Dear Families,

Effective January 1, 2014, parents who want to exempt their child from one or more required immunizations because of their personal beliefs must provide to the school or child care facility:

- A letter or affidavit requesting an exemption that states that the required immunization(s) are contrary to their beliefs, and
- A statement signed and dated by a health care practitioner and parent indicating that the practitioner has provided, and the parent has received, information about the benefits and risks of immunizations and the risks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Parents and health care practitioners must use the one-page form that meets all of the above requirements developed by the California Department of Public Health and available from health care practitioners.

Exemptions for religious reasons are allowed and require you to speak to a health care practitioner. If the family's religion does not permit members to get medical advice or treatment from a health care practitioner, the parent or guardian does not need to get a signature or information about immunizations from a practitioner. The parent or guardian must still provide an affidavit requesting a personal beliefs exemption from required immunizations. The standard personal beliefs exemption form includes a check box for exemptions due to religious beliefs.

If you already have a vaccination exemption on file with us, you will **not** need to obtain a new one.

If you have any questions or concerns please call me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laurie Buffington
Food Services Supervisor
619-594-3584