



Pukerua Bay School

"Confident, Inspired, Achievers"



02 February 2016

Dear Parents/Caregivers

This week we have a new entrant student starting at our school who has a life threatening peanut allergy. As you can imagine this is a very stressful and anxious time for his Whanau and we need to be assured that we can keep him safe at Pukerua Bay School.

Staff have been trained in the administering of his epi-pen and we also need to work together to prevent his exposure to nuts. This is not a simple case of eating peanuts, he will go into life threatening anaphylaxis in the presence of peanuts or if he comes into contact with someone else who has eaten peanuts.

We have several ways to manage this:

1. Please refrain from sending peanut butter, peanut bars and other peanut products in school lunches
2. All children are to wash their hands before and after eating lunch (This should be standard practise)
3. Students from Te Motu will be rostered on to assist Jacqui Graham and Phillipa Needham at break times to be 'peanut detectives'. Year 6 children will be peanut detectives on Fridays (when year 7-8s are at tech). Children who happen to have peanut products in their lunch will eat away from the student at risk and ensure hands are washed thoroughly
4. Firm procedures are in place as to how we react as a school if the student does go into life-threatening anaphylaxis

We realise that this is new to Pukerua Bay school and acknowledge the hard work that Pukerua Bay kindergarten has done with our families and Whanau last year. We believe that education is key around this issue and we hope that this can be an opportunity to build empathy and an understanding of how we all experience the world in different ways. I hope that by working together all students have access to a safe environment at Pukerua Bay School.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Nga mihi
Tara TJ
Principal