

FROSHING (Assault, and Abduction)

NOTICE TO: Parents and Students of St. Albert's High Schools

In past years, during the last weeks of August and the opening week of school, a few students from the junior and senior high schools have been involved in activities that are criminal acts. These activities include assault (intimidation, harassment, breaking eggs over heads, coating people with various mixes, writing on people's skin and clothing, teams initiating (hazing) team members) and abduction (forcing people to go where they do not want to go) under the threat of assault. Some of these activities are **life threatening**, particularly to people with severe allergies.

School suspensions of up to five days have been received by persons committing these acts on their way to and from school or during the school day. At all times, legal measures have been encouraged resulting in some criminal charges being laid or alternative measures of community service and a fine.

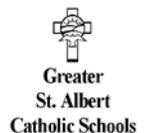
In consultation with St. Albert high school students, parents, the community of St. Albert, the trustees and administration of the two St. Albert school districts, the RCMP and the City of St. Albert – all of whom subscribe to the Safe and Caring Schools initiative – **participation in these “froshing” activities will not be tolerated.** As a result, students who participate in these activities will be dealt with severely. Consequences will include a five-day school suspension and/or expulsion (the removal of a student from a school or school district) and may include exclusion from extra-curricular school activities and criminal prosecution.

Students are reminded that they have the right to refuse to participate either as a “frosher” or as the person being froshed.

Students in St. Albert do not have to be “froshed”.

During registration, all students will be asked to sign a declaration that will remain on file at the receiving high school. This declaration will restate the intent of St. Albert schools to deal harshly with the participants of criminal “froshing” activities. The student's signature will indicate that he/she understands the consequences of being involved in assault or abduction (froshing) activities.

Should you have any questions regarding assault or abduction or the consequences of such acts, you are invited to call a school administrator at any of the high schools.





ALLERGIC REACTIONS

The Risk in "FROSHING" (Assault & Abduction)

Any activities involving mixtures of common foods or household products can pose a significant risk of life-threatening reaction for someone with severe allergies (anaphylaxis).

An allergy is a state of hypersensitivity caused by exposure to a certain substance resulting in an immunological reaction. The body's defense mechanism interprets a normally harmless substance to be dangerous and defends against it. This causes the body to release large amounts of histamine producing some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction.

Allergic responses vary widely from person to person. Mild allergies may cause discomfort with symptoms like sneezing, runny nose, and itchy, watery eyes. More severe reactions include itching, hives, soft tissue swelling, nausea, vomiting, and difficulty breathing or swallowing. Mouth, throat, and breathing symptoms may quickly lead to anaphylaxis, which causes death in minutes if not treated immediately with life-saving medication. Severe allergic reactions are generally considered more dangerous if the individual also has asthma.

Most highly allergic individuals carry medication to prevent a severe allergic reaction from progressing to the irreversible stage. However, no medication is available to prevent a reaction from occurring in the first place. **THE MOST EFFECTIVE PREVENTION IS TOTAL AVOIDANCE OF THE ALLERGENIC SUBSTANCE.**

Common allergenic foods include peanuts, tree nuts, eggs, milk, fish and shellfish. Any food can be allergenic!

Common environmental allergens and irritants include dust, pollen, mould, animals, smoke, latex rubber, perfumes or scented products, paint fumes, and strong chemical cleaners. Many other products can cause allergy problems for sensitive individuals.

In regards to allergies, concoctions containing any of these components could present a life-threatening risk to allergic individuals, including those with asthma.

HELP KEEP YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS SAFE!