



Ecole secondaire
BURNSVIEW
Secondary School

Principal: Mr. D. Younger
Vice-Principal: Mr. I. Close

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At Burnsview we have students with severe allergies to fish, shellfish and seafood. These are airborne allergies where the proteins released into the air from fish, shellfish or seafood are enough to cause the students to have a severe life threatening anaphylactic reaction.

To support the students and create a safe environment, we have repeatedly spoken with students to make them aware of the danger of having fish/seafood at school and have placed signage on most microwaves within the school reminding students of the allergy to fish. Unfortunately, in spite of these efforts, we have had several incidents this year where fish/seafood has been present in student lunches and heated in microwaves around the school. As we work to eliminate these incidents from continuing we are stepping up our efforts to create as safe an environment as possible.

As the heating of fish, shellfish and seafood greatly increases the possibility of the proteins being released and therefore the danger of an anaphylactic reaction, we will be removing microwave ovens from classrooms where students have access to them. We understand that this will be inconvenient for other students however, because of the life threatening nature of the allergy we feel that the inconvenience to staff and students is justified to create a safe environment for all members of the Burnsview community.

In order to address the inconvenience of losing the classroom microwaves, we are currently working with our School District Maintenance Department to increase the available electrical outlets in the cafeteria to allow us to add more microwave ovens. By having the microwaves grouped together we feel that we can better supervise them to ensure that fish/seafood is not being heated. As well, our district facilities department, for a variety of safety reasons, is trying to remove single room microwaves from all schools and centralize stations mainly in cafeterias.

We recognize that this may be a substantial change for students who bring lunches to school that require a microwave, so we are notifying families now and giving a short adjustment period. **As of Friday April 28th, students will only have access to microwaves in the school cafeteria at lunch.**

Again, we recognize that the disallowing of fish, shellfish and seafood at school along with the removal of classroom microwaves may cause some inconvenience, but we are making these changes to better ensure the safety of our students.

Sincerely

Don Younger
Principal