



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: 1/5, 1/7, 1/12, 1/14, 1/19, 1/21
- ◆ EARLY DISMISSAL: 12/23 – 12:40PM
- ◆ HOLIDAY RECESS: 12/24 – 1/1, SCHOOL REOPENS: 1/4
- ◆ BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING: 1/4 - 7:00PM
- ◆ KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: 1/19 – 1/22

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.

EARLY DISMISSAL: Early dismissal time is 12:40. There is no lunch served when there is an early dismissal. Please send your child in with a snack.

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION NOTICE OF VACANCY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Stillwater Township Board of Education is seeking a candidate from the Township of Stillwater to fill a vacancy on the Board of Education arising from a resignation. The successful candidate will be appointed to fill this vacancy until December 31, 2016.

Legal requirements for becoming a member of the Board of Education are:

1. An ability to read and write.
2. Citizenship and one year's residence in the district.
3. No interest in any contract with or claim against the Board.
4. To not hold office as Mayor or member of the governing body of Stillwater.
5. Is registered to vote in Stillwater and is not a disqualified voter under N.J.S.A. 19:4-1.

Interested candidates are requested to send a letter of interest on or before Tuesday, December 29, 2015, to René Solar, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, P.O. Box 12, Stillwater, New Jersey 07875.

5TH AND 6TH GRADE SCIENCE: Students have done a remarkable job in 2015! 6th graders have built and presented homemade prosthetics, identified strategies to reduce stress, and have determined why DNA is better than using fingerprints. 5th graders explored the world in the way of Darwin, investigated clouds, and designed vessels strictly made out of recyclable materials. Yes, I tried to sink them all! Needless to say, they should be impressed with the high caliber of science and engineering that they have done so far! Be proud! I am anxiously awaiting to see what you do in 2016! Happy New Year!

-Mrs. McMahon

SCHOOL COUNSELING CORNER: The guidance lesson for fourth grade was based on the book "Just Kidding." We talked about the importance of humor to make people feel good, but how humor can be used in a mean way to tease or hurt peoples' feelings.

TREP\$ MARKETPLACE

The sixth grade "Trep\$" want to thank the students, parents, community members, staff, and administration who came out to the MarketPlace in support of their businesses. The night was a great success and it could not have happened without everyone's support! Thank you all!

STUDENT COUNCIL: The Student Council would like to thank everyone for their generous donations during the staff holiday sweater contest. A special thanks goes out to all of the staff members who participated. All of the sweaters were awesome! We would like to announce the winner of the contest. Congratulations to Miss Franck for having the most money in her bucket! Her total was \$62.31. Second place goes to Miss Radimer for her total of \$61.71. In total, we were able to raise \$444.87! Thank you again for making this event such a success!

HEALTH/PHYS ED NEWS: The Physical Education classes performed various cooperative games and activities during concert time. The skills needed to successfully perform these games and activities are patience, teamwork, cooperation, having a positive attitude, and being a good listener and problem solver. It is rewarding for the students as they have success with these games and activities. A comparison is made as to how these same skills can be used in their lives now, as well as, in the future.

FIRST GRADE UPDATE: As the holidays draw nearer, the first graders are enjoying some great seasonal classics! After reading "Snowmen at Night", "Bear Snores On" and "Snow Child", we'll be exploring parts of a story and retelling skills. By practicing some holiday math facts, students are becoming fluent in their addition and subtraction. While we learn about all the many festive winter celebrations students are able to build knowledge of many cultures while writing and sharing about the special traditions they enjoy each year.

THIRD GRADE NEWS: This week in 3rd grade, we are already thinking about our New Year's resolutions! The students in Miss Parsons, Mrs. Mahedy, and Mrs. Then's classes are all helping to create a new bulletin board theme for the front office. The third graders are spending some time decorating party hats for the New Year. On each party hat, the students are writing a goal or resolution for 2016. Some resolutions include: becoming a better reader, trying their best in school, improving at a sport, or helping more at home. Be sure to check out our new bulletin board with our resolutions after our holiday break in January!

THE GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE: We did it! We set it!

Congratulations! Hooray! Last January, the students and staff at Stillwater School participated in The Great Kindness Challenge, a week of fun-filled activities designed to spread kindness through the school building and beyond its walls. A special activity on Buddy Day, titled "Unite the Big and Small", created an opportunity for younger and older students to work together, design a kind-hearted handprint, and share in the Great Kindness Challenge. Our handprints, numbering more than 325, were sent along to be recorded as part of a record for the Guinness Book of World Records! A total of 594 schools participated, creating 104,108 handprints which has officially set a new world record! Congratulations to everyone who participated!



CHECK IT OUT: Looking for a fun way to practice or improve your child's mastery of basic multiplication facts? Check out the following free apps that make learning fun!

- Aardy's Multiplication Fun
- Sushi Monster
- Math Circus

STUDENT SUBMISSION: The Great Kindness Challenge - Last year, Stillwater School competed in The Great Kindness Challenge. On Buddy Day, the whole school traced their hands and cut them out. The school decorated the hands and everyone drew a heart in the middle of their hand. This year, Mr. Robinson made an announcement that our hands contributed to a Guinness World Record. Remember, always be kind.
Submitted by Hunter Thibault

STUDENT SUBMISSION: Lionel Christmas train sets are steam trains that many people buy and display around Christmastime. Most people set the trains up around their Christmas tree. You can buy them online or in stores and they range in prices from \$269.99 to \$341.99 on sale, but hurry because they are almost out of stock. The Lionel Silver Bells Christmas train remote set has only 2 left! MTG trains, a Christmas trolley, is on sale. Hurry up and get your trains in time for the holidays.

This insider train information is brought to you by train-loving Bill Saylor

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!**



THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST: Stillwater Township Recreation Commission is sponsoring a town wide Holiday Decorating Contest! Judging takes place TONIGHT - 12/18/15. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd 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, or www.facebook.com/pages/Stillwater-Township/129868013837714.



The Magic of the Holidays never ends,
and the greatest of gifts are family and friends.

Happy Holidays,

and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year!

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. Like us on Facebook- "Stillwater Twp. PTA".*

HOLIDAY SHOP: A special thank you to John Miller for chairing the Holiday Shop again this year and for his dedication to this event! Thank you also to all of the parents who volunteered their time as well!

SPIRIT WEAR SALE: SPIRIT WEAR IS IN! You can pick up your orders downstairs in the 6th grade hallway (same place as the Gertrude Hawk pick up). Thank you for your support! For questions, please contact Vicki Yanaga at (973)479-4588. **A special thank you to Vicki Yanaga for chairing this fundraiser and for providing us with awesome spirit wear!**

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 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 stillwaterptacorsecc@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.

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 6th 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 6th 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.
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.

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 today to start earning cash for your school.

THE PTA WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY AND WARM WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR!