



POSITIVE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK, Read by: Christopher Krahling
 "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."
 ~Eleanor Roosevelt

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**. 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.

Important Dates to Remember:

- ❖ **ASLC DATES: 1/13, 1/15, 1/20, 1/22, 1/27, 1/29, 2/3**
- ❖ **NEWSPAPER CLUB DATES: 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3**
- ❖ **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING: 1/26 @ 7:00PM**
- ❖ **YEARBOOK SALE BEGINS: 1/26**

POSITIVE BUS BEHAVIOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM:

This program rewards students who are kind, respectful, and helpful to drivers and peers alike. Our Grand Prize winners for the month of December are: **Julia St. Clair and Amber Simmons!**

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.**

PEDOMETER "OPOLY": We have just started our Pedometer "Opoly" program: The students in grades 3-6 will be racing around the giant Monopoly board by trying to earn as many steps as they can during their physical education classes. For every 5,000 steps the entire class earns, their class moves one space around the game board. The students will be learning and practicing their basketball skills for Pedometer "Opoly" lessons. They have been working really hard and are having a lot of fun! Good luck to all of the classes participating! Remember to keep moving! Miss Radimer, Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Reed

MUSIC NEWS: This week during music class, all of the 5th and 6th graders began a handchime unit. After learning some basic information about handchimes, each student chose a handchime that they will use throughout the unit. The students will review note and rest values, how to identify their note, and how to follow their line in music so they know when to play the handchime. After several weeks of practice, all the skills will be put together and the students will experience what it is like to be a member of a handchime ensemble. Playing handchimes is a great way to learn music skills while having fun, too. –Mrs. Hatch

MULTICULTURAL CLUB: In the Stillwater Multicultural Club, Europe was the destination this week! Families enjoyed testing their knowledge of this diverse continent by matching pictures to various countries. We created worry beads, like the ones often found in Greece, and were stress free as we began work on our 'Living Museums'! Next week we will visit our last continent before the Cultural Fair where families will display and share their work. We're looking forward to our next exploration.

YEARBOOK SALE WILL BEGIN ON JANUARY 26TH. INFORMATION WILL BE SENT HOME WITH YOUR CHILD IN THE COMING WEEKS!

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

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 21, 2015 from 10:00 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.



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.

PROJECT ALERT: Join us at Stillwater School Monday, January 26th 7:00pm - 8:30pm in the Science room (A119) for an interactive and interesting evening! Substance abuse experts present the hard facts about drug use signs, symptoms, and trends in and around Sussex County and the slick marketing techniques that target kids. Light refreshments will be served. Not a school sponsored event. If you have any questions please call Dawn @ 973-383-9484.

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).



STILLWATER PTA

HOLIDAY SHOPPE: ****A very special thank you to John Miller for coordinating the Holiday Shoppe once again this year! The children really enjoy this event & we appreciate everything he did to make it so special! Thank you also to Jenny Rogers (John's "behind the scenes partner"), Melissa Compton, Irene Fuchs, Amanda Connelly, the custodial staff, & main office secretaries.****

THE BOOK IT PROGRAM: It is time to turn in your December 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.

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.

TALENT SHOW: We are in need of 10 parents to help with the Talent Show - from start to finish! Specific areas of need include; advertising, assistance at rehearsals, stage hands night of event, etc. This event will be held in the Spring, an exact date is TBD. If you are able to help, or for more information, please contact Justine Mahon at: jmarymahon@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 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.

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 go directly to the 6th grade trip to Washington, DC!** 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.

****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****

****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.**