



Meridian Public Schools

"The Hoof Print" ~ Home of the Mustangs

Mission Statement:

Meridian Public Schools will educate all students in a safe, nurturing environment while challenging them to develop their integrity, knowledge, and unique talents to become responsible, productive citizens.

Newsletter

www.meridianmustangs.org

February, 2021

Newsletter - February, 2021
Superintendent
Randy Kort

WE ARE MAKING IT !!!

It is hard to believe but we are at the end of 4 weeks into the third quarter, and I would like to remind parents to please log onto PowerSchool to check your children's grades. It has been a very interesting year and yet, because of the continued support of students, parents, and staff, we have made it through.

Parent Teacher Conferences are February 15, starting at 4:00 pm and concluding at 8:00 pm, the second day of PTC is February 17, starting at 2:00 and concluding at 6:00 pm.

We have recently had weather conditions that resulted in school starting late or canceled. Please stay tuned to the following stations for updated school closing when weather is in our area:

KLKN - TV: Lincoln
KHAS - TV: Hastings
KOLN/KGIN TV:
Lincoln/Grand Island

We also use School Messenger, an all call to parents, students, and staff. If you have not received any of the calls, please contact Trish to get that corrected.

GREAT JOB ATHLETES !!!

Meridian activities continue to move through the season. We would like to congratulate Lane Barton who just recently won his 100th career match and broke the near fall record for the season and career. Job well done!!! Also over the weekend, Meridian girls' basketball team tied three CRC records: First, with total 3 pointers in a game as Meridian and Giltner combined with 14. Secondly, Meridian tied the record with 11, 3 pointers as a team. The third record tied was Ally Kort with the individual 3 point record in a game with 7. This also broke the Meridian 3-point record in a game that was held by Jaicee Sobotka

Have a great Valentine's Day, and please come support our teams as the winter sports seasons will be ending towards the end of February and early March. Wrestling dates have changed this year. There are no state duals the first weekend of February, but we now have Sub-District wrestling which will be held in Pleasanton on February 5th and 6th. District Wrestling will be held at Elkhorn Valley (Tilden, NE) on February 12th and 13th. State for Class D will start on Wednesday, February 17th.

Girls sub-district basketball is February 15, 16, and 18, with the location to be determined, while the boys will be February 22, 23, and 25, and that location also still to be determined.

Everyone continue to be safe and masked up.

Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District - 48-0303
Daykin, Nebraska, 68338
Monday, January 18, 2021

Regular January 18, 2021 Meeting 6:00 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on January 18, 2021, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

Roll call was taken: Vorderstrasse-present, Scheer-present, Sobotka-present, Rut-present, Niederklein-present virtually, and Bartels-present. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott-virtually, and Lance Johnson.

Newly elected Board member Rut took the Oath of Office.

Superintendent Kort was appointed to preside over the process to elect a president.

Sobotka nominated and Vorderstrasse seconded to elect Bartels as Board President.

Scheer moved and Niederklein seconded to cease nominations and elect Bartels as President. Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - abstain. Motion carried 5-0. Bartels was elected President.

Superintendent Kort turned the meeting over to President Bartels.

Vorderstrasse nominated and Scheer seconded to elect Sobotka as Board Vice-President.

Scheer moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to cease nominations and elect Sobotka Board Vice-President. Vote taken: Sobotka - abstain, Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 5-0. Sobotka was elected Vice-President.

Sobotka nominated and Scheer seconded to elect Niederklein as Board Secretary.

Vorderstrasse moved and Rut seconded to cease nominations and elect Niederklein Board Secretary. Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - abstain, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 5-0. Niederklein was elected as Board Secretary.

Rut nominated and Niederklein seconded to elect Scheer as Board Treasurer.

Rut moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to cease nominations and elect Scheer as Board Treasurer. Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - abstain, and Bartels - aye. Motion carried 5-0. Scheer was elected as Board Treasurer.

Open Public Comment: Lance Johnson, attorney for the Heidemann Family, requested a 75-foot perpetual easement on the south side of the School property



for access to farm ground south of the recently sold Heidemann farmstead. Mr. Johnson stated that liability would not be an issue as both the Heidemann family and tenants would carry their own liability insurance. If gates or culverts would need to be installed the family would work with the school. Mr. Johnson also stated the School's east property line fence established in 1975 was approximately eight foot too far east, but that the family after all these years, was not going to dispute the location.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Scheer moved and Rut seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- A: Minutes of Monday, December 21, 2020 Regular Meeting
- B: District Financial Report
- C: Activity Fund Report
- D: Hot Lunch Fund Report
- G: Bills

Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Curriculum report: Principal Scott stated that due to interest in Spanish 1 that another section was added.

Discussion was held on the 2021-2022 calendar which is still being finalized.

Sobotka stated he had a very cordial conversation with Michael Heidemann after last month's Board Meeting about the family's request for an easement across the school property. The concerns of the Board discussed at the December meeting were discussed with Mr. Heidemann. The Board discussed the possible future use of the property in conjunction with the FFA program, liability concerns, and that the Heidemann family can provide access to the property through property they currently own.

Policy 8000s will be emailed for review and voted on at the February meeting.

Sobotka moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the addition of an Activity Account for the Beef Program. Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 6-0.



Principal's Report:

1. Student Count as of January 14, 2021: 106 Elementary Students; 96 Junior High and High School Students
2. Mask mandates continue. As an incentive for the students wearing their masks and continuing with in-person learning, administration is looking at January 29th, as another earned no school day.
3. Congratulations to Brynn Holtmeier for winning Varsity Persuasive at the Fairbury Speech Invite. This meet was the first asynchronous (pre-recorded) meet. Additional competitions will use the same format and CRC is discussing it.
4. Congratulations to Lane Barton as he is approaching his 100th win. Wrestlers continue to see success. CRC wrestling - January 26, Sub-district wrestling - February 5.
5. CRC basketball begins Saturday, January 23rd.
6. District Speech will be at Falls City Sacred Heart on March 9.

Superintendent Kort reported:

- * Congratulations to the Jr High Girls Basketball for winning the south division of CRC. They will play Cross County in the CRC championship game at 10:30 January 23rd, at Cross County.
- * CRC basketball brackets have been posted with the Varsity Girls Playing at 1:00 and Varsity Boys at 3:00 on January 23rd, also at Cross County. There are no restrictions for fans attending these three games, but masks must be worn.
- * Legislative Update

A Board retreat to discuss future goals and objectives for the school will be held this spring or summer.

Next Regular Meeting was set for Wednesday, February 10, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Sobotka moved and Scheer seconded to adjourn at 6:58 p.m. Vote taken: Sobotka - aye, Vorderstrasse - aye, Niederklein - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Jamie Niederklein, Secretary
Meridian District #48-030



Mustang MEMO
Mr. Harold Scott
Principal

Student count for 2020-2021
As of 1-14-21

PreK	12	7 th	19
Kindergarten	14	8 th	19
1 st	9	9 th	12
2 nd	17	10 th	18
3 rd	15	11 th	16
4 th	12	12 th	12
5 th	15		
6 th	12		
	106		96
	<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>202</u>	

Mask mandates continue. Meridian students were rewarded with a day off on Friday, January 29.

Congratulations to Brynn Holtmeier for winning Varsity Persuasive at the Fairbury Speech Invite. This was our first asynchronous (pre-recorded speech) meet. The Thayer Central Invite and MUDECAS will also be asynchronous. CRC is discussing options for the meet at the end of February.

Lane Barton earned his 100th win at the Thayer Central meet. Wrestlers continue to see success. CRC wrestling was scheduled for Tuesday, January 26. Sub-district wrestling is scheduled to begin on February 5.

CRC basketball began on Saturday, January 23. Our girls team tied several CRC records in their game against Giltner and Ally Kort broke the school record in 3-pointers made during a game.



COUNSELOR'S CONNECTION
by
Lisa Hermsmeier

Seniors & Parents...make sure you complete the FAFSA process

Getting financial aid for college involves more than completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Complete each step of the process so that you don't miss out on money for college.



1. **If you haven't already, complete your 2020-21 FAFSA** at FAFSA.gov using 2019 income tax data. Before you start, you and a parent must each get an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov as you'll need them to access and sign your FAFSA.
2. **Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) via an email link.** The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received and lets you know if you need to take further action before the form can be processed.
3. **You might receive a verification notice** from the college(s) you listed on your FAFSA requesting documents to verify your FAFSA information. The college will not process your financial aid until you provide required documents.
4. **Watch for financial aid award notifications.** Once you're accepted for admission to the colleges you listed on your FAFSA, they will notify you of the types and amounts of financial aid they're offering.

Watch your email and student portal carefully for important details about admission and financial aid.

What you need to know about scholarships...Scholarship time is here! Most scholarships are based on academics, but others are based on community service, school involvement, or talent. Some are based on financial need as determined by the results of your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Here's where you can find scholarships:

- **ScholarshipQuest** at **EducationQuest.org** features over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. After you create a profile, you'll be matched with scholarships that fit your criteria. You'll also find links to national sites that EducationQuest recommends.
- **Your school counselor's office website.** Our list of local scholarships is posted on the school website under the "Administration" tab and then click "Counselor." Click on the link that says "go here to my website." From there, find the Scholarship tab and they will all be listed. Make sure you 'download' the documents and save them to your computer so they stay formatted correctly. I have included a local checklist on my page to help you keep track of each scholarship and the requirements. This document is only

for your benefit and does not need to be turned into me. Please notice due dates and requirements for each scholarship. Do not wait until the last minute to start these! If you need letters of recommendation, make sure you give your recommenders plenty of time to write a letter (a minimum two week notification is ideal)!

- **The college you plan to attend.** Contact the school or check the school's website for a list of scholarships they provide and application procedures.
- **National search sites such as collegeboard.org,** www.petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx, chegg.com/scholarships
- **Other resources** could include your coach, clubs and organizations, and your parents' employers and civic organizations.

Two easy-to-apply-for scholarships from EducationQuest...Nebraska students in grades 9-12 are invited to pursue these \$500 scholarships from EducationQuest:

- **Get Social Scholarship** – By following EducationQuest on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, you can enter into a drawing for a \$500 scholarship each time we hit another 250 followers.
- **Scavenger Hunt Scholarship** – To apply for this scholarship, create a *ScholarshipQuest* profile at EducationQuest.org and then scavenge around the EducationQuest website to find answers to questions on a survey. The deadline to apply is **March 31**. We'll draw two winners from those who answer all questions correctly.

Juniors & Parents: All juniors will be taking the ACT test at school on March 23 as part of state testing (free of charge). If you want to take an additional ACT test this spring, you must register by March 12 for the April 17 test or by May 7 for the June 12 test. To register, go online to www.actstudent.org. If you would like to request a fee waiver, contact Ms. Hermsmeier. All Meridian students have FREE access to the On To College (formerly John Baylor ACT Test Prep program). Contact Ms. Hermsmeier if you would like to take

advantage of this opportunity for the spring tests! Note that all juniors will be preparing for the March 23 test using a form of ACT prep.

Juniors: it's time to find the right fit for college! Schedule a campus visit. All juniors may have two excused absences to take a college visit! Schedule your visit through the counseling office to ensure your absence is excused. In addition to your two excused days of school, your upcoming spring break is also a good time to visit schools that interest you.

National Honor Society is hosting Pennies for Patients and Nebraska Bloodbank Blood Drive

The National Honor Society will be holding its annual "Pennies for Patients" coin drive the month of February. The goal of this fundraiser is to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Last year the school did amazing and raised \$1914!!! For the elementary, just like last year, we are giving away prizes for the following:

- * Register Online to receive a Glow in the Dark Power Ring
- * Bring \$5 in change to school to receive a Hero Shield
- * Raise \$10 online to receive a Super Sidekick keychain
- * Bring \$15 in change to school to receive a Glow in the Dark Hero Band
- * Raise \$25 online to receive a Mystery Mini Keychain
- * Raise \$50 online to receive a Hero Squad Tee
- * Raise \$100 online to receive a Mini Champ Squishy Keychain

Individual donation envelopes will be sent home with each elementary student and group boxes will be available for grades 7-12. A community donation box will also be available in the district office. Lift up those couch cushions and find that spare change.... Any little bit you can contribute will make a difference!

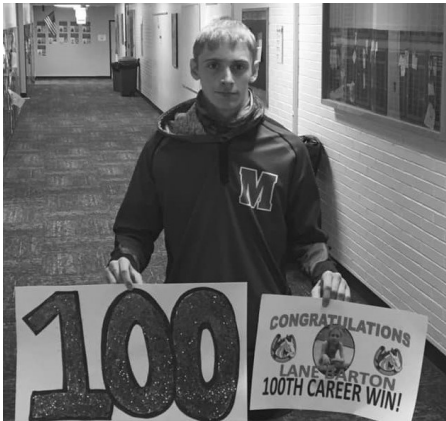
National Honor Society is also hosting a Nebraska Bloodbank Blood Drive on Tuesday, March 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please contact a National Honor Society member, call the school office at 402-446-7265, or email lhermsmeier@meridianmustangs.org to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome!



PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN

If your child has turned four by July 31, 2021, they are eligible for Pre-K and if they have turned 5 by that date, they need to be registered for Kindergarten. Please contact Kelly Kanost at Meridian School (402-446-7265 extension 4) to let us know if you are interested in registering your child for the 2021-2022 school year. Parents' meetings for each class will be set at a later date.

100 CAREER WINS



Congratulations to senior wrestler, Lane Barton! On Friday, January 22, 2021, Lane got his 100th career win at Thayer Central when he defeated a Blue Hill-Red Cloud Warcat with a pin. During this meet, Lane also broke the school record for season near falls (38) and career near falls (92) both set by Brandon Bartels in 2008-2009 (season) and 2006-2010 (career). We are proud of your accomplishments and wish you continued success the remainder of your final season of high school wrestling!

SAVE THE DATE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The Meridian Elementary Student Council will be hosting a "Bunny Hop" 5K (1 mile) run on April 3, 2021. All proceeds will be donated to Live on Nebraska in memory of Peyton VanWesten and Garrett Klipp. We will share updated information as it becomes available.

FBLA

FBLA is busy preparing for the virtual State Leadership Conference! Members met in January to discuss how competing would look this year. The testing will be done at school during the month of March. Then, the awards ceremony will be on April 14th.

While SLC is currently FBLA's primary concern, members are also completing Ribbon Projects. Committees have met in order to set days to complete tasks such as trash pick-up. The chapter is determined to make the best of the virtual experience for SLC this year.

Hoping everyone has a
Lovely February!
President, Brynn Holtmeier

3-POINT RECORD



On January 23, 2021, in tournament play against Giltner, Ally Kort made 7 three-point shots breaking our school record and tying the CRC Tournament record for 3-point baskets during a game. With a team total of 11, the Meridian girls also tied the team record for successful 3-point shots during a game in the CRC Tournament. The combined total of 14 three-pointers made by Meridian and Giltner tied the current record for total 3-point baskets made during a game at Crossroad Conference.

STUCO

Winter weather and COVID hasn't stopped the Student Council from planning events for the students. This past month, Stu-Co was planning on having the Winter Dance for seventh through twelfth grade students in January. However, with hopes that COVID restrictions will lessen, the dance has been moved to February 27th. This will also be the kickoff for the Canned Food Drive. Community members are also encouraged to donate. Keep an eye out for details concerning our Non-perishable food drive...it doesn't have to be just cans.

Student Council is excited for some upcoming school improvement projects that are in the works. It will be awesome when they are done. StuCo hopes that everyone who is a part of the school community will be able to enjoy them.

Valentine's Day Gift?

This year the Student Council may be doing something different this year instead of carnations. Be on the lookout, on Facebook and the daily bulletin, for information.

Hoping everyone has a
Fantastic February!
Public Relations, Brynn Holtmeier

FFA

Meridian FFA is very excited for all the upcoming activities throughout the spring semester. We hit the ground running and had a successful January!



L to R: Jackson Huls, Brayden Rut

At our January meeting, Jackson Huls was named the FFA Member of the Month. He has stepped up as a leader on the Conduct of Chapter Meeting team, actively participates in FFA activities, and is in attendance at all chapter meetings. On January 20th, members traveled to York to compete in the District 5 LDE (Leadership Development Events). A special thanks to Mike Hofstetter and Jason Bartels for driving the kids to York! Representing Meridian FFA at State include Erika Schwisow - District Champion Senior Public Speaking (Plant Tattoos), Kim Schropfer - District Runner-Up Natural Resources Speaking (Fossil Fuels), and Kailyn Paul - District Runner-Up (Cultured Meat). In third place and alternates for state include Peyton Norine - Creed Speaking, JD Adam - Discovery Speaking (Plant-Based Burgers). Receiving a purple ribbon include Brynn Holtmeier - Employment



L to R: Peyton Norine deMonbrun, Kymber Schwisow



Skills, Bailey Holtmeier - Junior Public Speaking (Women in Agriculture), and Becca Vinsonhaler - Discovery Speaking (Industrial Hemp Production in NE). Receiving a blue ribbon include Kymber Schwisow - Creed Speaking, Sam Thomas - Ag Literacy Speaking (Farm to Fork Beef Production), Coby



L to R: Coby Huls, J.D. Adam, Samuel Thomas, Rebecca Vinsonhaler

Huls - Ag Literacy Speaking (Farm to Fork Poultry Production), the Conduct of Chapter Meeting team consisting of Jackson Huls, Sam Thomas, Kyan Sones,

Cooper Wolfe, Taelyn Filipi, McKenzie Hofstetter, and JD Adam,



L to R: Taelyn Filipi, Cooper Wolfe, Jackson Huls, Kyan Sones, Samuel Thomas, J.D. Adam, McKenzie Hofstetter

and the Parliamentary Procedure team consisting of Kailyn Paul, Erika Schwisow, Kim Schropfer, Brynn Holtmeier, Bailey Holtmeier and Chase Bartels. Congratulations to all members for representing the chapter well!

Upcoming Events:

- February 3: District Proficiency Reviews
- February 9 at 7:30am: February FFA Meeting
- February 9: FFA Concessions
- More information to come on District

Sincerely,
Chase Bartels
Meridian FFA Reporter



Post Prom Selling Krispy Kreme Doughnuts

The Meridian Post Prom Committee is starting a fundraising campaign to help raise money for this year's post prom event. The committee is selling Krispy Kreme doughnut by the dozens during the February 2nd and 9th basketball games. Order forms will also be sent home with elementary students and available in the newsletter, on the Meridian Mustang website, and on Facebook.

Doughnut selections include: original glazed, chocolate iced, lemon filled, raspberry filled, and kreme filled. Certificates for original glazed doughnuts will also be for sale. The advantage of these certificates is that you may pick up your doughnuts at your convenience when near a Krispy Kreme store.

The original glazed dozens and the certificates will cost \$10. Special variety dozens will cost \$12. Make checks payable to the Meridian Activity Fund. Orders are due by Wednesday, February 10 at 4:00 p.m.

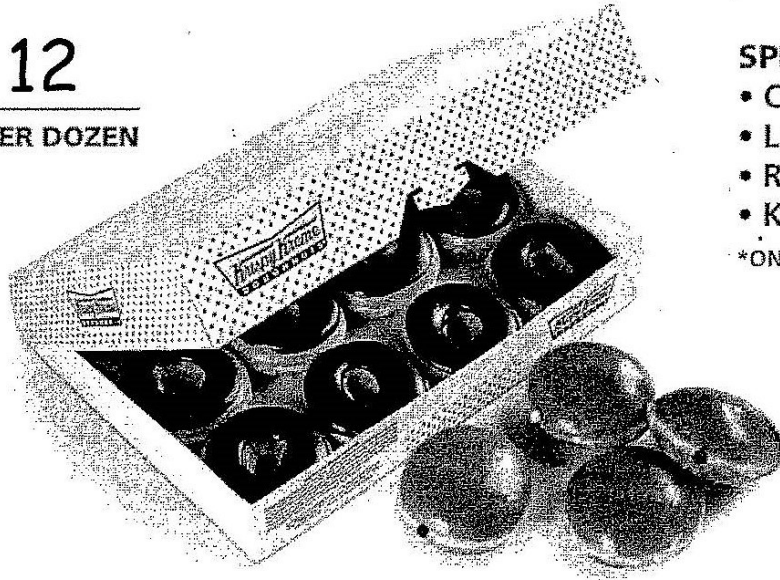
These will be able to be picked up at the school on February 17th during Parent-Teacher's Conferences. If unable to pick up at that time, you may stop at the school anytime during the school day on Thursday, the 18th or call Mrs. Schropfer at the school to make arrangements.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Schropfer at 402.446.7265.



DOUGHNUTS TO SUIT YOUR TASTE

\$ 12
PER DOZEN



SPECIAL VARIETY DOZENS

- Chocolate Iced
- Lemon Filled
- Raspberry Filled
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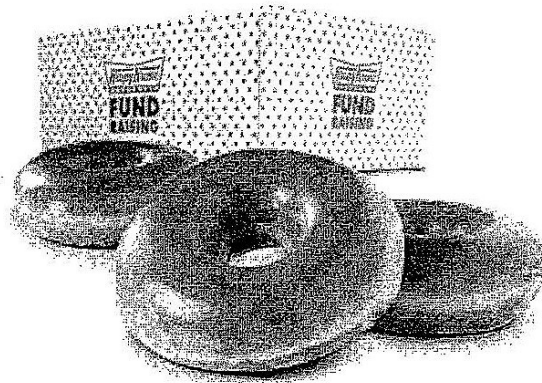
*ONE VARIETY PER DOZEN



CERTIFICATES

Valid for one dozen Original Glazed® Doughnuts at your Local Krispy Kreme store

\$ 10
PER DOZEN



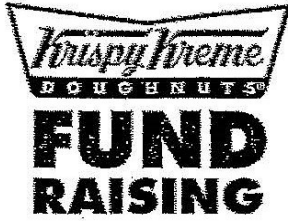
ORIGINAL GLAZED® DOUGHNUTS

\$ 10



Meridian Post Prom

To order, contact Mrs. Schropfer



ORDER FORM

Meridian Post Prom

Seller Name _____

		# OF DOUGHNUT DOZENS						
		\$10	\$12	\$12	\$12	\$12	\$10	
CUSTOMER INFORMATION		ORIGINAL GLAZED	CHOCOLATE ICED	KREME FILLED	RASPBERRY FILLED	LEMON FILLED	ORIGINAL GLAZED DOZEN CERTIFICATE	AMOUNT COLLECTED
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
TOTALS								

Orders due by Wednesday, February 10. Pick up orders at P-T Conferences at the school on Wednesday, February 17.

Make checks payable to **Meridian Activity Fund**. Proceeds go towards Post Prom.

Our facilities produce products with peanuts, tree nuts, soy, milk, eggs and wheat. While we take steps to minimize the risk of cross contamination, we cannot guarantee that any of our products are safe to consume for people with peanut, tree nut, soy, milk, egg or wheat allergies.




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