



POSITIVE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Read by: Michael Mazzola

“Don’t live in the past. Don’t live in the future. But live now.”

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.

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**
- ❖ **TREP\$ MARKETPLACE: 12/17 6:30PM - 8:00PM**
- ❖ **PTA HOLIDAY SHOPPE: 12/17 – 12/19**

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: **Paige DeCaro, Delaney Burke, Joey Gearhart, Kayla Gearhart, Daniel Meredith, Antonio Sarullo, Julia St. Clair, Claire Schwartz, Danielle DeStefano, Juliana DeStefano, Dana Nigro.**



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.

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>.

4TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS: Our new grammar books are here! Students have started completing lessons in the books. Through instruction, practice, and application of skills, students will begin to master grade-appropriate conventions of standard English. Our level is divided into six units focused on teaching: Sentences, Pronouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs, and Prepositions, Nouns, and Capitalization, Punctuation, and Spelling. The website grammarworkshop.com offers additional online resources and practice.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS: The holiday season is so much fun in kindergarten! The children have been learning about all the different ways the December holidays are celebrated. They have been decorating their classrooms and hallways with lots of beautiful crafts. The kindergarten classes wore Santa hats and sang at the Stillwater Senior Citizen Luncheon. They looked adorable and made lots of people smile! We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year!

TREP\$: This year’s Marketplace will be on **Wednesday, December 17th 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!

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 21st 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 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.



THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

FUNDRAISERS

MARKET DAY: Thank you for placing a Market Day order this month! You may pick up your order at Harmony Hill UMC on Tuesday, December 16th at 3 pm. Questions, contact Cheryl Castner, 973-579-3182 or ccastner@embarqmail.com. Thank You!

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).

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](tel:973-948-4889) or email ajbuff@embarqmail.com.



STILLWATER PTA

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.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT: Please join us on *Friday, December 12th 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.

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 13th! Our group number is: 119141. Any questions, please contact Jennifer Dahl Domaracki at 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 17th -19th*. 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 or (973) 262-2827.

TRICKY TRAY: Mark your calendars! The Tricky Tray will be held on *Friday, May 1st, 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 or Karyn Carter at 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 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! If you are interested in purchasing these items or if you have questions, please contact Amanda Connelly at 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 today to start earning cash for your school. 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.

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 6th 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****