



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ABSENTEE CALLS: All absences must be reported directly to our dedicated attendance line: [973-383-3227](tel: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 left 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.

Upcoming Family Workshops

3RD GRADE FAMILY MATH: Classes for parents AND their children - will take place on February 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th and March 3th and 10th from 6:30-8:00pm. Registration forms were sent home with your child last 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 last week. Come explore the magic of literacy with us! Please sign up early as space is limited.

CHECK IT OUT:

Educational Games/Websites: Funbrain.com,
PBSlearning.org, www.learninggamesforkids.com,
www.brainpop.com, www.mathplayground.com,
www.scholastic.com

Important Dates to Remember:

- ◆ ASLC MEETING DATES: 1/19, 1/21, 1/26, 1/28, 2/2, 2/4
- ◆ PARCC SCORE INTERPRETATION WORKSHOP: 1/21
- ◆ KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: 1/19 – 1/22
- ◆ YEARBOOK SALE: 1/25 – 2/26

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

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!

SCHOOL-WIDE LIP DUB - January 22nd: Stillwater School will be participating in a school wide character education lip dub to promote positive school climate. Summit students in sixth grade will be lip synching to the familiar song "Happy" and travelling around the school. Our filmmakers from KRHS will be filming our enthusiastic students throughout our school hallways. Each grade level will show their school spirit by wearing a special color and shaking a prop. Our edited version will be available to view on our school website. Permission slips were sent home for participation in the lip dub.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS: The kindergarten classes read a variety of books that taught about Martin Luther King Jr. We emphasized celebrating our differences and living in harmony. This month we are also celebrating "Board of Education Appreciation". The children demonstrated their writing and creative skills when making books and cards to show appreciation. Great schools make great communities! Thank you Stillwater Board of Education!

FIRST GRADE NEWS: The children in first grade have learned about resolutions. After reading the book, *Squirrel's New Year Resolution*, the students wrote their goals for the New Year. They published their writing and compiled a class book. The families in first grade are enjoying the stories of our young authors.

ART NEWS: Our Kindergarten artists recently completed a unit on Leonardo Da Vinci. Student portraits were taken with a 'Mona Lisa' cardboard cut-out during class time. Their production time was filled with creating their own invention designs, inspired by Da Vinci's inventions, with a black tempera outline and a watercolor crayon wash.

PEDOMETER "OPOLY": The Pedometer "Opoly" program has just begun! The students in grades 3-6 will be racing around the giant Monopoly board by trying to earn as many steps as they can during their physical education classes. For every 5,000 steps the entire class earns, their class moves one space around the game board. The students will be learning and practicing their basketball skills for Pedometer "Opoly" lessons. They have been giving a great effort and are having a lot of fun! Good luck to all of the classes participating! Remember to keep moving! Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Reed, Ms. Radimer

FIFTH GRADE NEWS: The fifth graders are very busy right now. In Math, we are learning about division with decimals and dividing with a two digit divisor. In Language Arts, we are writing opinion essays. Also, we are reading the book *Shiloh*. In Science, we are learning about Astronomy with fun experiments. For the past month, we have been working on a Colonial Fair project which we presented to our families on Thursday. We are having so much fun in all our classes, and hope we can continue learning more fun topics in the future.

Written by Clare Schwartz and Julia St Clair.

YEARBOOK NEWS: Congratulations to **Lorien Latting**, our 2016 yearbook cover design winner! Thank you to our nine outstanding finalists: Abigail Ankrom, Katie Williver, Christos Rabidis, Stevielee Lacika, Radmilla Hornung, Brooke Van Gorden, Abby LoCascio, Isabel Vazquez and Megan Halpin! As well as the whole 6th grade class for their effort and hard work!

yearbook sale!

2015 – 2016 Yearbook Sale will run from January 25th – February 26th. Cost is \$17.25 per yearbook advance orders only! You will not have the opportunity to purchase a yearbook after February 26th. Order forms will be sent home with your child in the coming weeks. Please make check payable to Stillwater School. If paying in cash - exact amount only, please. **don't miss out!**

NEWS FROM THE NURSE: Occasionally, children in school have been found to have head lice or nits. As many of you know, this condition is passed from one person to another by close contact (head to head), regardless of personal hygiene. No child or parent should feel embarrassed or ashamed if he/she gets them. Lice do not transmit disease so they are considered to be more of a nuisance than a health problem. I am asking all parents to keep a close check on your own children's hair. Itching and scratching of the scalp is usually the first sign that lice may be present. You may also notice small scabs on the scalp where the child has scratched. Children can be checked by separating hair strands with a comb so that the hair close to the scalp is visible. Head lice are small, six-legged insects that are wingless. They are unable to jump or fly. Nits (the eggs) resemble a small drop of white or gray wax, about the size of a grain of salt. Nits can be differentiated from dandruff. You can easily move dandruff, but nits cling firmly to a strand of hair. If you find that your child has lice or nits, we ask that you notify the school. There are several over the counter pediculocidal treatments that are available for the treatment of pediculosis. Non-toxic products that smother the lice are also available. In either case, it is essential that the specific directions for the product that you choose are strictly followed. All family members and close contacts should also be checked and treated only if lice and eggs are found. After treatment nits should be removed using a fine tooth comb or fingernail. After treating the individuals, treat the environment. Wash sheets, towels etc. in hot water and place in a hot dryer for at least 20 minutes. Combs and brushes should be discarded or soaked in hot water for 15 minutes. Upholstered furniture and carpets should be vacuumed. Items such as stuffed animals that cannot be washed should be placed in a plastic bag for two weeks. Please remember that the best treatment is prevention. Children should be checked by parents regularly and after sleep-overs and any event which involves close contact with others. Instruct your children not to share hats or combs. Children found to have live lice in school are sent home for treatment. After treatment and the absence of live lice, the child may return to school. The school nurse will check the student upon return to school and will work with the parents if further treatment is needed.

LITERACY CONNECTIONS: An Innovative Workshop for 2nd Grade Parents and Their Children to Join Together and Share Literature!
This program is designed to help parents become literacy partners with their children. Parents will explore the world of literature as they develop tools to successfully aid their children with the reading and writing process. Certified Language Arts teachers will be the facilitators of the six evening sessions. Children and parents will make connections through reading and writing tasks designed to create interest in literacy. Upon completion of the 6-week program, the literacy partners will face all language arts tasks with a new perspective. Parents will know the questions to pose to their children and children will be eager to share in literacy activities with their parents. **Who:** 2nd Grade Students and a Parent, **When:** A six-week course on the following dates, February 2, 9, 16, 23 March 1, 8, 6:00pm ~ 7:30pm, **Where:** Stillwater Township School, Mrs. Swakopf's classroom (A115).

STUDENT SUBMISSION: In 6th grade social studies, we are learning about Egypt, mummies and other cool, amazing things. We learn about the different classes, different kings and pharaohs. To go along with Egypt and mummies, we have a project where we have to write something about mummies. For example, we can write about the curse of the mummy, what a mummy is, how mummies are made and so many other things. I can't wait to see what other projects we end up doing this year. I hope you can't either. **Submitted by Summer Andrejack**

STUDENT SUBMISSION: 4th grade is learning history about New Jersey's past. They read about the Battle of Trenton where George Washington had a sneak attack and how they won the battle. Their wonderful teacher, Mrs. Celentano, has been teaching the 4th graders about how they won the Battle of Princeton and about the battles of the American Revolution in our region. Now the students know that they have freedom and are free from Great Britain. The students know they can be a free country and can practice any religion they want because of the Declaration of Independence. The people who wrote the Declaration of Independence had courage, faith, and hope that they would win the war. They are the reason we have our independence today. That's what the 4th graders are studying in January. **Submitted by Mia Vazquez**

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.

ZUMBA FUNDRAISER: Kick-start the New Year and come support the 6th Grade Class of 2016 on Friday, January 22nd from 7:00 - 8:00 PM in the Stillwater School Auditorium! Pay at the door - \$15/person, \$10 student/teacher rate. If you have any questions, please contact Autumn Sylvester at: autumnsyl@gmail.com.

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".*

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT: Please join us TONIGHT 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 aconnelly@outlook.com. **A special thank you to Amanda Connelly for chairing this fun-filled event!**

SPRING GERTRUDE HAWK CANDY SALE: The Spring Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale will begin on Monday, February 1st. Packets will be given out to students the week of January 25th. The sale ends on Friday, February 12th and delivery is tentatively set for the week of March 7th. All proceeds benefit the Stillwater PTA. Thank you for your anticipated support! For questions, please contact Jennifer Domaracki at jennifer@dahlhousedesign.com.

TALENT SHOW: This year's TALENT SHOW will be held on Friday, February 26th at 7:00 pm. More info to come! We are in great need of a piano player for the show. If you are able to volunteer as our piano player, please contact Justine Mahon at jmarymahon@gmail.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 stillwaterptacorsec@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.

UPCOMING EVENTS: 1/15 - FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT, 2/1-2/12- GERTRUDE HAWK CANDY SALE, 2/11-2/12- VALENTINE'S DAY CANDY SALE, 2/12- FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE, 2/26- TALENT SHOW

NEXT PTA MEETING: Tuesday, January 19th from 7:00-8:00PM in room A113 (Ms. Conry's Classroom). We welcome and encourage all to attend