

## BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DEMAREST SCHOOL  
465 Broughton Avenue  
Bloomfield, NJ 07003  
Tel. 973-680-8510, ext. 2950

Mary E. Todaro  
Principal

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September 6, 2017

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the entire Demarest School staff, I would like to welcome you to the 2017-2018 school year. I would also like to extend a warm greeting to all of the new students and their parents who are joining the Demarest Family.

Please allow me to offer a few reminders that will ensure that the year gets off to a great start:

- A number of forms will be sent home in the next few days. Be sure to sign these and return them to school as soon as possible.
- The safety of our children is paramount. Please be mindful of the rules for parking safely around the school. No cars should be in the staff parking lot BEFORE 4pm. The front of the building is for drop off ONLY or, as the signs reads, Stop, Drop and Go!
- Be sure that your children arrive at school on time, well rested and having had a good breakfast. The bell rings at 8:30. Students should not arrive before 8:20 as there is no supervision available until this time.
- Dismissal time is at 3:20. Last year, several parents repeatedly arrived late to pick up their children. Please have a back-up plan in the event of an emergency. It is upsetting to the children when no one is here to pick them up and places an unfair burden on our staff. **Be advised that if a child is left after 4:00pm, the police will be notified.**
- Please be certain to keep the school informed of any changes to your phone number. We need to be able to reach you in the event of any emergency.

At this time, I would also like to invite you to attend the first meeting of the Demarest Home and School Association which will take place on Monday, September 11 at 7:00pm in our school cafeteria. Our Home and School does many things to enhance our curriculum and provide your children with fun and educational activities. I encourage you to become a member and attend Home and School meetings. These meetings present a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents and learn about our school community. I will be available in the gym from 6:00 -7:00 to meet with new parents who might have questions or concerns. I look forward to personally greeting you and welcoming you back to Demarest School.

Sincerely,



Mary Todaro

*“Educating the Leaders of Tomorrow”*

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

This letter is to inform you of the policy regarding the celebration of student birthdays at Demarest School. Based on the fact that so many of our students have severe, even life-threatening food allergies, it is necessary that I ask you to NOT send in any food to celebrate your child's birthday. Although I am certain some may be disappointed by this decision, I am equally certain that you will understand my responsibility to ensure that all of your children are safe at school.

I assure you that your child's birthday will be acknowledged and celebrated in their classes. Although you may not send in any food, if you wish, you may send in small tokens such as pencils or erasers. Another suggestion might be to have your child select a favorite book that they can donate to their classroom library. The school will acknowledge this donation by providing a book plate with your child's name. This would be a gift that the children at Demarest could enjoy for many years.

Food will be permitted at four classroom events throughout the year to recognize occasions designated by our Superintendent. These include Halloween, Holiday Season, Valentine's Day, and an End of the Year Celebration.

On these occasions, class parents will provide our school nurse with a list of the foods and their ingredients a week prior to the celebration in order to be certain that they do not present a threat to our students with allergies.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your cooperation in this very serious matter.

Sincerely,



Mary Todaro

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