen so easily – the hands of a friend who has just finished a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a JELLYBELLY jellybean, or cookies from a bakery baked on the same pan as a peanut butter cookie. Again, it only takes the slightest smell, touch, or ingestion to result in a life-threatening situation for some of our students.

Listed below are several peanut free alternatives, as well as a few links for snacks. Please use these resources over the summer to find those alternatives that are appealing to your children.

Nutella (Kroger's off brand Nutella has the same taste and is about \$2 cheaper)

WOW butter (soy)

Sunbutter (sunflower seeds)

<http://snacksafety.com/snacklist.pdf>

<http://www.soybutter.com>

<http://sunbutter.com>

Thank you for helping us with this transition. I know it is a lot, and will be a lifestyle change for some. But ask yourself this question, "What if it was my child?"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jan Hughes".
Jan Hughes