



October 2017

**Dates to Remember****October 2:**

HSA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

October 9:

School closed for Columbus Day

October 11:

SEPAC Meeting

BHS, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

October 14:

Clothing/Toy/Baby Item Drive,

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

October 20:

HSA Pumpkin Patch

October 27:

Fall Social, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

October 30:

School picture day! Smile!!

October 31:

Halloween parade & class parties

Membership

Big thanks to all the families who have already sent in their dues! Every student member gets a \$10 discount on field trip fees, and 6th-grade members get a bunch of graduation goodies. Parent members are eligible to hold office in the HSA and help decide our school community's activities for two years as well as being eligible to be class parents. If you haven't yet joined the HSA, please do so! We accept cash or check via backpack mail, and any form of payment online through PayPal. Please email membership@demaresthsa.org with any questions or concerns.

4TH to 6TH Grade Basketball

Keep an eye out for grades 4-6 basketball registration packets to be distributed in October. Practices will start in late November, usually on weekdays after school in the early evening. Games start in January and are held Saturdays at either Demarest or Oakview gym. **Volunteer opportunity:** We are still searching for volunteer parent coaches for this season for 4th- and 5th-grade girls' teams. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions about this volunteer position, please contact us: basketballboys@demaresthsa.org and basketballgirls@demaresthsa.org.

**Thanks for Making Our First Fun Run/Walk a Success!**

We would like to extend a big thanks to all of the participants and volunteers who made our First Fun Run/Walk Event a success! This event was held on Saturday, September 30, right in our own backyard (behind Demarest School). We could not do this (or ANY of our events) without **YOU!**

Shoprite "Earn Money for Your School" Forms

Thanks to those who completed and submitted the Shoprite "Earn Money for Your School" form! Demarest will receive \$5 for each voucher redeemed.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Annual Fall Social is on Friday, October 27 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Demarest gym. Watch for more info to come! We hope to see you there!!

**October is National
Bullying Prevention
Month**

For information on ways to
prevent bullying visit:

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/>

**Presidents' Corner**

We would like to thank all of the parents who were able to attend the September HSA meeting. We had a great turnout and look forward to your continued involvement throughout the school year. We are always looking for event and committee volunteers, and our hope is that we can come together and make every experience a memorable one for our children. Please remember to check our new website (www.demaresthsa.org) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/demaresthsa) for posts and updates on upcoming events. You can also stay connected by signing up for our email list through the website.

Thank you again for your continuous support!

RaQia and Tracy

HSA Co-Presidents

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are already into the second month of school! I am happy to report that, after a smooth opening, our students have done a wonderful job transitioning into new classrooms with new teachers and classmates.

This year has brought several changes. In addition to welcoming new staff, the elementary schedule has changed significantly. Our new lunch schedule allows for a staggered lunch and recess period. As a result of this change, our lunch aides are present for a longer period of time, allowing for greater supervision during recess. The number of students outside at the same time during recess has decreased significantly, allowing for increased safety.

Our district has also increased student access to computers and technology. Demarest School received an additional cart of ChromeBooks as well as more than 50 laptops. Every classroom has been outfitted with a Smart Board and document camera. Students and staff will have access to two new programs, Newsela and Discovery Education, which students will be able to access 24/7.

Additional innovative programs include a street hockey program presented in conjunction with the NJ Devils and a visiting scientist program presented by Montclair State University. If you have a child in grades 4-6, you are already aware that there is now a world language teacher. I am also happy to report that part of the social studies curriculum will include a world culture study, with each grade level focusing on a different region of the world.

As in the past, our focus will be on student growth. Our goal is to guide each child toward making choices and developing habits that allow them to grow academically, socially and emotionally.

Finally, please consider joining our Home and School Association if you haven't already done so. It would be great to have 100% participation given the many ways this organization supports our students and staff.

Sincerely,
Mary Todaro



Fundraising, Fundraising, Fundraising!

We have **so much** going on this year! The 2017-18 school year is dedicated to trying some new fundraisers along with what we know has worked in the past, mixing things up a bit! You communicated, we listened.

We know that this year's fundraising calendar is overwhelming. **Please** do not feel as if you need to participate in every event. If you'd like to share your talents or learn the ropes by helping with any of the upcoming events, please reach out! You do not need to wait for a specific sign-up, just email us! There is much going on behind the scenes and volunteers are always needed.

To see what we have planned for the entire year, please visit the calendar on our website, www.demaresthsa.org. Our October and November events are:

- **Annual KidStuff Coupon Book Sale:** Now thru October 17th. KidStuff books are full of valuable local, regional, and national coupons and on sale for only \$25 each. Our school earns at least 50% profit for each book sold. Your family can earn 1 free book for every 5 sold! Watch for flyers with order forms in your child's backpack. To see a list of participating businesses and available editions, visit www.kidstuffcouponbook.com.
- **Annual Fall Clothing/Toy/Baby Item Drive:** Saturday, October 14th from 8 am to 5 pm in the Demarest teachers' parking lot. Our school earns money for each pound of soft items collected. Items are donated to NJ and Eastern PA thrift shops, pantries, etc., in need of clothing. Toys and baby items donated to St. Ann's Soup Kitchen and Pantry in Newark. Flyers will be coming home listing all of items acceptable for collection. Please consider donating an hour or more of your time to this worthy cause! You can sign up for volunteer shifts at: <http://signup.com/go/ztXihwn>.
- **Annual Fall Catalog Sale:** October 26th – November 3rd. Silver Graphics art-based fundraiser, where you can order a wide range of products -*more than 50 choices!*-featuring your child's artwork. Details coming soon!
- **1st Annual Kids Tricky Tray:** Friday, November 17th from 6 pm to 9pm in the Demarest gym. Stay tuned for details; seating will be limited.

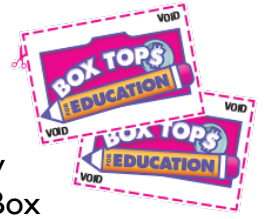
As always, we would like to hear your feedback on our planned events as well as anything you may like to see for next year. Please send your fundraising-related comments, questions, suggestions, and volunteer inquiries to fundraising@demaresthsa.org.

Box Tops For Education

Box Top collections have begun! Simply cut or carefully tear out the Box Tops rectangles and collect them. Please make sure the rectangle is intact and the Box Top is not expired. This also applies for any Bonus Box Tops.

You can support our school in many ways:

1. Go to <https://www.shopriteformyschool.com> and register your ShopRite Price Plus card. Every purchase you make with Box Tops will automatically be credited to our school account.
2. Keep an eye out for Box Tops products and purchase them during your usual grocery shopping. You can find a complete list of Box Tops products and coupons at the Box Tops 4 Education website (www.boxtops4education.com).
3. If you shop with Amazon Prime Pantry and purchase five qualifying products, you'll receive an email for 20 Box Tops (in addition to the Box Tops that come in the packaging!). Find more info at: <https://www.amazon.com/gp/pantry/info/GMBoxTops>.
4. Download the free Box Tops mobile app here: www.boxtops4education.com/bonusapp. Just choose Demarest Elementary as your school, choose which Box Tops offer you are redeeming, and scan your receipts.



Annual Box Tops Contest

The annual Box Tops contest is underway and runs until February 26, 2018. Once you've collected a good amount of Box Tops, send them to school in an envelope or baggie labeled "Box Tops" along with your child's name, class, and grade. The class with the most valid Box Tops collected from K-3rd grades and from 4th-6th grades will win an ice pop party! Monthly status updates will be posted in the HSA newsletter and/or the Virtual Backpack. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer on the Box Tops committee, email boxtops@demaresthsa.org.

As of September 19, **Ms. Maher's** class is leading with 50 Box Tops in the K-3 grades. No Box Tops have been submitted from grades 4-6.

Please remember: Although the contest runs from September to late February, we collect Box Tops throughout the school year.



Ways to connect with Demarest Home & School Association:

Our website: <http://demaresthsa.org/>

Email us: email@demaresthsa.org

Like us on : <https://www.facebook.com/demaresthsa/>

Or, better yet, attend a meeting! The Demarest HSA meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday of the month in the Demarest cafeteria.