

Shu Ren International School
Weekly Announcements
December 16, 2009

Important Dates (Details below):

Monday, Dec. 21 - Wednesday, Dec. 23 - Winter camp. No classes. Extended day care provided. Sign-up with Ping ASAP.

Thursday, Dec. 24 - Jan. 1 - Winter vacation

Friday, February 12, 4:00 - 8:00 pm - Shu Ren Chinese New Year Celebration Party

From the School Administration:

1. Winter Camp Sign-up: If you plan to come to school Dec 21 – 23 for the winter camp, please sign up with Ping (ping.xie@shureninternationalschool.com) ASAP. The deadline is this Friday.

2. Chefables lunch sign-up.

· If you are interested in ordering hot lunch from Chefables, please go to their website (<http://www.chefables.com/>) and order directly. This will save us from being the middle man and save you some money. They will let me know the number of orders from Shu Ren and whether there are enough or not. (They want to have at least 5 orders per day for the free delivery.)

· I will check with them at the end of December, so please sign up as soon as you can. If we don't have enough orders, they are not going to start delivery and others who signed up will not be able to get their lunches.

· If your child currently purchases lunch from us and you would like to cancel, please wait until we have confirmation from Chefables that they are ready to start.

3. More on the No-Nut Policy. Recently I was asked about our No-Nut Policy which lead me to do a lot more reading about food allergies in general. I have come to believe that a simple No-Nut Policy cannot solve all potential food allergy problems (such as allergies to milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, wheat and soy etc.). We need a more comprehensive approach to prevent food allergies which I will outline below. This is a complex issue and we can work together to make it better and make our school safer for our children.

· Food allergy awareness: I recommend all parents and teachers read more information about food allergies here (http://www.medicinenet.com/food_allergy/article.htm) and you can find a lot more information online if you would like to read more. For teachers and school staff, we need to learn how to recognize the symptoms of allergic reactions and how to treat them.

· If a child has any type of food allergy regardless of severity, parents should let the school know immediately. We also need to hear from the child's pediatrician with regard to any specific measures we need to take in school to help the student deal with his/her allergy.

· No food sharing in school. Both parents and teachers need to let our students know about this policy.

- Washing hands after eating is helpful to prevent the exposure of allergens through contact.
- Please read food labels carefully when buying food for your children to bring to school.
- No-Nut Policy. Given that there are children whose sensitivity includes airborne contact with any type of nuts, we will significantly decrease the risk of their exposure with this policy (along with the rest of our comprehensive policies). I am not aware of evidence showing that some children may be sensitive to airborne contact with other foods, so we are limiting our ban to nuts only. If you know anything to the contrary, please let me know and I am willing to consider the evidence and make appropriate changes. Again, this is a complex and controversial topic, and I will keep an open mind about changing this policy.

I want to represent all teachers and staff to wish all our families happy and safe holidays. We will see you in 2010!

From the Parents Association:

We'll be holding a rummage sale at the school in the spring, so if you're doing any tidying-up over the holiday break, please set aside resaleable items for the sale. Thanks!

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