

Maschio's Food Services, Inc.

“Healthy Meals Grow Healthy Kids”

April 2008

Dear Parents:

Maschio's Food Services is pleased to be partnering with the Foodshed Alliance and the BUY FRESH, BUY LOCAL CHAPTER of Northwest Jersey. This partnership will supply your school district with LOCALLY GROWN FOODS from area farms which practice sustainable agricultural techniques in order to preserve and enhance the local ecosystem. The farm fresh seasonal foods will be incorporated into the school lunch menu on a daily basis and will be advertised as such so the students may realize this benefit. This partnership is a cooperative effort meant to:

- *provide school children with access to healthy, nutritious choices*
- *foster the relationships between consumer and farmer*
- *bolster the local economy*
- *preserve working farms and farmers*
- *increase food security- with local food systems being more resilient and less vulnerable*

Additional benefits of this partnership include school gardening program resources and farm centered learning trips. The BUY FRESH, BUY LOCAL chapter is committed to educating the next generation about growing food on a sustainable, local scale. Maschio's Food Services is at the forefront of promoting local foods as on-going, regularly offered menu items.

Look for the BUY FRESH, BUY LOCAL logos and labels on your school menus and cafeteria serving line.

Sincerely,

Joanne Untamo

Director of Operations

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