



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ABSENTEE CALLS: All absences must be reported directly to our dedicated attendance line **by 9:30am - 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.**

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).

Important Dates to Remember:

- ◆ **ASLC MEETING DATES:** 2/2, 2/4, 2/9, 2/11, 2/16, 2/18, 2/23
- ◆ **100TH DAY OF SCHOOL CELEBRATION:** 2/11
- ◆ **YEARBOOK SALE:** 1/25 – 2/26
- ◆ **AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION WEAR RED DAY:** 2/5

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!**

SPEECH NEWS: We are gearing up to enter the month of February. This month, we will be learning a lot about Valentine's Day! February is a perfect time of year to learn about being kind, giving compliments, and being a good friend! We will also be talking about cards, candy, and flowers! A fun activity for you to do at home is to make cards together as a family. Lay out different papers, stickers, and craft materials. Have everyone cut, glue, and tape papers together. Then glue some decorations on! You can decorate different cards for different people, and even write nice notes in them! Don't be afraid to be creative! This provides great practice in thinking of others. Throughout February, emphasize pronouns, pronouns, and more pronouns!! This is a great month because there is a lot of practice when preparing and receiving cards! Use words like he, she, him, and her. Talk about your child's friends and their interests! "This one is for Josh. Can you write his name?" "She gave you a purple card!" "Let's give this card to her." "He loves candy."

FOURTH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS NEWS: The fourth grade students recently completed a unit on historical non-fiction stories. A series of selections were read and discussed. "This time was different" was the first story read. Students learned about a real drought that occurred in the 1930's. This story helped students to understand the challenges that people had to face during this natural disaster. The second story read was "President Roosevelt's Fireside Chat." This was a firsthand account by someone who actually participated in the events. Students compared these two stories and realized that Americans had to work together to bring the farms back to life after many years of a drought. "Jim Lovell: Stranded in Space," was the third selection that students read. This historical story had a similar theme of hope when compared to the other stories. Finally, many students read historical non-fiction passages and answered a variety of comprehension questions on the computer. During this unit, students worked in peer groups to understand how to make inferences, identify the main idea of a story, compare and contrast events, and to decode new vocabulary words. Many students found this genre of stories interesting and would like to read more of these stories.

THIRD GRADE NEWS: Third graders have been busy bees working hard in all subject areas. Students started learning about fractions this week. Some of the projects to look out for are: pizza project fractions, fraction flowers, and ice cream scoop fractions. Please continue to study multiplication and division facts. Students finished reading Ramona Quimby, Age 8 by Beverly Cleary. Many students were able to relate to the reliable, rambunctious, spunky and kind-hearted Ramona Quimby. Students are looking forward to start poetry this week!

ST. JUDE'S MATH A THON: Once again our students are participating in the Math a Thon. This is a great opportunity for the children to practice their math while helping those in need. Permission slips went home this week, please return them by Friday, February 5th. The kids at St. Jude's thank you for your support.

GET YOUR STUDENTS MOVING!

A great way to enhance attention during and between lessons is to incorporate short exercise or stretch breaks into the lessons. By dividing lessons into 8 -20 minute chunks, sprinkled with activities that involve movement, children are able to stay more focused on learning.

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!**

NOTICIAS DE ESPAÑOL ~ SPANISH NEWS ~ PEN PALS FROM SPAIN! Students in 5th and 6th grade recently received their first letter from students in Spain! Through a special organization named *epals*, we were matched with a teacher from northern Spain. This connection will allow us to send letters back and forth during the school year to learn about our new friends. Our penpals live in the town of Rubayo Cantabria, attend the Marina de Cudeyo School, and are practicing English by writing letters to us. After reading our first letters, 5th and 6th grade students created letters in return, using Spanish, to send to their Spanish-speaking penpals! Letters are being shared digitally using a Google Drive shared folder and students will receive a printed copy of their penpal letter. ¡Estamos excitados!

TECHNOLOGY NEWS: In class, the students practice their keyboarding skills using two main software programs. The kindergarten and first grades use "Type to Learn Jr." and second through sixth grades use "Mavis Beacon". These are both excellent programs to use however there are many keyboarding programs and drills online. Have your child try these websites on their free time. Also, on the Technology Links web page, I have other Keyboarding websites that are appropriate for students. (Please Note: Other links, ads, and websites can bring you anywhere online. Please take time to assist your children when using the Internet.)

<http://keybr.com/>, <http://www.powertyping.com/>, <http://www.freetypinggame.net/>

STUDENT SUBMISSION: In 4th grade Science we are learning about hurricanes and tornados. We did an experiment where if you get a bowl of water and you mix it really fast then put food coloring in the middle it resembles a hurricane. The food coloring groups together and forms what looks like clouds. In the middle of the bowl it is really calm like the eye of a hurricane. We could see that the eye of the storm was calm in our model just like a real hurricane. In Social Studies, we are learning about Harriet Tubman and the Civil War. I learned that Harriet Tubman risked her life to save others on the Underground Railroad. I admire her for that. I was also surprised to learn that the Underground Railroad really wasn't a railroad, but a line of houses that enslaved people would stop at along the way to their freedom. **Submitted by Sophia Molfetto**

STUDENT SUBMISSION: On Tuesday, January 26th, third through sixth grade pinwheel students went to Sandyston-Walpack School. We participated in special challenges while working with a partner. Some of those challenges included trying to move a cut-out robot across a string without using our body and making a robot hand with a finger that could move with the pull of a string. We were partnered with people depending on where we were in line. I had a great time and I think others did too. I hope there are more field trips like that again! **Submitted by Rachel Kline**

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.

BOOT CAMP FUNDRAISER: Join us on Sunday, January 31st 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 6th grade Recognition Party! Reserve your spot today! **ALL FITNESS LEVELS WELCOME!** Contact Lindsay Amabile at: lindsayn3682@aol.com or Heather Throne at: 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.stillwatertwpppta.my-pta.org. Like us on Facebook- "Stillwater Twp. PTA".*

SPRING GERTRUDE HAWK CANDY SALE: The Spring Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale is now underway! 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.

VALENTINE'S DAY SALE: This year's Valentine's Day Sale will take place during all lunch periods on Thursday (February 11th) and Friday (February 12th). Parents: If you are able to help with this sale between the hours of 10:30AM-1:30PM on either day, please contact Meredith Reilly at mreilly32@yahoo.com.

DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE: The PTA will be hosting a Daddy/Daughter Dance on Friday, February 12th from 6:00-8:00PM in the school gym. This event is open to all Dads or male father figures. Please RSVP by February 6th to Tim Reilly at (201)450-7666 or treilly@pcti.tec.nj.us. Moms are needed to help with set-up, coordinating decorations, snacks/h'oderves, and clean-up. Contact Tim if you are able to help.

TALENT SHOW: This year's Talent Show will be held on Friday, March 24th from 6:30-8:30PM. Rehearsals will be held every Monday beginning February 1st (excluding 3/14) from 4:00-5:00PM. 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. **Class Donations-** Please kindly return your envelope with your donation (suggested donation is \$5 but feel free to give what you prefer) and be sure the front of the envelope is filled out with your child's name and teacher's name. Money will be collected by the PTA and then distributed to the Class Coordinator so that they may purchase the tray/basket. Thank you all for your support!

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!

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: 2/1-2/12- GERTRUDE HAWK CANDY SALE, 2/11-2/12- VALENTINE'S DAY CANDY SALE, 2/12- DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE, 3/24- TALENT SHOW