



# Cherry Hill Public Schools

## Bret Harte Elementary School

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Cherry Hill, NJ 08003



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Dear Parents and Guardians,

We currently have a number of students at Bret Harte with a variety of food allergies and dietary issues. Therefore, school celebrations where foods are served can pose potential risks to the health and safety of these students. We also have an obligation to reinforce choices that promote and value a healthy mind and body. We want to continue to maintain a festive spirit for all children and still protect students from exposure to life-threatening situations. The purpose of this correspondence is to remind our community that we are an allergy aware school and therefore need to strictly adhere to the guidelines identified below.

In accordance with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and Cherry Hill Board of Education Policies we are prohibited from selling, serving, or giving away the following during the school day:

- Foods defined as having minimal nutritional value
- Any food or beverage with sugar as the first ingredient
- All forms of candy

In addition, we have adopted the following practices to minimize the risks to our vulnerable students:

- All party snacks will be organized by our PTA in collaboration with our school nurse
- Parents can always send in an “alternate” snack for their child should they choose
- Birthday treats have been replaced by birthday readers to celebrate that special day
- An alternative list of non-food celebratory options has been added to the school handbook

Harte School has nearly 500 children and adults in the building every day. In addition, we are fortunate in having many parent volunteers in and out of our school frequently. Despite the large number of people at Harte daily, we have been able to develop and maintain a strong sense of community. With so many people coming and going, there is always the chance that an allergen can be introduced. Please be mindful of what you bring or send into school, not just in terms of food products, but also scents (perfumes, colognes, highly scented hair products, and tobacco). Thanks for your support in helping us to keep all of our children safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Dr. Neil Burti

Principal