



### 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.

### Upcoming Family Workshops

**3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE FAMILY MATH:** Classes for parents AND their children - will take place on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Grade parents and their children to develop strategies for becoming confident readers will take place on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**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!

### Important Dates to Remember:

- ◆ ASLC MEETING DATES: 1/26, 1/28, 2/2, 2/4, 2/9, 2/11
- ◆ GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE WEEK: 1/25 – 1/29
- ◆ 100<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SCHOOL CELEBRATION: 2/11
- ◆ 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 100<sup>th</sup> day of school, which will occur February 11<sup>th</sup> 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!**

### The Great Kindness Challenge

Stillwater School students will take part in "The Great Kindness Challenge" during the week of January 25-29, 2016. Students will kick off the week as they are welcomed by teachers and staff through the "Kindness Tunnel" and with an assembly. Students in Mrs. Pagano's class partnered with Mrs. Makarevich's students in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Pinwheel classes to facilitate the week's activities. These students were responsible for assisting in the preparation of Teacher Kindness Kits along with other "behind-the-scenes" jobs. Look for special information sheets sent home with children today highlighting the Great Kindness Challenge and introducing the global service project "Kind Coins for Kenya" that we will participate in this year. We are looking forward to sharing this program with our school once again this year and watching the entire Stillwater School Community meet the Great Kindness Challenge!

**KIND COINS FOR KENYA:** Stillwater School will join hundreds of schools across the country for the 2016 Great Kindness Challenge. Your child is part of a powerful and positive bullying prevention initiative that will lead to more kindness, unity and respect. In an effort to create a culture of kindness on campuses nationwide, Stillwater School will be participating in a global service project "Kind Coins for Kenya". All students are invited to collect spare change throughout the week. The collected money will be used to help build a new school in a village in Kenya. It's a great opportunity for our students to learn about another culture, expand their compassion and become active global citizens. To learn more about The Great Kindness Challenge, please visit: [www.greatkindnesschallenge.org](http://www.greatkindnesschallenge.org).

**KINDERGARTEN NEWS:** The kindergarten classes have been very busy working on their reading and writing skills. Children are taking leveled reading books home every night to read with their families. We have been writing about winter and learning about Martin Luther King. We are using our phonetic skills to write the "kindergarten" way – writing the sounds that we hear in a word. The children love to write and share their stories.

**LIBRARY NEWS:** Our students have been busy reading literature and informational texts during library time. Younger grades have been learning the features of fiction and non-fiction books and will start learning about biographies soon. Second grade has started a unit on Folktales and have been reading classic fairy tales from different cultures around the world. Third grade has been enjoying the hilarious adventures of beloved author Roald Dahl as he recalls tales of his childhood in his autobiography *Boy*. Upper grades have been enjoying novels by award winning authors Patricia MacLachlan and Gary Paulsen. Most importantly, students are able to check out new books each week and **BRAND NEW BOOKS** hit the shelves every month!

**SIXTH GRADE NEWS:** Sixth grade ELA students are getting more experience with their Google Classroom! They have been a part of the "virtual" classroom in science since the beginning of the year. They are now expanding their experiences to language arts. Students are completing their reading logs online, which not only keeps them on track with their reading, but it also enables them to comment on a chapter, a theme, an experience, or just comment on how they are feeling about reading.

### yearbook sale!

**2015 – 2016 Yearbook Sale will run from January 25<sup>th</sup> – February 26<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$17.25 per yearbook advance orders only!** You will not have the opportunity to purchase a yearbook after February 26<sup>th</sup>. 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!**

## WAYS TO RAISE A READER

1. **Read to him/her every day**, ideally for 15-30 minutes.
2. **Be a reader.** Kids model what they see.
3. **Label everything.** Make or download labels for the everyday things in your home and post them everywhere.
4. **Make reading the easy choice.** If the TV remote and the iPad are handy but the books are kept on a high shelf, what is the likelihood that your kids are going to read?
5. **Limit screen time**
6. **Have a comfortable reading nook**
7. **Listen to audiobooks in the car.**
8. **Cook together.**
9. **Subscribe to magazines he/she likes.**
10. **Be patient and encouraging.**

## 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:** Last week the fifth graders took place in a Colonial Fair. Everybody dressed up and acted like they were living in the colonial times. Everybody played a role or trade such as bakers, teachers or blacksmiths. We were assigned one of the thirteen colonies like Virginia or New York. Many parents walked around and asked us questions. It was so much fun to act like I was a colonist!

*Submitted by Ariana Begraft*

**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** This month the fourth-grade students have been researching famous scientists and famous historical figures during social studies and technology. Students have been researching people such as Elizabeth Blackwell, Sylvia Alice Earle, and John Hart. We've made posters on Google Drawings, slide shows using Google Slides, and newspaper articles utilizing Google Docs. We had to research our people to find out their date of birth, date of death, where they worked, their field of study, contributions to society and why he/she is famous. This project was really fun, and I'm actually sad that I already finished.

*Submitted by Makenzie Kover*

## 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](http://www.optical-academy.com). You do not have to be a Stillwater resident to take advantage of this great resource.

**BOOT CAMP FUNDRAISER:** Join us on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> from 10:15am – 11:15am at Alpha Fitness, 2 E. Clinton Street in Newton. Alpha Fitness trainer and Stillwater Parent, Lindsay Amabile will be instructing! Your \$10.00 donation will go directly to the 2016 6<sup>th</sup> grade Recognition Party! Reserve your spot today! **ALL FITNESS LEVELS WELCOME!** Contact Lindsay Amabile at: [lindsayn3682@aol.com](mailto:lindsayn3682@aol.com) or Heather Throne at: [hmthrone@gmail.com](mailto:hmthrone@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](http://www.stillwatertwppta.my-pta.org). Like us on Facebook- "Stillwater Twp. PTA".\*

**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](mailto:jennifer@dahlhousedesign.com).

**TALENT SHOW: UPDATE:** The date for this year's Talent Show has been moved due to a scheduling conflict. A new date will be announced soon with 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](mailto:jmarymahon@gmail.com)

**TRICKY TRAY:** Save the date! The Stillwater PTA Tricky Tray will be held on **Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:christinebello1980@gmail.com) or Karyn Carter at [karyn1213@gmail.com](mailto: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](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 [stillwaterptacorsec@yahoo.com](mailto: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 [aeconnelly@outlook.com](mailto: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 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. **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](http://www.ShopRiteForMySchool.com) today to start earning cash for your school.

**UPCOMING EVENTS: 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**