



**POSITIVE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK**, Read by: **Jeremy Schear**  
 "Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow'."  
 ~ **Mary Anne Radmacher**

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

## 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.** Thank you for your cooperation.

**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. 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).** Thank-you for your cooperation!

**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. Matt Robinson or Mrs. Sue Sager.

### Determination, Dreams, and Destiny by Design STRATEGIC PLAN

**FINAL MEETING RESCHEDULED TO FEBRUARY 4, 2015 - 7PM**

The Stillwater Board of Education invites you to attend three meetings to **ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE** in creating our Strategic Plan!

Strategic planning creates a vision for the future, and identifies goals and strategies necessary to move the district forward to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We will be discussing the strengths, accomplishments, and challenges of our school district, the vision and expectations for our schools and the goals and objectives necessary to design our future. We are inviting staff members, parents, students, community leaders and other interested members of the public to work together with us – so that we can effectively plan for the future of our district and students.

The meeting will be facilitated by The New Jersey School Boards Association Field Service Representative, Al Annunziata. For more information, please visit our school website at [www.stillwaterschool.net](http://www.stillwaterschool.net) and look for **Strategic Planning**. Minutes of the first meeting can be found on our website under the Community tab. **If you are planning to attend the final meeting, on 2/4, please RSVP to Renee Woehr at 973-383-6635.**

### POSITIVE BUS BEHAVIOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM:

This program rewards students who are kind, respectful, and helpful to drivers and peers alike. Students who received yellow tickets for the week of 11/17 and are eligible for the monthly grand prizes are as follows: **Autumn Goriscak, Brian Babcock, Evan Raposo, Tyler Chodak, Olivia Compton, Josh Cornman, Luxi Dutzi, Ryan Connelly, Leo Watson.**

## Important Dates to Remember:

- ❖ **ASLC DATES: 12/16, 12/18, 1/6, 1/8, 1/13, 1/15, 1/20**
- ❖ **SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: 12/15 @ 7:00PM**
- ❖ **HOLIDAY CONCERT: 12/9 @ 7:00PM**
- ❖ **SENIOR HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: 12/10 @ 11:00AM**
- ❖ **TREP\$ MARKETPLACE: 12/17 6:30PM - 8:00PM**
- ❖ **PTA HOLIDAY SHOPPE: 12/17 – 12/19**

**NEWS FROM THE NURSE:** Recently we have had several children in multiple grade levels with coxsackie virus infections. This illness is also commonly called hand, foot, and mouth disease. The disease occurs most often in children but adults can also get the infection. Symptoms may include fever, sores in the mouth, and a skin rash that often appears on the hands and feet. The rash begins as red, raised spots which may develop blisters. The mouth sores may also become ulcers. The coxsackie virus can spread through nose and throat secretions, fluid from open blisters, or stool from infected people. To help prevent the spread of infection, practice good hand hygiene and disinfect contaminated surfaces. The disease will run its course and rarely causes serious illness or complications. There is no specific treatment for hand, foot, and mouth disease. Children should stay home if they have a fever and until any blisters have scabbed over. People may continue to be contagious even after all of the symptoms have resolved. Therefore, practicing good hand washing and avoiding touching the eyes, nose, and mouth are the best ways to lower your chances of catching the virus.

**YEARBOOK NEWS: DEADLINE EXTENDED!** Wanted - 6th Graders' Baby Photos for the 2014-2015 Yearbook! Please bring in a baby photo of your choice - **NO LATER THAN 12/12**. Your baby photo will be displayed next to your 6th grade photo and returned to you upon completion. Digital photos can be e-mailed to: [Melissa.piazza@stillwaterschool.net](mailto:Melissa.piazza@stillwaterschool.net)

## First Marking Period Honor Roll

**FIFTH GRADE:** Collin Amabile, Summer Andrejack, Abigail Ankrom, Shannon Blide, Ryan Connelly, Justin Degan, Ashley Geydoshek, Arin Goriscak, Megan Halpin, Abigail LoCascio, Aylia Mahon, Daniel Meredith, Trent Molfetto, Luke Riva, Charlie Throne, Ryan Throne, Isabel Vazquez, Katie Williver.

**SIXTH GRADE:** Gabriel Arias, Jessica Contino, Patrick Franco, Anna Fronczkowski, Amanda Goriscak, Connor Hanna, Jacob Jones, Zackarie Mabee, Jordan Maruska, Ava Nothstine, Kayla Saraiva, Cooper Waldo.

## Congratulations!

**FIRST GRADE NEWS:** The children in first grade listened to the story "Elf on a Shelf". Each classroom was visited by an elf. Their names are Chippy, Snowy and Olaf. The children learned about writing friendly letters. They wrote a letter to the elves at the North Pole. Chippy, Snowy and Olaf delivered our letters. We are eagerly awaiting a response to our letters.

**5<sup>TH</sup> AND 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCIENCE:** We have been busy! 5<sup>th</sup> grade has observed various water systems and has expanded their ideas to see how the ocean is affected by water's properties. 6<sup>th</sup> grade has completed the frog dissection! They learned about the various systems of the body and went above and beyond to compare humans to frogs! The trout are swimming and eating. Both grades have worked hard to keep the environment of the tank stable as the trout continue to grow! Great job!! ~ **Mrs. McMahon**

**PARCC TESTING UPDATE:** Stillwater Township School students in grades 3-8 will be taking the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) Assessment this spring, as will students in public schools statewide. While schedules are not yet official, the state has provided 'Administration Windows,' which the school would like to share for your information. PARCC is a two-part test. The first block of testing, called the Performance Based Assessment, will occur from March 2 – 27, 2015. The second block of testing, called the End of Year Assessment, will occur from April 27 – May 22, 2015. Further information about specific grade levels' testing dates and times will be forthcoming – expect communication about this from your child's teacher in the near future. For additional information on PARCC, visit <http://parconline.org/for-parents>.

**STUDENT COUNCIL TOY DRIVE:** Student Council is participating in a holiday toy drive being sponsored by Project Self-Sufficiency. We are asking our Stillwater families to donate NEW, UNWRAPPED toys/gifts during the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>. To make it more interesting, we are teaming up our grade levels in a friendly competition. Pre-K and 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be a team, K and 5<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Stillwater School is also competing against other participating schools in the county. A trophy and \$250 will be awarded to the school who donates the most items. Toys/gifts for children of all ages will be gladly accepted. **Thank you in advance for your generosity!**

**POWER OF ONE, THE STRENGTH OF MANY:** Many students have been recognized for their respectful behavior and kindness towards classmates with a "Power of One" certificate this year. These certificates are being displayed on a bulletin board near the cafeteria.

Congratulations to the following students for showing us how *the Power of One can lead to the strength of many!*

LIAM AMABILE

ALEXA DEGAN

KEEGAN MONAHAN

RYAN SMALETZ

REAGAN DECARO

VANESSA DESTEFANO

CLARE SCHWARTZ

IZZIE VAZQUEZ

*\*Article submitted by the 6th Grade Pinwheel students*

**TREP\$ NEWS:** This year's Marketplace will be on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Stillwater School Gym from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. The event is free and open to the public. The entire community is invited to come and see what happens when you give children the creative outlet and responsibility that comes with starting a business venture. Your presence will make it even more special for these very talented sixth graders. **Please remember your bus notes.**

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

## FUNDRAISERS

**MARKET DAY:** NEW THIS MONTH: Sweet Belgian Waffles, Mac'N'Cheese Pizza, and Brownie Brittle Variety Pack. All orders of \$40 (pre-tax) will receive a FREE 1 lb. Bag of Broccoli Florets. If you input your order online, and it totals \$90 (pre-tax), input the Promo Code "DECBONUS" to receive a FREE 1 lb. Pork Tenderloin. FREQUENT BUYERS: If you made two purchases of \$40 (pre-tax) between September and November, simply place your third \$40 (pre-tax) purchase this month to receive a FREE Salad Bowl Serving Set at your December sale pick-up. Paper orders are due back to school by Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Cut-off for online orders is 11 pm on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Sale pick-up date is Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm. Questions, contact Cheryl Castner, 973-579-3182 or [ccastner@embarqmail.com](mailto:ccastner@embarqmail.com).

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**LACROSSE SIGN UP:** 3rd-6th graders, registration for the Kittatinny Youth Lacrosse Club spring lacrosse season is now open. Act quickly as teams will fill up. A parents meeting will be held in early February with detailed information. Keep an eye out for date and time. Please visit our website, <http://www.kittatinnylax.com/> for registration forms and information. Questions may be emailed to the respective boys and girls programs. Come play the fastest growing sport in America. If you have any questions, please contact Hilary Manser at [973-534-1922](tel:973-534-1922).

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**SCHOOL BUS DRIVER POSITIONS AVAILABLE:**

Substitute, regular route, sports and activity runs. Scheduling done to coordinate with your schedule; daily, weekends, and afternoons. Great extra income. We will train. Stocker Bus Co. 973-383-4704

**HOLIDAY CRAFT/GIFT SHOW:** Swartswood Fire Department is having a Holiday Craft & Gift Show on December 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 3:00pm. Interested crafters or vendors can call the firehouse @ 973-383-5450 or email [swartswoodfire@hotmail.com](mailto:swartswoodfire@hotmail.com) for more information.

**CHRISTMAS TREE SALE:** Stillwater Cub Scouts, Pack 83 will be selling Christmas trees. Visit the Stillwater School between 11am and 3pm Saturdays and Sundays in December till Christmas. Trees are \$30 each. We will also have Christmas wreaths, made by the Boy Scout Troop for \$18 each. For more information please call Lori @ 973-948-4889 or email [ajbuff@embarqmail.com](mailto:ajbuff@embarqmail.com)

**CUB SCOUT SIGN UP:** The Stillwater Cub Scouts, Pack 83 is looking for new scouts and leaders in 1st and 2nd grade. Sign up today and be ready for the Pinewood Derby. If interested please call Lori @ 973-948-4889 or email [ajbuff@embarqmail.com](mailto:ajbuff@embarqmail.com)

**STILLWATER TREE LIGHTING:** Stillwater Township Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and visit from Santa will be held on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Swartswood Fire House - (snow date, 12/13). Sponsored by the Stillwater Recreation Commission.

## STILLWATER PTA

**HOLIDAY VENDOR/CRAFT FAIR:** *\*\*Many thanks to Cheryl Williver & Christine Bello for chairing the Holiday Vendor/Craft Fair again this year! All of their hard work made for a very well attended event. We greatly appreciate their efforts.\*\** Cheryl would like to extend a huge thanks to Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Sager, Christine Bello, Kristin Oldenburg, Trish Hendershot, Melissa Nelson and her 6th Grade crew, Jen Kraft, Amanda Connelly, Janet Halpin, Dana Ferrari, Christa Degani, Donna Foster, Linda Brannan, the Custodial staff, our radio ad sponsors (Hendershot Excavating and Fischer Detailing Service), and Santa for helping in many ways! We had a nice turnout, lots of happy shoppers, and we appreciate the support from everyone. Cheryl received a nice "Thank You" from her friend Monika, who packaged up the Cards for Soldiers for the 'Operation Jersey Cares' group. If anyone would still like to make a Thank You/Holiday card to send to a soldier, here is their information: Operation Jersey Cares, PO Box 551, Somerville, NJ 08876. Their website is [www.operationjerseycares.org](http://www.operationjerseycares.org). **Thank you!**

**THE BOOK IT PROGRAM:** It is time to turn in your November Book It! logs. Please make sure you have a name and homeroom teacher on them so that you can receive your pizza coupon! When you redeem your coupon at Pizza Hut, ask for your Passport to Reading and sticker. Collect all six stickers and enter to win a \$30,000 prize from Book It!. If you need a log, extras are available in the office or send me your name and homeroom teacher at [christinemenkins@aol.com](mailto:christinemenkins@aol.com).

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT:** Please join us on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:45PM for a Family Movie Night. Come watch How to Train Your Dragon 2 on a giant screen in the cafeteria and enjoy free popcorn and bottled water! Also, bring blankets, pillows, chairs, and kids can 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 [aeconnelly@outlook.com](mailto:aeconnelly@outlook.com).

**FALL GERTRUDE HAWK CANDY SALE:** Candy orders are in and can be picked up downstairs at the school ASAP. Online ordering is still available through December 13<sup>th</sup>! Our group number is: 119141. Any questions, please contact Jennifer Dahl Domaracki at [dahlhousedesign@mac.com](mailto:dahlhousedesign@mac.com). *\*\*A special thank you to Jennifer Domaracki for chairing this great fundraiser for us!\*\**

**HOLIDAY SHOPPE:** The dates for this year's Holiday Shoppe are December 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>. Prior to the event, students will be sent home with envelopes for parents so they can provide them with money for shopping. Volunteers are needed & greatly appreciated! If you can give a couple hours of your time, please contact John Miller at [johnhenrymilleriii@gmail.com](mailto:johnhenrymilleriii@gmail.com) or (973) 262-2827.

**TRICKY TRAY:** Mark your calendars! The Tricky Tray will be held on **Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**. Stay tuned for the next meeting date. Lots of help is needed to make this a successful event. Any questions, please contact Christy Bello at [christinebello1980@gmail.com](mailto:christinebello1980@gmail.com) or Karyn Carter at [karyn1213@gmail.com](mailto:karyn1213@gmail.com).

**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 [stillwaterptacoresec@yahoo.com](mailto: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! 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).

**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. 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. **ShopRite stores are also giving away up to \$1 Million to local schools during the 2014-15 school year!** **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. Register your Price Plus Club card at [www.ShopRiteForMySchool.com](http://www.ShopRiteForMySchool.com) today to start earning cash for your school. **3.** Visit smile.amazon.com. Choose "Stillwater PTA New Jersey Congress of Parents & Teachers". You shop, Amazon gives! Amazon will give Stillwater PTA a percentage of all purchases.

**UPCOMING EVENTS: 12/12 - Family Movie Night, 12/17-12/19 - Holiday Shoppe**

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME PTA MEETINGS IN THE SCHOOL CALENDAR WILL BE CHANGED. PLEASE CHECK THIS NEWSLETTER OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE NEW DATES.** Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm room A119. All are welcome to attend.

**\*\*Keep up with what's happening with the PTA and the Tricky Tray! LIKE each page on Facebook! Stillwater Twp. PTA & Stillwater PTA Tricky Tray\*\***