



**IMPORTANT REMINDER:**  
**ALL VISITORS TO**  
**STILLWATER SCHOOL**  
**MUST SIGN IN AT THE**  
**MAIN OFFICE UPON**  
**ARRIVAL AND SIGN OUT**  
**WHEN LEAVING.**

## Important Dates to Remember:

- ◆ **ASLC MEETING DATES: 12/15, 12/17, 1/5, 1/7, 1/12**
- ◆ **WINTER CONCERT: 12/8 7:00PM**
- ◆ **SENIOR LUNCHEON: 12/9 – 11:00AM**
- ◆ **TREPS MARKETPLACE: 12/16 – 6:30PM - 8:00PM**

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**ABSENTEE CALLS:** All absences must be reported directly to our dedicated attendance line: **973-383-3227**. Kindly keep this number handy. **DO NOT** call the main school phone number or use the personal voice mail of our nurse, Maureen Beckman. The nurse's voice mail should be used for health concerns other than attendance.

**SCHOOL HOURS:** The school day is 8:25 AM until 3:00 PM for all children. **Whenever possible, ALL children should be strongly encouraged to take the bus in order to ensure that they are on time. WALKERS AND/OR CHILDREN WHO ARE DROPPED OFF BY THEIR PARENTS SHOULD NOT ARRIVE TO SCHOOL PRIOR TO 8:15 AM.**

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:** Students need to be in school every day to stay on track. Teachers' lesson plans are carefully constructed to introduce new concepts, reinforce them with learning activities, and then move on to new skills and ideas. When children aren't in school they can easily fall behind. The more days they miss, the harder it is to catch up. **Families will be contacted via a mailing after a child accumulates four unexcused absences, again when a child accumulates five to nine unexcused absences, and finally when the child has ten or more unexcused absences. Letters are automatically generated by our data system.** After ten unexcused absences, if the district determines that the compulsory attendance law has been violated, a court referral may be made, as required by district policy and New Jersey State Law (N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6). Please ensure that if your child is absent that you follow up with written documentation to avoid an unexcused absence. Definitions of excused absences can be found on the district website under the *Parent Resources* tab.

**BUS STOP REMINDER:** Parents/Guardians – It is important that you are at your child's(ren's) bus stop on time. If you have not signed a waiver stating that your child may be let off without someone present, the bus will return your child to school if a designated person is not there to receive them. **A \$25 charge is incurred by the family if the bus has to return to the school with your child(ren).**

**SIGNING STUDENTS OUT:** All students who are leaving the school building must be signed out by a parent/guardian or **authorized** person. If your child will not be riding the bus home (ex: staying for an after-school activity, or being picked up), a green bus note **must** be sent in that morning to the homeroom teacher. For students attending KEEP or First Impressions, or being picked up on a **regularly SCHEDULED basis**, please write that in a note (preferably on a green bus note) including the details of child's specific schedule, **bus route number**, and a contact person for our records. **Any phone calls, or email requests regarding your child's end of the day dismissal must be made before 12:00pm unless it is an emergency situation.** For requests made after 12:00pm, a decision will be made by administration as to whether or not we will be able to honor that request. **Any questions please contact Mr. Robinson or Mrs. Sager.**

### IMPORTANT MESSAGE - OneCall notifications

We will be sending out OneCall notifications throughout the school year, as needed, due to emergency closings, delays, or special announcements. **WE ARE ASKING YOU TO PLEASE CHECK YOUR PHONE FOR MESSAGES RATHER THAN CALLING THE SCHOOL FOLLOWING THE NOTIFICATION.** This will help to eliminate the volume of calls that come in to the school immediately after the message is sent. **Thank you for your cooperation!**

**6TH GRADE BAKE SALE:** Tuesday, December 8th 6:00 - 8:30 the 6th Grade Class will be holding a bake sale with snacks and bottled water in the cafeteria during the Holiday Concert. Please contact Sue Hergert at 973-294-0999 or [shergert@verizon.net](mailto:shergert@verizon.net) with donations or if you would like to help!

**WINTER CONCERT:** The winter concert is next Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the gym at Stillwater School. The students performing will be second grade, fourth grade, fifth grade, Advanced Band, and Handbell Ensemble. All students should report at 6:30pm: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders to their homeroom, Advanced Band students to the Band room and Handbell Ensemble to the Music/Health room. Please dress nicely for this concert. Try to avoid jeans and sneakers if possible. We hope everyone can make it to our Sounds of the Season concert!

**FIRST GRADE NEWS:** First graders have been busy this December getting ready for all the celebrations and winter weather to come! We have been creating snowflakes, writing letters to our Elf on the Shelf and writing about special gifts to give and receive. Most importantly, students are thinking and writing about wishes they have for others during this festive season. As our writing skills grow, so does our awareness and care for others. This season is bound to be a special one in first grade!

**LET'S B-SOCIAL CLUB:** The Let's B-Social Club will meet for the final time next Wednesday, December 9. The students will celebrate with a party and showcase the skills they have learned over the past three months!

### Check it out:

**"Are we there yet?"** - Whether it's a long or short trip, use the time spent in the car or bus for wordplay. Talk about words with multiple meanings. Discuss how jam means something you put on toast as well as cars stuck in traffic. How many other homonyms can your child think of? When kids are highly familiar with the meaning of a word, they have less difficulty reading it.

**IDEAS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD STUDY:** Flashcards with a modern twist. Flashcards have always been a great way for kids to study. Now your kids can make their own on the computer using Flashcard Maker by Scholastic.com. The website is very user friendly. You just pick if you want words or numbers and type in the answer on one side and the question on the other. You can print and then cut them out. They can be used for studying math facts as well as vocabulary for all subject tests!

**PINWHEEL BRAIN BOWL:** Recently students from Stillwater Elementary School, Fredon Elementary School, Hampton Elementary School, and Sandyston-Walpack School met at Stillwater School for the second annual Brain Bowl Competition. Student teams were comprised of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students who are participants in the Pinwheel Program (Gifted Education Program) and were challenged with questions from math, science, social studies and language arts. Each team competed in two preliminary rounds, with the top three teams moving on to the finals! Students from Kittatinny Regional High School's Kaleidoscope Program (Gifted Education) served as readers, judges, timers and scorekeepers. These 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students worked together to facilitate the event and kept the preliminary rounds moving. Teachers from all schools participating served as moderators and coaches for their teams. The 2015 Brain Bowl was developed and organized by Elaine Makarevich, Gifted Education Services Coordinator at Stillwater School and Keri Maeurer, first grade teacher. Congratulations to all of the students who participated in this academic challenge, as the competition was fierce! Sandyston-Walpack School Team #3 finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and received a prize pack of a story puzzle book and science challenge. Hampton Team #1 finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall and also received a prize pack. Hampton Team #2 was this year's First Place Team and received a prize pack to share with their Pinwheel classmates. A special thank you goes out to the Stillwater Board of Education for sponsoring this event as well as the sending schools for allowing their students to join us for this experience. And a final thank you to the KRHS 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their teacher, Ellen Kolonoski. We could not have run the event without you! So get ready for the 2016 Brain Bowl and good luck next year!

**4TH GRADE SCIENCE:** Fourth grade students have been learning all about the human body. Students completed various activities to help them learn about the skeletal, muscular, respiratory, circulatory, nervous, and digestive systems. Did you know that an adult human body has 206 bones? Students created life size skeletons in the classroom and had to identify many of our major bones such as the cranium, sternum, vertebrae, radius, ulna and phalanges. In order to help understand how our circulatory system works, students had to find their pulse before, during and after exercise. The central nervous system is the control center of our body. Students learned that this system helps control their breathing, heart rate and the movements of both the skeletal and smooth muscles. It's been a lot of fun exploring the human body! Our next topic will be Earth Science. I hope the students are as excited as I am to learn all about our planet!

**THIRD GRADE NEWS:** The third grade classes have been learning all about our government. The unit began with the students reading the novel, *Marvin Redpost, Class President*, by Louis Sachar. They worked on developing reading strategies and skills by identifying the main idea of each chapter in the book and making predictions about what would happen next in the novel. The children enjoyed thinking and writing about what they would do if the President of the United States came to visit our third grade classes like he did in the book. The students then read the informational text in their Social Studies books to learn more about how our government is set up and works. They learned about the three branches of government (Executive, Legislative and Judicial) and how they work together to make sure our citizens are safe and are assured of their rights that are spelled out in the Constitution. They studied how a bill becomes a law and how each of the branches of government is involved in the process. The children learned what a democracy is and how the three levels of government (local, state and national) work together to make rules and laws that keep us safe and provide services for citizens that they cannot provide for themselves.

**B-ALIVE:** The B-Alive Program is preparing for their next field trip later this month. The students are very excited that they will be filmed by the Emmy Award winning television show *Classroom Close-up* during their trip! This segment of the show will air in March and April of 2016.

**FIFTH GRADE NEWS:** Recently 5<sup>th</sup> graders researched the history of applesauce and learned many interesting facts. Did you know that Germans were the first to make applesauce? The students then turned their research into a recipe for crock pot applesauce. Next, they enjoyed cooking the applesauce, and testing it in class. All students were able to bring their own recipe home to try and enjoy.

**SCHOOL COUNSELING CORNER:** The third grade guidance lessons were focused on “celebrating differences.” We shared the book, “Odd Velvet” which tells the story of a little girl who is different and wins the hearts of her classmates. The students shared some fun facts about themselves and we celebrated our uniqueness!  
~Ruth Najemian 973-383-3398

**STUDENT COUNCIL: WORLD SERIES DAY!:** In October we had a donation drive called “World Series Day”. We asked students and staff to wear their favorite baseball team’s colors or jersey. We also asked for a \$.75 donation that would be donated to a worthy cause. In total, we raised \$18.45. We thank everyone who participated in the drive. We have decided to donate all of the money to St. Jude’s Research Hospital! Thank you again for all of your support! **By Emily Popek and Ashley Gordon**

**STAFF SWEATER CONTEST -** Monday December 7<sup>th</sup> -December 12<sup>th</sup>. Stillwater School’s staff members will be having a holiday sweater contest to benefit the Stillwater School holiday tree. This tree is set up to give local families help with purchasing holiday gifts. Participating staff members will be wearing a holiday sweater all next week. Staff and students may “vote” for their favorite sweater by making a donation in cans set up in the cafeteria. Families may help by sending in donations with their child. All donations will be used to purchase clothes and toys for the community tree. Thank you for your participation and let the best sweater win! **By Lilly Miller and Aniella Morgan**

**STUDENT SUBMISSION: What do snowmen eat?** Ice burgers! **What’s a snowman’s best friend?** A snow dog! **Why did it rain on Christmas?** Because of Santa’s RAIN deer! **What vegetable will a snowman never eat?** Carrots! **What do snowmen ride?** Icicles!  
**Jokes submitted by Patrick Halpin in Mrs. Celentano's Class**

**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** Stillwater School is hosting a holiday concert next week. The 4th, 5th and 2nd grade students will be entertaining through song. The handbell ensemble and band are playing too! Everyone has been practicing really hard and will come dressed to impress. The concert will be on Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00 p.m. although all students participating in the concert will need to arrive at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you all there!  
**Submitted by Juliana DeStefano**

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

## FUNDRAISERS

**SPIN-A-THON:** 6<sup>th</sup> grade recognition party fundraiser on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm, at the Fit Experience in Sparta. Reserve your bike for \$10.00! Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced – ALL are welcomed and encouraged! **All proceeds from this event will directly benefit the Class of 2016 6<sup>th</sup> grade recognition party!** Please contact Heather Throne at [hmthrone@gmail.com](mailto:hmthrone@gmail.com) for further information, or call FitX and speak with Penny Bair.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST:** Stillwater Township Recreation Commission is sponsoring a town wide Holiday Decorating Contest! Deadline to enter is 12/16/15, with judging taking place on 12/18/15. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winners will be announced on the website and on Facebook. Applications and details are available at Stillwater Town Hall or via [www.stillwatertownshipnj.com](http://www.stillwatertownshipnj.com), or [www.facebook.com/pages/Stillwater-Township/129868013837714](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Stillwater-Township/129868013837714).

**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY:** Stillwater Township Recreation Commission is sponsoring the annual town wide Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> (snow date, December 5<sup>th</sup>). At 6:00pm at the Swartwood Fire House on Newton Swartwood Road. There will be a visit from Santa with a free photo, Hot Cocoa, Cookies, and Goodie Bags! For more information, please visit [www.stillwatertownshipnj.com](http://www.stillwatertownshipnj.com).

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**KITTATINNY YOUTH LACROSSE CLUB:** 2016 Spring registration is now open. Please register early so that we can schedule games and teams. Please be advised that registration will be **online only** and registration fees will increase as of **December 1, 2015**, so register early to avoid any late fees. Your registration fee includes your 2016 U.S. Lacrosse membership. K.Y.L.C. will register all players once registration is complete. Please go to [www.kittatinnylax.com](http://www.kittatinnylax.com). Contact Hilary Manser at 973-534-1922 for any questions.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** December 5, 2015 at 7 p.m. at Harmony Hill United Methodist Church 919 Fairview Lake Rd., Stillwater, NJ 07875. **FREE**, and open to the entire community. Every year it draws quite a crowd. Arriving early will ensure having a seat!

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA:** Sunday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am – 11:00am at the Stillwater Firehouse. Breakfast will include pancakes and sausage! The event is **FREE**, though donations are always appreciated.

## STILLWATER PTA

**\*Please check this section of the newsletter weekly for PTA news, updates, and special events.\***

You can also visit our website at [www.stillwatertwppta.my-pta.org](http://www.stillwatertwppta.my-pta.org). Like us on Facebook- “Stillwater Twp. PTA”.\*

**FALL GERTRUDE HAWK CANDY SALE:** Candy orders will be available for pick-up beginning on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 3:15-4:00PM at the back of the school entrance in the hallway downstairs. After that time, orders will be held downstairs marked with the child’s last name and available to pick up any time after 3:15PM. For questions, please contact Jennifer Domaracki at [jennifer@dahlhousedesign.com](mailto:jennifer@dahlhousedesign.com).

**HOLIDAY SHOP:** Mark your calendars! The Holiday Shop is quickly approaching and will be open for business **December 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>** during school hours. Envelopes have been sent home, please return them (if desired) the day your child is scheduled to visit the shop. Checks should be made payable to **Stillwater PTA**. Anyone wishing to donate their time should kindly contact John Miller at [johnhenrymilleriii@gmail.com](mailto:johnhenrymilleriii@gmail.com) or (973)262-2827.

**PTA CHAIRPEOPLE:** With the many events the PTA provides, we have several parents helping behind the scenes. Part of the job of running a PTA event is putting out flyers to the school to promote the upcoming event. These flyers must be approved by the PTA and administration. Please send all flyers via email to Kristin Oldenburg- [stillwaterptapresident@yahoo.com](mailto:stillwaterptapresident@yahoo.com) for PTA approval and questions. Also, if you would like something submitted in the weekly newsletter regarding your event, please email your submission to Jen Kraft at [stillwaterptacoresec@yahoo.com](mailto:stillwaterptacoresec@yahoo.com) no later than Wednesday for it to be published that same Friday.

**STILLWATER COOKBOOKS** (\$3 each) and Stillwater School Car Magnets (\$2 each) are available for purchase! This sale is ongoing throughout the year. If you are interested in purchasing these items or if you have questions, please contact Amanda Connelly at [aconnelly@outlook.com](mailto:aconnelly@outlook.com).

**SHOPAROO:** Congratulations to all those who participate in the Shoparoo fundraiser! **TOGETHER** we earned **\$610.08** for the 2014-2015 school year!! **That was double the amount from the previous year!** Let’s see if we can double it again for this school year! All of the money raised goes directly to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Washington, D.C trip. If you haven’t signed up for Shoparoo yet, please see the details below to get started. **Thank you to everyone who is currently participating, we appreciate your support! Keep up the good work!**

### Check out some great ways to raise money for Stillwater School...

- 1. Have you heard about ShopARoo?** It’s an easy way to help support Stillwater School. All funds that are raised go directly to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington, D.C! Download: ShopARoo today and choose Stillwater School, NJ as your fundraising cause today. Just snap a picture of your grocery like receipts and start earning points (which convert to cash) for Stillwater School. **It’s that easy! Really!**
- 2. Keep cutting your Box Tops and Labels for Education!** Be sure to include your child’s homeroom teacher when submitting. **ShopRite stores are also giving away up to \$1 Million to local schools during the 2015-16 school year!** Register your Price Plus Club card at [www.ShopRiteForMySchool.com](http://www.ShopRiteForMySchool.com) today to start earning cash for your school.
- 3. Shop at AmazonSmile!** Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to 18906 Stillwater PTA. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7214634> and support us every time you shop.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** 12/16 – 12/18 – Holiday Shop