



# Demarest doings

February 2018



## Dates to Remember

### February 5:

HSA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

### February 11:

Jump Rope For Heart

### February 14:

Class Parties  
Valentine's Day

### February 19:

School closed: Presidents' Day



We *really* need volunteers for:

- ♥ Recess Activity Committee
- ♥ Basketball Snack Bar
- ♥ Book Fair
- ♥ Fish Fry
- ♥ Tricky Tray

*Please sign up if you can!*

## **Recess Activity Committee - Winter Games and Activities**

Winter is here—and with it, indoor recess for bad-weather days. We've started some indoor recess programs but are always looking for more ideas to make indoor recess as much fun as possible for the kids. We are still accepting donations of gently used Legos, games, toys, crafts, etc.; please just make sure that they have all the pieces and can be done during a single recess (e.g., no 500-piece puzzles, please). We also welcome parents who would like to volunteer their time and skills to lead recess clubs or activities; this can be either a one-time class or ongoing (e.g., weekly) throughout the winter. We're open to any and all suggestions; some ideas have included dance classes, Lego club, knitting club, yoga club, and calligraphy or cursive writing club. What skill can you share with Demarest students? Please contact Laurie Kessler at [lauriekessler@hotmail.com](mailto:lauriekessler@hotmail.com) if you'd like to help out or if you have any questions—or feel free to bring your donations to the school office, labeled "RECESS DONATIONS." Thank you!

## **Tricky Tray**

The biggest event of the year is only a few short months away! The annual Tricky Tray is on Friday, April 27, at the Forest Hill Field Club in Bloomfield. This year, our Tricky Tray theme is *Movie Night: Now Showing, The Demarest Tricky Tray*. By now you should have received our donation request for class baskets, which are broken down by grade. Please also keep a look out for family basket donation requests, which are separate from class baskets. The Tricky Tray is our most profitable fundraiser of the year, so all of your support is needed. We are also looking for donations of wicker baskets in any color, size, or shape. Baskets can be dropped off at the office. Thank you in advance for all of your support and donations! Any questions, please contact Laura Clifford and Tracy Pityinger at [trickytray@demaresthsa.org](mailto:trickytray@demaresthsa.org).

## **Presidents' Corner**

Happy New Year! The new year is well underway, and the HSA has wasted no time gearing up for all of our upcoming fundraisers. The second half of the school year will host some of our biggest and most profitable events, such as the Book Fair and the annual Tricky Tray. These events will need lots of support and volunteers, so if you have not been able to volunteer yet and are interested in doing so, now is the time! We thank you again for your continued support.

RaQia Bouchard and Tracy Pityinger  
HSA Co-Presidents

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! You may not believe this, but the next few months will fly by! Soon it will be spring, we will begin state testing, and, yes, we will be making plans for summer. I am a huge proponent of finishing strong. Please know that your children will be working and learning right up until the end of the school year. As we begin the second half of the school year, here are a few friendly reminders:

**Attendance and arriving on time are important.** Even though I allow extra time for late arrivals on days when the weather is bad, we have a large number of students arriving late each day. This disrupts learning for your child and their classmates. Students who are missing school are missing instruction and learning. Moreover, our schools are marked down by the state for excessive absences. Coming to school each day, when there is no illness present, is an expectation.

**Homework is important.** It provides students with practice and, even more important, allows teachers to assess learning and guide instruction.

**Encourage your child to ask for help when needed.** Your child may need extra academic support. If you see them struggling with assignments, ask them to reach out to their teachers, or feel free to contact your child's teacher yourself. Many teachers offer extra help at lunch and/or throughout the day. Your child may also need behavioral support. Talk to your child regarding their feelings at school, and be sure to encourage them to ask for assistance if they need it.

**Remember to keep the school informed.** Let us know of any changes at home. A new baby in the house or a relative that is ill can impact how a child behaves or performs.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Demarest families who participated in our recent Martin Luther King Day of Service. We have two beautiful murals, a newly decorated restroom, and a bright and cheerful cafeteria thanks to your efforts.

Sincerely,  
Mary Todaro



### Book Fair

The Book Fair will run from March 5 to 10, with Family Night on Thursday, March 8, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The theme is *Paws for Books: Come. Stay. Read a Great Tale!* The online Book Fair will be from March 7 to 27. Online orders will be delivered to the school after the completion of the online fair. Every student who comes to the fair will have a chance to preview the books and make a wish list for their parents to decide what books they want to purchase. Grades 1-6 will come back later in the week to shop, while kindergartners can bring in orders that will be filled and brought to their classrooms. All students receive a free book from a special grade-appropriate selection pre-ordered by Mrs. Vetrano. This event takes many volunteers to be a success, so please consider helping out in any way you can. Email [bookfair@demarestsa.org](mailto:bookfair@demarestsa.org) to volunteer or for more information. Let's work together to raise readers!



### Sixth Grade

Please send in your candid photos of the 6th-grade class of 2018. Photos can be from any time during their years at Demarest. You can email digital images to [yearbookpictures2018@gmail.com](mailto:yearbookpictures2018@gmail.com). To submit prints, please bring them in to the HSA mailbox in an envelope labeled with your child's name and teacher and "Attention: Yearbook Committee." Thank you.



### Basketball Schedule

Please come out to support our 4th-, 5th-, and 6th-grade boys' and girls' teams! See the game schedule on page 3 for more information.

## Fundraiser Updates

- There are a few changes coming to our **Mini Fundraising** calendar, so please check backpack mail and the Virtual Backpack for updates.
- The **Pancake Breakfast with Santa** was a success. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and came out to support this event. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!
- Our first **Fish Fry** will be held on Friday, March 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Demarest School. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children and includes fish or chicken tenderloin, chips, cole slaw, dessert, and drink. Food will be prepared on site by Argyle of Kearny. Eat in or take out options are available. Look for a registration form coming home with your children. *Pre-registration is strongly recommended, as there will be only a limited amount of tickets available at the door.*
- This year's **Yard Sale** is scheduled for May 19, with a rain date of June 2. We will start accepting donated items in April, so please keep the yard sale in mind as you're doing your spring cleaning! Look for more specific info to come soon.
- Please save the date for our **Spring Clothing Drive**, to be held on June 2. We will be accepting donations of men's, women's, and children's clothing; shoes, hats, belts, handbags, ties, coats, jackets, bed and bath linens and stuffed animals. Our school earns money per pound of items collected. Items are donated to NJ and eastern PA thrift shops, pantries, etc., in need.

Please contact [fundraising@demaresthsa.org](mailto:fundraising@demaresthsa.org) for more information on any of these events.



DEMAREST BASKETBALL GAME SCHEDULE					
4th & 6th Grade Boys & Girls					
TEAM	START TIME	END TIME	HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	SCHOOL/GAME LOCATION
<b>Saturday, January 27th</b>					
5th - Girls	2:00 PM	2:00 PM	Brookdale	Demarest	Demarest
5th - Boys	3:00 PM	3:00 PM	Demarest	Brookdale	Demarest
6th - Girls	3:00 PM	3:00 PM	Demarest	Brookdale	Oak View
6th - Boys	4:00 PM	4:00 PM	Demarest	Brookdale	Oak View
4th - Girls	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	Brookdale White	Demarest	Oak View
4th - Boys	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	Oakview	Demarest	Demarest
<b>Saturday, February 3rd</b>					
6th - Boys	12:00 PM	12:00 PM	Demarest	Fairview	Oak View
5th - Boys	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	Demarest	Fairview	Demarest
6th - Girls	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	Demarest	Fairview	Oak View
5th - Girls	2:00 PM	2:00 PM	Demarest	Franklin	Demarest
4th - Girls	5:00 PM	5:00 PM	Brookdale Blue	Demarest	Oak View
4th - Boys	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	Carteret	Demarest	Demarest
<b>Saturday, February 10th</b>					
5th - Boys	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	Demarest	Watsessing	Demarest
6th - Boys	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	Berkeley	Demarest	Oak View
6th - Girls	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	Berkeley	Demarest	Oak View
4th - Boys	3:00 PM	3:00 PM	Demarest	Franklin	Demarest
5th - girls	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	Brookdale White	Demarest	Oak View
<b>Saturday, February 17th</b>					
4th - Boys	--	--	--	--	TBA
5th - Boys	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	Berkeley	Demarest	Demarest
6th - Boys	12:00 PM	12:00 PM	Demarest	Watsessing	Oak View
6th - Boys	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	Demarest	Oakview Gold	Oak View
<b>Saturday, February 24th</b>					
6th - Girls	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	Carteret	Demarest	Oak View
6th - Boys	12:00 PM	12:00 PM	Carteret	Demarest	Oak View

### Ways to connect with Demarest Home & School Association:

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

Email us: [email@demaresthsa.org](mailto: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.