



POSITIVE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK, Read by: Kyle Cain
"A healthy attitude is contagious, but don't wait to catch it from others. Be a carrier." ~ Tom Stoppard

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 WILL BE HELD ON 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: 1/20, 1/22, 1/27, 1/29, 2/3, 2/10, 2/12**
- ❖ **NEWSPAPER CLUB DATES: 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, & 2/10**
- ❖ **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING: 1/26 @ 7:00PM**
- ❖ **YEARBOOK SALE BEGINS: 1/26**
- ❖ **GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE: 1/26 – 1/30**

FOURTH GRADE SIMILE POEMS - LANGUAGE ARTS:

Snowflakes are....

- as fluffy as clouds in the sky
- as light as feathers on a duck
- like stars in the night sky
- like small drops of water.

By Sophia Yanaga

Snowflakes are...

- as chilly as fresh ice
- as tiny as coins
- as shimmery as crystals
- as fun as ice skating
- as flavorless as water
- as fluffy as the clouds
- as beautiful as a thousand diamonds
- as gentle as puppies.

By Carlie Nerlinger

THE GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE: Stillwater School students will take part in "The Great Kindness Challenge" during the week of January 26-30, 2015. Students in Mrs. Riva's class have joined with 5th and 6th grade students in Mrs. Makarevich's Pinwheel classes to support the school-wide participation in this event. These students will be responsible for assisting in the preparation of Teacher Kindness Kits along with other "behind-the-scenes" jobs. We are looking forward to sharing this program with our school and watching the entire Stillwater School Community meet the Great Kindness Challenge!

SPANISH NEWS: Mi Cuerpo ~ My Body -Starting at the top, students in grades K & 1 are learning to name the parts of their "cabeza" or head. Using pictures, videos and songs, students are remembering the Spanish words for eyes, ears, nose, mouth and face. Just ask a Kindergarten or a First Grade student to show you what they know!

¿Puedes contar en Español?- Can you count in Spanish? Just ask any student in grades 2 & 3... the answer will be "sí"! They have been practicing counting from 1-40, learning the correct pronunciation and order of the numbers. Activboard flipcharts, songs and videos have been helpful tools to make learning fun!

Students in grades 4-6 have completed exploration of Spanish-speaking countries by researching information about geography, people and customs. Using classroom computers and the laptop cart students selected a country to explore and completed simple reports, passports, and posters highlighting information discovered. 4th grade students worked independently to complete their country reports and flags, which have been displayed outside the Spanish Classroom. 5th grade students completed "pasaportes" which include geographical, cultural, and political facts. 6th grade students worked in groups to complete posters that will be displayed in the hallway near the Spanish classroom. The posters include detailed maps, timelines and major products. Which Spanish-speaking country would YOU like to visit?

KINDERGARTEN NEWS: The kindergarten classes read a variety of books that taught about Martin Luther King Jr. We emphasized celebrating our differences and living in harmony. This month we are also celebrating "Board of Education Appreciation". The children demonstrated their writing and creative skills when making books and cards to show appreciation. Great schools make great communities! Thank you Stillwater Board of Education!



"Snowlady"
Created by:
Isabella Brannan,
2nd grade
Mrs. Smith's class

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

PRESCHOOL NEWS: Happy Winter! The children are thrilled to be back in school learning about the winter season, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and animals that hibernate. Songs, stories, chants and poems are enriching their studies. While learning about Dr. Martin Luther King, the children realized that we are very similar to M&M candies. We are all the same on the inside but different on the outside which makes us special. Our class bear, Buddy Bear has just settled down for his long winter nap so the children had to say good night to their cuddly friend. See you in spring Buddy Bear.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILY MATH NEWS: Mrs. Ciccolella and Miss McGinniss welcomed the following 5th and 6th grade families to their first session of Middle School Family Math this week: the Waldo's, O'Meara's, Michelman's, Goriscak's, and Arias's. The evening began by exploring non-consecutive number arrangements, numbers increasing exponentially, real-life multiplication and division situations, and a cut-a-card activity, which incorporates visual/special conceptions. Group activities included using factors strategically in the "Tax Collector", and algebraic reasoning in the five "Cats and Canaries", problems. Congratulations to Mrs. Waldo for winning the contents of the estimation jar by guessing closest to the correct number of Double Bubble Gum pieces in the jar! We look forward to more math fun with these families 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@embarqmail.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

BLUE MOUNTAIN DAY CAMP: Blue Mountain Day Camp is proud to be accredited by the American Camp Association and is licensed by the state of New Jersey. Located on the shores of beautiful Fairview Lake, this unique camp offers all of the amenities of a sleep-away camp in a day camp format. Activities are age appropriate and include team-building exercises, games, sports and daily swim lessons. Campers discover new interests by exploring activities that focus on building self-esteem, confidence and social skills while increasing independence and health and wellness awareness. Campers will have fun and make new friends in a safe, supportive environment. Transportation is available from several locations throughout Sussex County. Contact our camp registrar, June Papa at 973 209 9622 with any questions. Brochures are available on our website: sussexcountymca.org and the Sussex County YMCA. Open House dates are February 15; March 15; April 12 and May 3rd from 2-4pm.



BEGINS WITH ME

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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).

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.

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.

STILLWATER PTA

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: Attention Parents: We need your help! In order to host a Talent Show this Spring, we need 10 parents who would be willing to volunteer their time in the following areas; advertising, assistance at rehearsals (approx. 5 total), stage hands night of event, etc. We hope to have this event sometime in May, so we will need to know ASAP how many volunteers we have in order to start preparing. The students are really looking forward to this, please consider lending a hand! For more info, 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Valentine's Sale- 2/12 & 2/13

****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.**