

JANUARY



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: 1/12, 1/14, 1/19, 1/21
- ◆ PARCC SCORE INTERPRETATION WORKSHOP: 1/21
- ◆ KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: 1/19 – 1/22
- ◆ YEARBOOK SALE: 1/25 – 2/26
- ◆ PTA VALENTINE SALE: 2/11 & 2/12

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.**

PRESCHOOL NEWS: HAPPY WINTER! The preschoolers came back to school with smiles on their faces, along with exciting stories about their holiday adventures that they enjoyed sharing with their friends. The children are happy to be back at school learning about the winter season, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., along with new songs, dances and great stories. Our class bear, Buddy Bear, is ready for his long winter nap. The children will learn about animals that hibernate and say good night to their cuddly friend. See you in the spring Buddy Bear!

Upcoming Family Workshops

3RD GRADE FAMILY MATH: Classes for parents **AND** their children - will take place on February 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th and March 3rd and 10th from 6:30-8:00pm. Registration forms were sent home with your child this week. Family Math helps parents become more involved in their children's mathematics education! **Please sign up early as space is limited.**

LITERACY FOR FIRST GRADE: A workshop for 1st Grade parents and their children to develop strategies for becoming confident readers will take place on February 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, March 1st, and 8th from 6:00pm-7:30pm, in Miss Johnson's classroom. Registration forms were sent home with your child this week. Come explore the magic of literacy with us! **Please sign up early as space is limited.**

SECOND GRADE NEWS: The second graders started off the New Year by writing resolutions! Some of the resolutions that they wrote included hitting more homeruns in baseball, listening to their teacher, being nice to their brother or sister, and completing their homework faster. Along with accomplishing their resolutions, they are excited about starting to learn to write in cursive. In the next few weeks they will start to learn the lowercase letters of the alphabet and then move on to the uppercase ones! By the end of the school year everyone will be displaying beautiful cursive!

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS: For the second year in a row, our Student Council is working with "Coupons for the Community" to collect toiletries/household items for families in need. This will be in collaboration with the 100th day of school, which will occur February 11th or shortly thereafter (weather permitting!). We are asking students in each grade level to donate 100 of their assigned items:

- Pre-K - toothbrushes
- Kindergarten – tubes of toothpaste
- First Grade – boxes of tissues
- Second Grade - bars of soap
- Third Grade – packs of toilet paper
- Fourth Grade – deodorant
- Fifth Grade – rolls of paper towels
- Sixth Grade – bottles of shampoo
- Staff – first aid supplies

Please send in your items as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Stillwater Township School will be hosting a PARCC Score Interpretation Workshop on January 21st at 7:00pm in the cafeteria. All are invited to attend to learn more about your child's PARCC results and how to interpret their individual score reports. We will also be sharing information on changes to this year's PARCC test. We hope to see you there!

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE: The start of a new year is a great time to renew our commitments to maintaining and improving our health. Maintaining a healthy diet, regular exercise, and good sleep habits are obvious lifestyle changes that may improve overall health of children and adults. It's also a good time to check with your healthcare provider to ensure that all members of your family are up to date on their immunization schedules. If possible, schedule a physical exam for your child if your child has not been examined for over a year. At a minimum, children should have a physical examination at early childhood (pre-K-grade 3, preadolescence (grades 4-6), and adolescence (grades 7-12).

FOURTH GRADE NEWS: January in 4th Grade - In January we have been doing many things. We are finally learning how to multiply two, 2-digit numbers! We now know three different ways to multiply; standard algorithm, expanded algorithm and the breaking apart method using an array. In social studies, we have been learning events that took place before and during the Revolutionary War. In 4th grade we take the science NJ ASK. Therefore, we have started preparing for it. Also, in science we have been doing earth science. We just finished reading *Sarah, Plain, and Tall*. Next week we will start reading *The Chalk Box Kid* and *Class Clown*. That is what we have been doing in 4th grade to kick off the New Year! **Written By: Delaney Burke and Teagan Shea**

CHECK IT OUT: To help improve your child's comprehension of what they read, create "mind movies" of what is happening in the story. Creating visual images brings the text alive. These "mind movies" make the story more memorable and improves comprehension. You can help your child do this by reading aloud and describing the pictures you're seeing in your imagination. Use all five senses and emotions. Invite your child to share his/her "mind movies". Notice how they're different from yours. You might even ask your child to draw what's in his/her "mind movie".

**YEARBOOK SALE WILL BEGIN ON JANUARY 26TH.
INFORMATION WILL BE SENT HOME WITH YOUR CHILD IN THE COMING WEEKS!**

STUDENT SUBMISSION: Here ye, here ye! Next Thursday, January 14th, the fifth grade students will be having a Colonial Fair! We will be dressing up in colonial clothes, representing a colonial trade, and one of the 13 original colonies. We have been researching this time period for a few weeks now and are very excited to be presenting our information. One thing we have all learned in our research is that this time period was hard work!

STUDENT SUBMISSION: Happy New Year! Everybody knows that on January 1st, the New Year has come. In different places in the world New Year's Day is celebrated differently. Where I come from, Japan, we all gather on New Year's Eve and party around a big bonfire. We make little paper arrows and write our wishes on them. Then we throw them in the bonfire. It is a great tradition that I still do every year with my family. Submitted by Yuki Nikole Wykoff

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

OPTICAL ACADEMY: The Stillwater Education Association will be sponsoring the Optical Academy again this year, at the school. Optical Academy is a mobile vision team that provides complete eye exams using digital, state of the art equipment. They also offer an on-site eyeglasses shop, providing prescription glasses, sunglasses, contact lenses, and safety goggles. These services are geared to those who do not have insurance covering eye care, however, all insurances are accepted. Eye exams are only \$30 (add \$30 for contact lenses) and single vision glasses start at just \$29. This event will take place on February 20, 2016 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm at the Stillwater Elementary School. Please make an appointment by calling 1-800-530-2730 or visiting www.optical-academy.com. You do not have to be a Stillwater resident to take advantage of this great resource.

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 his continued dedication in chairing the Holiday Shop again this year! Thank you also to the following people who volunteered their time; Jenny Rogers, Brian O'Meara, Barbara Miller, Amanda Connelly, Melissa Nelson, Meredith Reilly, Irene Fuchs, Jessie Goytil, the custodial staff, office staff and all of the teachers for their help as well.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT: Please join us on **Friday, January 15th at 6:45PM** in the cafeteria for a Family Movie Night. The **Minions** movie will be showing. Enjoy free popcorn and bottled water! Please bring blankets, pillows, chairs, and kids can feel free to wear PJ's!! Hope to see you there! This event is FREE and open to all Stillwater students and their families. This is NOT a drop off event. There will be a free drawing for the kids - a movie themed prize will be awarded! For questions, please contact Amanda Connelly at aeconnelly@outlook.com.

TRICKY TRAY: Save the date! The Stillwater PTA Tricky Tray will be held on **Friday, April 15th, 2016**. The theme is "The Great Outdoors". Preparations are already underway and LOTS of help is needed to make this a successful event! Please contact Christine Bello at christinebello1980@gmail.com or Karyn Carter at karyn1213@gmail.com if you are able to volunteer your time.

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 aeconnelly@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!

BOX TOPS UPDATE: Congratulations Box Top Clippers- we just received a check in the month of December for \$582.10! Keep clipping! Thank you to Mrs. Makarevich for organizing this fabulous fundraiser!

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS: 1/15 - FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT