

# ***WARREN HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT***

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February 26, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I believe most of you have been reading about the recent recall of beef products announced by the United State Department of Agriculture. The district's food service program is operated by Maschio's Food Services, Inc. They have released the following information regarding this recall:

"The recent beef recall of wholesale products from the Hallmark/Westland Meat Company has been handled at your school most appropriately. There was a halt immediately of all beef items on the school menus until we could accurately assess the inventories at each school. Our primary distributor, Pocono Produce, and Pierre Foods, a beef processor alerted us to a USDA "hold" which was placed on suspect beef February 5, 2008. Pocono Produce has supplied us with a complete list of the suspect beef products along with manufacturer dates and lot numbers. Since February 5, our supervisors have been checking inventories at each school in order to identify and isolate any suspect beef products. The beef recall on February 17 confirmed the products on hold were now being recalled. The only product Maschio's purchased that is being recalled is certain lot numbers of *Cooked Ground Beef Crumbles*. Warren Hills High School and Middle School had this product in its inventory but this product was never served to their students and has been removed and destroyed as per United States Department of Agriculture instructions. Any beef currently being held in inventory at any Maschio's school at this time is safe and ***is not*** a part of the recall.

We do apologize for any confusion in this matter. I can assure you that Maschio's has been very vigilant in both the hold and the recall of beef products. We acted immediately upon receiving every new piece of information. The safety and quality of the meals we serve everyday to your children and students are of great importance to us. We have suspended the use of beef products on the menus until we are confident that this episode has concluded satisfactorily. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns."

The Warren Hills Regional School District and Maschio's Food Services moved quickly and took every precaution to insure your children were not placed at risk. The district and Maschio's Food Service welcome any questions that you may have regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,

Peter Merluzzi, Superintendent