

Happy Holidays!

POSITIVE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK, Read by: Lizzy Forder
 "In your day, surround yourself with people who love you, motivate you, encourage you and just make you feel good about being you." ~UNKNOWN

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.

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.

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.

B SOCIAL NEWS: For the month of December, the B Social program is working on our holiday tree for families in need. The students use the proceeds from the B Social Store to buy gifts for needy children. **Happy Holidays to All!**

Important Dates to Remember:

- ❖ **ASLC DATES: 1/6, 1/8, 1/13, 1/15, 1/20, 1/22, 1/27**
- ❖ **NEWSPAPER CLUB DATES: 1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27**
- ❖ **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING: 1/5 @ 7:00PM**
- ❖ **EARLY DISMISSAL: 12/23 – 12:40PM**
- ❖ **HOLIDAY BREAK, SCHOOL CLOSED: 12/24 – 1/2**
- ❖ **SCHOOL RESUMES: 1/5**

TECHNOLOGY NEWS: In Technology and Science, the fifth and sixth grade students are working with some incredible science websites that help incorporate interactive learning with different elements of reading, audio, diagrams, interactive labeling, and short video clips. The fifth grade is finishing their unit on cells <http://www.cellsalive.com> and the sixth grade is finishing their unit on genetics. <http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/>

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: **Hazel Fronczkowski, Brooke Ginsberg, Austin Babcock, Eva Harvey, Joseph Depaola, Caedon Jones, Aniella Morgan, Isabella Osorio, Elizabeth Forder, Jacob Torkildsen, Andrea Nykaza, Kyle Ganning, Michael Patterson, Ashley Gordon, Amber Simmons, Madison Simmons, Oliva Noguero, Grace Ramos, Clara Steffens, Ariana Santore.**

NEWS FROM THE NURSE: We have recently had several cases of conjunctivitis. Conjunctivitis can be caused by allergies, a viral infection, or a bacterial infection. Conjunctivitis is an inflammation of the clear mucous membrane that covers the white part of the eyeball and the inside of the eyelids. The signs of allergic conjunctivitis are red and irritated eyes, itching, burning, tearing, and puffy eyelids. Treatment for allergic conjunctivitis includes applying a cool compress to the eyes and taking antihistamines. Prescription medication may be required in severe cases. Bacterial conjunctivitis causes red eyes, often with eye pain and redness of the eyelids. A white, yellow, or greenish (pus) discharge will be present. The discharge may be profuse or the eyes may simply be crusted in the morning upon awakening. Anyone with bacterial conjunctivitis can be highly contagious. The germs travel from one person's hands, towels, or belongings to the next person's hands. When that person touches his eyes, the infection can be transferred. Viral conjunctivitis also causes red, watery eyes and a light discharge may be present. To avoid spreading infectious conjunctivitis, keep children home from school if they have signs of conjunctivitis with a discharge. Consult your physician about the need for treatment. In the case of a bacterial infection, children must be on antibiotic drops for 24 hours before returning to school. Please ask your physician for a note indicating that your child is no longer contagious before returning to school.

Upcoming Family Workshops

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILY MATH: Middle School Family Math will take place on Jan. 13th, 20th, 27th, Feb. 3rd, 10th and 12th from 6:30-8:00pm in the library. **It is not too late for any 5th or 6th grade families to sign up!**

3RD GRADE FAMILY MATH: Classes for parents AND their children - will take place on February 5th, 12th, 19th, 24th and March 5th and 12th from 6:30-8:00pm. Registration forms were sent home with your child on December 16th. Family Math helps parents become more involved in their children's mathematics education! **Please sign up early as space is limited.**

LITERACY FOR FIRST GRADE: A workshop for 1st Grade parents and their children to develop strategies for becoming confident readers will take place on January 27, February 3rd, 10th, 24th, 26th, March 3rd, and 10th from 6:00pm-7:30pm, in Miss Johnson's classroom. Registration forms were sent home with your child on December 8th. Come explore the magic of literacy with us! **Please sign up early as space is limited.**

STILLWATER SCHOOL HELPS THE COMMUNITY!:

Throughout the fall, Stillwater School Teachers and Staff members donated food items for distribution to local food pantries. This week deliveries were made to the Good Samaritan House in Stillwater and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Swartswood. Both organizations were genuinely appreciative of our donations which will help fill some holiday food baskets for members of our community. It's a wonderful time of year for celebrating with family and friends, and the Staff at Stillwater School is glad we are able to share and make the holidays brighter for others.

TREP\$ NEWS: Thank you to all who shopped and visited our Trep\$ Marketplace. The turnout for our young entrepreneurs was amazing. The students worked extremely hard on their products. They put into practice all they learned at the workshops and became business owners for the day. Your support made it a wonderful opportunity for these amazing students. A special thank you to the Trep\$ themselves for being such hard workers during our meetings. ~ Miss Conry and Mrs. Bickhardt

SECOND GRADE NEWS: To conclude the study of Native Americans, the second graders were visited by Mrs. Steffens' father, Mr. Price, who brought in an array of local artifacts and arrowheads from the Lenae Lenape Native Americans who once lived right in our area! The students loved being able to touch all of the flint pieces that were used as arrowheads, spear points and even a mortar and pestle to grind down corn. Earlier that same week, Mr. Jameson came to speak to Mrs. Steffens' class about his own collection and shared legends of local tribes. Overall, the students loved having visitors from our own town who were able to share so much about these fascinating people who lived so long ago in our very own back yards!

THIRD GRADE NEWS: Challenge your child to learn and practice their facts. Some activities you might want to consider are: flash cards, the monster multiplication wheels the children made last month and computer (check your child's teacher's website) and card games. One of our classroom favorites is "Math Fact War". The children learned how to play this fast paced game in class. Ask them to show you how to play! It's a great way to increase their knowledge and mastery of addition, subtraction and multiplication facts!

Our classroom "holiday parties" will be held on Monday, December 22, 2014 from 10:00-10:45 AM. **Parents are invited to attend, but we respectfully request "no siblings" as per school policy.**

IMPORTANT MESSAGE - OneCall notifications

We will be sending out OneCall notifications throughout the winter months, as needed, due to emergency closings and delays. 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

FUNDRAISERS

MARKET DAY: January order forms have been distributed. NEW THIS MONTH: Roasted Vegetable Manicotti, Matchstick Vegetables with Garlic Sauce, and OREO Cookies. With all orders valued at \$40 (pre-tax) and over, you will receive a FREE Salad To Go Cup, which comes with a free recipe card and \$2.00 in coupons. Start your year off with some of your favorite Market Day items, or try something new! Paper orders are due back by Friday, January 16th. The **CUT-OFF** for online orders is **11 PM ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH!!** The cut-off is no longer on Wednesday nights!! Please make note of this change!! The sale pick-up date is Tuesday, January 27th at 3 pm. Questions, contact Cheryl Castner, ccastner@embargmail.com or 973-579-3182. Harmony Hill United Methodist Church would like to wish everyone a Blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, and Safe New Year! See you in 2015!!!

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

BOYS U-10 SPRING SOCCER PLAYERS WANTED: If your child loves playing soccer, would like to join a travel team this spring, and has a birthday between 08-01-2004 – 07-31-2005, this may be the team for you! The North Warren Avengers Team is seeking dedicated soccer players that would want to become a part of our soccer Travel Team. Our team is based out of Blairstown, NJ. We play 5 games at home (at Sycamore Park) and 5 away games. If interested please contact Coach Angelo at 908-850-8583 or e-mail him at: ABenincasa13@msn.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@embargmail.com.



CHRISTMAS EVE BARN SERVICE: Celebrate the season by joining us at 11pm on December 24. The service features a live nativity with animals, joyous music, and quiet meditation. Everyone is welcome. The barn is located at 928 Mt. Holly Rd. Look for a sign and lanterns marking the lane. Questions, call Lois Chammings at 973-383-5766.

STILLWATER PTA

THE STILLWATER PTA WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY & HEALTHY HOLIDAY!

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: ****A huge thank you to Amanda Connelly for coordinating the Family Movie Night last week! Thank you also to Kristin Oldenburg & Mr. Nick for their help as well.****

FALL GERTRUDE HAWK CANDY SALE: The top seller for the Fall Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale was Diana Vickery in Pre-K! **Congratulations!**

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 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! If you are interested in purchasing these items or if you have questions, please contact Amanda Connelly at aconnelly@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!** 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.

****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****