



## WALNUT AVENUE SCHOOL

Cranford, New Jersey

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### DECEMBER CALENDAR FOR PARENTS



Following is a listing of important dates and events scheduled for Walnut Avenue School students during the month of December. Additional information about many of the activities will be sent home as the dates draw near. Please feel free to contact the school office *whenever* you have a question.

December 1:	AIDS Awareness Day
December 6:	Morning Milk & Snack Money due Helmet Safety Program (AM)
December 7:	PTA Holiday Boutique
December 13:	Final Morning Chorus Rehearsal
December 20:	Holiday Sing-a-Long 9:00 AM
December 22:	Author Visit/ Assembly (PM)
December 23:	<b>SINGLE SESSION/</b> Begin Holiday Recess
December 26-30:	<b>SCHOOLS CLOSED/</b> Winter Recess
January 2:	<b>SCHOOLS REOPEN</b>

### OTHER NOTES

1. All parents are reminded to review information about weather related closings of school distributed at the opening of school. This information can also be found on the school website. All parents are strongly encouraged to register for the Honeywell Alert system to receive automated notices about school closings and other important announcements.
2. Please take a moment to review the attached flyer about safety around our school. We know that the temptation to take liberties with some of our guidelines about parking is greater during the cold weather months and we want to do all we can to keep our children safe.
3. Teachers are already presenting and creating activities to support our second marking period theme: "Celebrating Differences". The attached flyer describes what we hope to achieve. Please take a moment to look it over.



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# SAFETY AT WALNUT AVENUE SCHOOL

Dear Parents:

As part of our continuing effort to make certain that our children are safe and secure at Walnut Avenue School, we thought it prudent to issue a few reminders concerning safety guidelines. Please review these carefully and feel free to contact the school office if you have any questions or concerns:

### **Entrance Time:**

Staff members report for door duty at 8:30 AM each day. Parents are cautioned about leaving children unsupervised before this time.

### **Dismissal Time:**

Children are escorted by teachers to the various dismissal points each day. Staff members are expected to supervise dismissal to ensure that students safely exit building and are picked up by the appropriate adult. Please take the time to inform your child's teacher of any changes in your normal dismissal routine. **Take a moment to write a note whenever you wish to have your child picked up by someone other than yourself or the person you've normally designated.** If you find that you are running late, call the school and we will have your child report to the office to wait.

### **Visiting During the Day:**

During most of the school day, access to the building is only possible through the Main/West Entrance. After 9:00 AM, all visitors must buzz to be admitted to the building. All visitors are required to sign in and secure a visitor's pass in the office.

### **Parking:**

- ❑ Crossing guards are on duty each day on Walnut Avenue and Denman Road. Please be sure to instruct your child to cross with the guards using the designated crosswalks. This especially important on Walnut Avenue. **Parents should resist the temptation to cross in the middle of the roadway directly opposite the entrance. PLEASE WALK TO THE CORNER AND CROSS WITH THE GUARD.** New crossing signals have been installed here to further ensure pedestrian safety.

- ❑ **Absolutely no stopping or standing is allowed in the single lane driveway leading from Walnut Avenue to the rear of the building. The dropping off of students anywhere along the roadway is prohibited. This includes drop offs near the kindergarten entrance in the rear of the building.**
- ❑ **Staff Parking:** The middle section of the parking lot directly behind the school building is RESERVED for staff. Parents are asked to refrain from using these spaces marked as reserved.
- ❑ Parents bringing their children to school by car are directed to park their cars in either of two locations: a) Along Walnut Avenue or b) In the parking lot near the rear of the soccer field (Entrance to this lot is from Denman Road.)
- ❑ Parents may drop off children in the Staff Parking lot directly behind the school building *if* there are spaces available. **However, parking along the fence near the parking lot entrance is prohibited. Please keep this area clear.**
- ❑ Unauthorized vehicles should not park in the Handicapped Parking areas.
- ❑ **Anti-Idling is the Law in NJ! Never leave vehicles unattended with engines running. Never leave young children unattended in parked cars.**

**WE KNOW THE TEMPTATION TO TAKE LIBERTIES WITH THESE RULES IS OFTEN GREATER DURING BAD WEATHER OR WHEN WE ARE PRESSED FOR TIME. THIS REMINDER IS INTENDED TO UNDERSCORE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO RESIST THIS TEMPTATION. WE CERTAINLY DON'T NEED A TRAGEDY TO MAKE US PAY ATTENTION TO SOME COMMON SENSE SAFETY RULES.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**



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Cranford, New Jersey



# CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES

November 2011

As you know, many of the activities planned for the four marking periods at Walnut Avenue School are organized around themes related to a central global theme of “It’s a Small World”.

The theme for the second marking period is **CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES**. Activities presented within this theme are aimed at reinforcing a myriad of multi-cultural topics. Through literature, social studies, art, and music, children are led to discover that each of us is special and that the differences of race, religion, and culture make for a richer world. The central awareness stressed here will be that we must all resist the tendency to judge cultures or customs which are different from our own as being wrong or odd. Indeed, if we learn to look deeper we will eventually see that our differences really only serve to underscore the fundamental humanity we all have in common.



The culminating activity for this theme will be our **International Food Festival**. Each year we invite parents to send in a small dish representative of your ethnic background or family traditions. These are set out for the children to sample during the afternoon hours. Left-overs are donated to community service organizations for distribution to seniors and/or the needy in our area. Right now, our festival is planned for **Monday, January 23**. **Look for a notice to be sent home immediately after the winter recess providing details about the festival and soliciting your assistance.**

Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher or call the school office if you have questions about this project or our thematic activities.

Thanks again for helping to make Walnut Avenue School an exciting place for children to learn and grow.