



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!

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 was 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.

Important Dates to Remember:

- ◆ **ASLC MEETING DATES: 3/1, 3/3, 3/8, 3/10, 4/5, 4/7, 4/12**
- ◆ **LOVE OF READING WEEK: 2/29 – 3/4**
- ◆ **PROGRESS REPORTS MAILED HOME: 3/3**
- ◆ **YEARBOOK SALE: EXTENDED UNTIL MARCH 4TH**

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

THIRD GRADE FAMILY MATH: Families taking the 3rd grade Family Math Class enjoyed the Pentasquares and "How Close Can you Get" card game. Warm up activities included a "What's the Value of Your Name" graph, a height activity, geoboards and clock activities. Congratulations to Autumn Goriscak who won the Cheez-it crackers estimation jar. We will meet again on Thursday evening of next week.

PRESCHOOL NEWS: Auditions are over, parts are given and the preschool classes are busy getting ready for their upcoming production of the show, *The Bunnies Are Not in their Beds*. The children are enjoying all elements of putting the production together. Learning new songs and dances has been a challenge, but nothing is too big for our actors and actresses. Broadway watch out, here we come!

SECOND GRADE NEWS: Second grade students will be honing their math fact skills during the next several weeks as they participate in the math fact Olympics. Each week they will be practicing a new event to help them master their basic addition and subtraction facts. The fun started with "Slap the Fact" where they quickly had to find and slap the correct fact after rolling a pair of dice. They are looking forward to the next event, what will it be? They also helped to create a bulletin board that displays tricky or difficult math facts – May the Facts Be With You...

NEWS FROM THE NURSE: *During the past week several of our students have contracted a gastrointestinal illness. Symptoms reported have included abdominal discomfort, vomiting, and diarrhea, with or without fever. Since most gastrointestinal illnesses are spread through direct contact, hand to mouth, everyone should practice good hand hygiene at home and in school. To help prevent the spread of infections, hands should be washed frequently, especially before eating or preparing food, after using the bathroom, or any time that hands are contaminated by coughing or sneezing into hands. Hand sanitizer is effective against most viruses and bacteria, but may not be as effective as hand washing against norovirus, a possible cause of gastrointestinal illness. Children will be sent home from school for vomiting or diarrhea. If a child has two or more vomiting or diarrhea episodes in a day the child should be kept home from school on the following school day.*

FOURTH GRADE NEWS: We have been doing many fun and interesting things in 4th grade. In science we have been learning a lot about rocks and minerals. We learned about the weather and how soil is made. In social studies we learned a lot about famous inventors and their inventions. Some inventions we learned about are Thomas Edison's light bulb, Alexander Graham Bell's telephone, and Henry Ford's automobile. In language arts we have been reading *Bunnicula* and *Owls In The Family*. In math we are learning about fractions and how to write them in simplest form. We are doing a lot of fun stuff in 4th grade. We also have done many fun things in our specials. We have been making pinch pots in art and we glazed them. In music we saw scenes of *Fantasia*. In Spanish we have been making folders about reading and answering questions in our Mexico folders. In health we have been learning about teeth and our senses. In Library we have been doing projects about different artists such as Leonardo Da Vinci and Michelangelo. Those are some cool things we have been doing in our specials.

Written By Colin and Mia

CHECK IT OUT

Reading Strategies to Promote Independent Reading

When your child is reading to you and they make an error try the following prompts before you tell them the word and after you wait for them to finish the sentence:

* "Try that again, something didn't look right." – when they say a word that means the same but is not the word in the sentence.

* "Try that again, something didn't sound right." – when they say a word without the correct grammar

* "Try that again, something didn't make sense" – when they say a word that doesn't make sense in the sentence or story.

* "Think about the story. What would make sense?" "Say the first sound of the word and go across the word looking for parts you know" - when they are stuck on a word

* "Read that again and make it sound like you are talking" – when they are not reading fluently (model how it should sound & then they try it)

* "I really like the way you noticed something did not sound right (or look right) (or make sense) and you stopped to go back to fix it." – when they self-correct without you prompting them

These are just a few strategies that can help your child become an independent reader, who notices when something is not correct and can re-read to correct it. It is important not to let your child get frustrated. If your child still has difficulty after trying a strategy, just show them how to figure out the word by modeling what they could do or telling them the word.

Finally, reading to your child is one of the most important things you can do to promote a love of reading and gain word knowledge and book structure even after they have learned to read! Happy Reading!

STUDENT SUBMISSION: In fourth grade language arts we are reading a book called Bunnacula. Bunnacula is about a bunny that's a vampire. In math, we are learning how to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator. We are also learning how to simplify fractions. In science, we are learning about different types of rocks. For example, three types of rocks are sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous rock. In social studies we are learning about immigrants settling in New Jersey and the Industrial Revolution. Next week fourth graders are going to use Google Chromebooks. We are very excited! American Red Cross will be starting on March 11th. There are so many fun things going on right now in 4th grade!

Submitted by: Sofia Raposo and Ava Kraft

STUDENT SUBMISSION: In science we are currently learning about astronomy. We were sent home with a fun project which was to create a constellation. On the day it was due, I saw so many creative things! We learned that constellations can appear upside down in different parts of the world. We also learned that each constellation has a story. Some stars in constellations are brighter than the sun. I'm really enjoying learning about this!

Submitted by: Carlie Nerlinger

STUDENT SUBMISSION: This week in 5th grade Social Studies we are making ABC posters! We have been working in partners of two. We have to come up with a word for each letter of the alphabet that relates to the Revolutionary War and make a poster that looks like a patchwork quilt. For each letter, we have to draw a picture and write a brief summary about the thing or event from the Revolutionary War. We are having fun on this project and we are all excited to see what we are learning about next!

Submitted by: Amanda Chadwick

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

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.

PIZZA FUNDRAISER: Villa Capri in the Hampton Plaza in Newton will donate \$1.00 for every pizza sold on February 26, 2016, to benefit the 6th Grade Class Recognition party. So, eat some really great pizza and help raise money for us!! Dine in, take out, delivery – 973-383-1777.

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.

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! **Family Trays:** Please consider donating a family tray. Each family to donate a tray will receive a free sheet of level 1 tickets! **Pre-Sale Tickets:** Pre-sale ticket packages are now available- \$30 includes: 5 sheets Level 1 tickets, 6 Level 2 tickets, 2 Level 3 tickets-A \$6 savings. Please send order form and payment together in one envelope to: the PTA mailbox at school labeled: PTA-Tricky Tray Ticket Pre-Sales Attn: Jen Kraft or mailed to: Tricky Tray Pre-Sales, PO Box 12, Stillwater, NJ 07875. Checks should be made payable to *Stillwater PTA*. **ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 8, 2016.** Tickets will be distributed the night of the event under the contact name. For questions or more information, please contact Jen Kraft at stillwaterptacorsec@yahoo.com or (973)229-2990.

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 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: Thursday, March 10th from 7:00-8:00PM in room A119. We welcome and encourage all to attend!

Please note: This will also be a Tricky Tray drop-off time.