



"Dream Big and Make It Happen!"

MALCOLM S. MACKAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Brenda Yoo, Principal

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Dear Mackay Families,

I hope you are enjoying the last few weeks of your summer vacation. Mr. Ruby and his team have been busy at work to prepare for the upcoming 2016-2017 school year. The floors now have a fresh coat of wax, new phone lines have been installed, and every corner of the school has been dusted, cleaned and vacuumed. I have been spending my summer getting ready for the new school year as well, working closely with Mrs. Craft, our new Vice Principal of the elementary school. I was able to go camping with my son, Matthew in Rhode Island. It was a ton of fun!

The first day of school is **Tuesday, September 6th**. Students in Grades 1-5 need to bring snack and lunch as they will start the school year with a full day. Kindergarteners will begin the school year with a half-day. This means from September 6th to 16th, the kindergarteners will be dismissed at 12:10 p.m. **The full day schedule for kindergarteners begins on Monday, September 19th**.

There are some exciting changes in the staffing:

- Mrs. Jennifer Jordan returns from her maternity leave. She will join the rest of her kindergarten team;
- Mrs. Angela Macri, the former Guidance Counselor, has resigned from her position to spend time with her family. Mrs. Jennifer Angerson, our former 5th grade teacher, joins as our new Guidance Counselor;
- Miss Callahan, who has worked as a Special Education teacher at Mackay last year, will now join the 5th grade team as a classroom teacher;
- Miss Courtney Mui joins us as a new Special Education teacher. She received Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Masters in Education from Rutgers University. She completed her teaching practicum at Nellie K. Parker Elementary School in Hackensack;
- Mrs. Cynthia Pampaloni joins as a new lunch aide. She is a retired crossing guard and many of you may recognize her;
- Mrs. Carol Choi and Mrs. Keri Mescall join our paraprofessional team.

This year, we are continuing to practice healthy lifestyles. This means that we will:

- Promote walking to school (weather permitting);
- Continue the Thursday Running Club (weather permitting);
- Promote healthy snack choices;
- Provide balanced, nutritious lunch to students (Thanks to our HSA!); and
- NOT bring in sweet treats for birthdays.

This year's focus is compassion and empathy. With the new Guidance Counselor on board, we will be learning to look for positive qualities in each other, working together and learning to accept differences. Students will also be encouraged to write compliments in school mailbox and the compliments will be shared over the loud speaker every Friday. As parents, I encourage you have conversations with your child(ren) about accepting and appreciating differences, learning to agree to disagree.

Please remember that the circle entrance in the morning is intended only for quick drop-offs. If you need to get out of the car in the morning to help your child(ren), please use other drop-off locations. We need to keep the cars moving so that traffic on Jefferson can flow.

On or about August 22nd, you should receive an automatic email from the Genesis System with your username and password. You, then, can log in to see your child(ren)'s homeroom teacher(s). All supply lists are posted on the Mackay website under the Parents tab. Make sure you visit our website regularly! Please see below for the link to our website.

<http://mk.tenafly.k12.nj.us/>

Thank you.

Brenda B. Yoo