

Wyckoff Township Public Schools
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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Beef Recalls:

Nearly one month ago, the U.S.D.A began to recall some beef products distributed through Port Newark and Vineland. Pomptonian, our food service company for the Eisenhower Middle School, has reported that none of the beef in storage or served was affected by the initial recalls of the U.S.D.A. On late Friday afternoon, February 29th, Pomptonian received word from the U.S.D.A of additional products to be recalled. This recall did include 8 cases of beef the district had in storage. Fortunately, none of the boxes of recalled beef had been opened or consumed. Pomptonian has been diligent in removing all beef from the district, including beef that has not been involved in the recall. As a preventative measure and to ensure the safety of all those using the food service company, Pomptonian voluntarily suspended the serving of beef until the U.S.D.A. can ensure that all beef coming into the district is completely safe. Again, at this time, we understand at no time did Pomptonian serve any tainted beef.

Outside Emails:

The district has been experiencing difficulty at times with receiving and sending emails to the outside. This can be with or without attachments and there may be large delays. If you do not receive a timely response, please do not assume the person has received your email. We are working hard to resolve this problem being caused by our firewall and spam filters.

State Assessments:

New Jersey Department of Education State Assessments will be given to grades 3 – 8 during the spring months.

State Assessments Dates

- NJASK Grade 3 – March 10 -12
- NJASK Grade 4 – March 10 -14
- NJASK Grades 5 & 6 – May 5 - 8
- NJASK Grade 7 – April 29 - May 2
- NJASK Grade 8 – (formally known as GEPA) – April 29 - May 2

The teaching staff in Wyckoff does an outstanding job of preparing students for the state assessments by simply teaching our curriculum throughout the entire school year. Formalized state assessments not only evaluate student learning, but also act as an assessment tool on the district curriculum. As such, these tests provide us information to increase individual student skill and knowledge as well as identify weaknesses in curriculum and instruction.

Tips for Students:

Prepare yourself: If you are highly anxious about taking tests, you may not do as well as you would like. Therefore, it is important that you practice the types of questions and fully understand the types of directions you may encounter. Work with your teacher to make sure you understand the types of questions that will be on the test. They will be reviewing sample questions with you.

Routines: The day of any test you must eat a normal breakfast. Your brain needs energy, so feed it! You should eat breakfast every school day. Be careful, because overeating before taking a test (particularly cereals high in sugar) can make you sleepy during the test.

Tips for Parents:

Attendance: Make sure your child attends school regularly and arrives on time. State assessments will reflect the overall achievement of your child so time spent in learning situations is imperative.

Encouragement: Praise your children throughout the school year for the things they do well. Be mindful of how much you criticize your child. A child who is afraid of failure is more likely to make mistakes.

Diet: A healthy body assists in developing a healthy mind.

Homework: See that you children keep up with their homework. Homework will increase their comprehension of classroom work.

Rest: Children who are tired will not pay attention in class or be able to handle the demands of class work or tests. They need a good night's sleep prior to any school day, especially when expected to handle the demands of formal assessments.

Parental Anxiety: Do not be overly anxious about test scores yourself. Too much emphasis on test scores will be upsetting to children. They are important, but not to the point of creating ulcers in children. Let's keep this in perspective – these state assessments will not keep your child out of college.

Special Issues: If you child wears eyeglasses, a hearing aide or any other special device, make sure they bring them to school, and they are in working order.

Board of Education Meetings:

The public is always welcome to attend our Board of Education Meetings. Our next meeting is March 10, 2008. Meetings are held at Eisenhower School at 8:00pm. An update on the progress of our school budget will be given.

The Public Hearing on the 2008-2009 Wyckoff School Budget will be held on Monday, March 24, 2008 at the Eisenhower School at 7:30pm. I would like to remind everyone that the School Elections will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 from 2pm to 9pm. You must be a registered voter to vote! To obtain information to register to vote go to the NJ Division of Elections website at <http://www.state.nj.us/lps/elections>. The deadline for registration is 21 days prior to Election Day. Absentee ballot information is also available on that site.

The Board of Education will be presenting the Budget Presentation at all schools during their PTO meetings. Anyone in the community is invited to attend the Budget Presentation portion of the PTO meeting during any of the following dates. If you cannot attend your child's building presentation, you are welcome to attend a presentation at another school.

Coolidge School PTO Meeting -	April 2 at 9:15am
Eisenhower School PTO Meeting -	April 2 at 7:30pm
Lincoln School PTO Meeting -	April 3 at 7pm
Sicomac School PTO Meeting -	April 7 at 9am
Washington School PTO Meeting -	April 8 at 9:15am

Need Assistance:

The police department is looking for substitute crossing guards. If we can secure enough assistance on inclement weather days, we hope to be able to have 90 minute delayed openings on days when the weather clears later in the morning. The district in the past has not been able to have a delayed opening due to the lack of substitute crossing guards. All crossing guards work directly with the police department and not the schools. Substitute crossing guards do require training. If you can assist in this effort, please contact the Wyckoff Police Department Traffic Bureau for more information.

Next Year's Calendar:

We have been receiving calls from parents asking about next year's calendar. We will define the Wyckoff Public Schools K-8 Calendar once the Ramapo-Indian Hills Calendar has been drafted. We try hard to match as many of the vacation days together so families with children in both districts are not experiencing hardships. To date, the high school calendar has not yet been drafted. I would expect that both calendars would be ready and adopted in April.

I hope this information assists you and your child(ren). Enjoy the remainder of the winter season!

Sincerely,

Janet Razze, Ed.D.