



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.**

yearbook sale extended!

2015 - 2016 Stillwater School Yearbook Sale will be extended until March 4th.

**COST IS \$17.25 PER YEARBOOK
advance orders only!**

You will not have the opportunity to purchase a yearbook after March 4th.

Order forms were sent home with your child.
Please make check payable to Stillwater School.
If paying in cash - exact amount only, please.

don't miss out!

5TH AND 6TH GRADE SCIENCE: 6th Grade has been working diligently through the ideas of electromagnets and electronics. They have been using the 'Electronic Playgrounds' to explore and connect to ideas related to the devices we use regularly. Soon, they will be creating bridges out of spaghetti that can withstand earthquakes. 5th Grade has been researching birds with the use of Google Docs and Slides. They have discovered current issues involving human impact on environments. Their next step is to take the role of the bird and engineer a bird nest to withstand a fall from a tree. We can't wait to see what happens!

This coming Monday, February 22, is the District Band and Chorus Concert. The concert will be held at Kittatinny beginning at 7pm. Please come out to support the students of Stillwater as well as the other sending districts. If your child is participating, please ask for the letter that went home this week for more specifics about upcoming rehearsals and concert night. Hope to see you there!

Important Dates to Remember:

- ◆ **ASLC MEETING DATES: 2/23, 2/25, 3/1, 3/3, 3/8**
- ◆ **YEARBOOK SALE: 1/25 - 2/26**
- ◆ **DISTRICT BAND CONCERT: 2/22 - 7:00PM @ KRHS**


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

PEDOMETER "OPOLY" RESULTS: The Pedometer "Opoly" program has come to an exciting end! The total number of steps from all of the participating classes combined was 4,131,460! The 6th grade and overall winner was Mrs. Ciccolella's class with a grand total of 432,968 steps! Mrs. Ciccolella's class averaged over 54,000 steps per class during Pedometer "Opoly!" The 5th grade winner was Mrs. Bickhardt's class with a total of 334,792 steps! The 4th grade class winner was Mrs. Celentano's class with a total of 307,024 steps! The 3rd grade class winner was Miss Parsons' class with a total of 383,152 steps! Congratulations to every class on these amazing results! We would like to thank all of the students for giving us their best effort! Please remember to keep moving; every step counts!

FAMILY MATH: Third Grade Family Math began on Thursday, February 4th. Openers included toothpick puzzles, cut a card, coin problems, tangrams and a Venn diagram. Activities enjoyed by all were "Sum What Dice" and "Double Digit" both place-value dice games. Congratulations to Katie Longcor who came closest to the goldfish estimation of 990. She estimated 875! Congratulations!

CHILD ASSAULT PREVENTION: During the week of March 8th - March 12th, Stillwater Township School will be participating in the Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Project. The CAP project aims to prevent child assault by teaching children to recognize and deal with potentially dangerous situations, and by training teachers and parents to help prevent the victimization of children. The program has three components: a parent program, a teacher/staff in-service, and individual classroom workshops for children. Our parent program will be held on Monday, March 7th at 9:00 a.m. The workshop will include a detailed description of the children's workshop that will be held throughout the week. **A letter describing the program in more detail and a permission slip will be sent home on Monday, February 22nd.** Please return the slip **ONLY** if you **DO NOT** want your child to participate in the Child Assault Prevention Project. If you plan to attend the parent workshop on Monday, March 7th at 9:00 a.m., please RSVP to Brittany Celentano at brittany.celentano@stillwaterschool.net If you have any additional questions regarding the CAP Project, please contact Marissa Cramer at 973-383-6171 ext. 212.

FIRST GRADE NEWS: The first grade has been busy learning about Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. They have read stories on each president. This week the children designed Lincoln's cabin and wrote a paragraph about his life. Next week, they will make a portrait of George Washington and write important facts about him. If you see a first grader, ask them to give you a fact about the presidents.

 **Check It Out:** Does your child prefer to wait until the last minute to study for a test? Try out the free app, Quizlet, to make studying more interesting. It's so easy! Students can enter in the information from their study guides, and Quizlet will create flashcards to practice. Students can study on their own or with a parent!

THIRD GRADE NEWS: This week in 3rd grade we are finishing up reading the novel Stone Fox, by John Reynolds Gardiner. The book is mainly about a young boy who enters a dog sled race with the hopes of winning to help his Grandfather pay back his taxes. Throughout the unit, the students have been spending time learning about the Iditarod. As one of the activities for the unit, the third graders are creating a persuasive poster to help advertise for the famous dog sled race. Be sure to look out for our colorful and creative posters hanging in the hallway soon!

SCHOOL COUNSELING CORNER: My guidance activities are going very well. The fifth graders all learned about sincere apologies. One fifth grader said, "Saying sorry is a sign of strength, not of weakness." The sixth graders are learning about perception, and how important it is to look at situations from another person's perspective.

STUDENT SUBMISSION: Presidents' Day has been around for quite a long time. Presidents' Day is celebrated on the third Monday in the month of February. Presidents' Day used to be known as Uniform Holiday Monday Act. It tried to get a three day weekend for people that worked, but it has since changed to Presidents' Day. Now people that work have a three day weekend and so do most kids that go to school. When we celebrate Presidents' Day, it is only celebrated in the United States. It never actually falls on any presidents' birthday. We should celebrate Presidents' Day because it honors all the presidents that have served both past and present. **Submitted by James Whitby**

STUDENT SUBMISSION: In January, Miss Franck and Mr. Aroune started working with a selection of students in the 5th and 6th grades for District Chorus and District Band. Miss Franck teaches the band students a variety of songs to perform at the concert. Mr. Aroune teaches the students how to sing five songs for the upcoming concert. These students go to Kittatinny Regional High School for practice with the sending districts. Hopefully, these visits will pay off and it will be a great concert. The concert will take place on Monday the 22nd, at 7:00 p.m. There is no fee for the concert, and anyone can come. Please consider attending and supporting our talented students!
Submitted by: Katie Williver

THE GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE: Stillwater School kicked off The Great Kindness Challenge with a school-wide assembly and a Proclamation read by Mr. Robinson. Students watched videos showing news coverage of the 2015 Great Kindness Challenge and this year's global service project – *Kind coins for Kenya*. Finally, the entire student body joined together in singing "The Kind-Hearted Hand," led by Ms. Franck. Each student received a checklist, and was challenged to perform as many kind deeds as possible during the week. By the end of the week, students had completed over 3,110 kind acts! Students in grades 4-6, led by Mrs. Piazza, were offered the opportunity to create a page in Kids for Peace's next kindness book. Buddy Day, titled "Make a Wish for a Child in Another Country," created an opportunity for younger and older students to work together, discussing a wish they would make for children around the world. Students generously participated in the *Kind coins for Kenya* campaign by donating more than \$300 in coins! This donation will be sent to Kids for Peace, who will then send it along to Magi and her village of Mikei in Kenya, Africa to assist with the construction of a new school. Behind the scenes, Mrs. Makarevich's Pinwheel students and Mrs. Pagano's students designed, filled and delivered Teacher Kindness Kits. What a wonderful way to encourage our students to remember that *Kindness Matters* to everyone!

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 REC. SOCCER: Registration forms were sent home in January. Register by return mail, OR by coming to our **Registration Event**, Feb. 20th at 11am in the school cafeteria! Soccer questions will be answered, and refreshments will be available. Rec. Soccer will buy (and accept donations of) used jerseys, shorts, soccer socks, shin guards, and cleats in good condition, and sell them at a small profit to raise needed funds for new soccer balls and goals. Please arrive 15 minutes early if you have soccer stuff to sell or donate. Contact: JimKline@embarqmail.com (973)600-1024 before the 20th if you wish to sell or donate without attending the event.

KRHS TRICKY TRAY: To benefit Project Graduation 2016, on March 18th at Kittatinny Regional High School. Doors open at 6:00 and drawing starts at 8:00. Lots of great prizes, specials and super specials. Admission is free and no one under 18 is permitted. Free coffee/tea and baked goods, other food available for purchase. For more information call 973 383 1800, ext. 1140

KCAA ANNUAL BEEFSTEAK DINNER: Saturday, April 9th at the Fredon Rec Center. All you can eat and soft drinks provided for \$40.00 per ticket. Fun begins at 7pm with lots of amazing raffles and music by the Snake Oil Willie Band. No tickets sold at the door. Email questions to kittatinnyfootballassociation1@gmail.com.

YOGA FUNDRAISER: Join us for Yoga with Kristi Meng on [Wednesday, March 2nd 6:30PM](#) - Stillwater Cafeteria. \$10 donation - pay in advance, or at the door. Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced, Men, Women, Children - All Welcome! Questions/reservations: Email Debi Campanella at dacampanella@msn.com. All donations go directly to the 2016 6th Grade Recognition Party. THANK YOU KRISTI! For more information on Kristi's studio (located at [911 Main Street](#), Stillwater), visit: pranaforpeace.com or Prana for Peace Yoga on Facebook.

LITERACY STRATEGIES FOR FAMILIES: On Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 6:00pm at 127 Mill Street, Newton, Project Sussex Kids will be hosting a FREE workshop to learn expert strategies for supporting your child's reading achievement and encourage a love of reading. Registration is required: www.spanadvocacy.org, or call Project Self Sufficiency at 973-940-3500.

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".*

SPRING GERTRUDE HAWK CANDY SALE: A special thank you to Jen Domaracki for chairing this fundraiser! Thank you to everyone who ordered through the catalog. Orders are expected to arrive the week of March 7th. Online ordering is still available through March 19th at www.gertrudehawk.com using group code **119141**. All proceeds benefit the Stillwater PTA. For questions, please contact Jennifer Domaracki at jennifer@dahlhousedesign.com.

VALENTINE'S DAY SALE: A huge thank you to Meredith Reilly for chairing the Valentine's Day Sale last week! Thank you also to Holly Capozzoli, Amanda Connelly, Karyn Carter, Jen Kraft and Enza Franek. We appreciate everyone's support!*

DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE: *A huge thank you to everyone who helped and attended the Daddy/Daughter Dance! It was a great success. A special thanks to Tim Reilly for chairing this event and for his helpers- Vicki Yanaga, Justine Mahon, Alex Yanaga, Jenna Gately, Dianna Maggio, Stacey Harvey, Lisa Roycroft, Renee Brenner, Jessica Steffens, Corrine Swakopf, and Mr. Nick!*

TALENT SHOW: This year's Talent Show will be held on Thursday, March 24th from 6:30-8:30PM. It's not too late to take part in this! Rehearsals are held every Monday, (excluding 3/14) from 4:00-5:00PM. **A mandatory Dress Rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, March 23rd from 4:00 – 5:30PM.** We are in great need of a piano player for the show. Parents are also needed to help the night of the event. If you are able to volunteer your time, 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 stillwaterptacoresec@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- Last year we earned our school a total of \$1,401.16! So far this year we have earned \$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: 3/24- TALENT SHOW, 4/15 – Tricky Tray

NEXT PTA MEETING: Tuesday, February 23rd from 7:00-8:00PM in room A119. We welcome & encourage all to attend.