



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

## Important Dates to Remember:

- ❖ ASLC DATES: 2/3, 2/5 2/10, 2/12, 2/24, 2/26, 3/3
- ❖ NEWSPAPER CLUB DATES: 2/3, & 2/10
- ❖ BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING: 2/9 @ 7:00PM

## 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.**

**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).**

**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 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 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.

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.**

**SCHOOL COUNSELING CORNER:** Teaching Children to Think before Acting. Sandbox-Learning has some good strategies to teach children how to think before acting. 1. Take a Time Out, 2. Think about the Situation, 3. Have a Strategy for Energy - squeeze a stress ball, take a short walk, 4. Have a Phrase Read, 5. Role Play – Examples of scenarios include: someone cutting in line, being called a name, someone bumping into you, a friend making a joke.

## YEARBOOK SALE!

Yearbook sale will run from  
January 26<sup>th</sup> – February 27<sup>th</sup>.

### ADVANCE ORDERS ONLY!

You will not have the opportunity to purchase a yearbook after February 27<sup>th</sup>.

The cost is \$17.00 per yearbook.

**DON'T MISS OUT!**

**STUDENT COUNCIL:** Student Council has joined "Coupons for the Community" to help provide non-edible essentials (like toiletries and hygiene products) AND to celebrate the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> day of school! A flyer went home with the students last week with the details of this exciting event. It also listed the item we are asking each grade level to donate. The donated items should cost \$1 (100 cents!) or less. On the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school (currently Feb. 18th) there will be an assembly to celebrate, and each class will present their 100 donated items. We hope everyone will participate in this very worthy cause. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

### 'ART IN THE NEWS'

Sunflowers by Rachel Kline, 3M

Texture, Color and design are clearly captured within the visual creation of Rachel's work, inspired by Vincent van Gogh.



### GREAT KINDNESS WEEK CHALLENGE QUOTES:

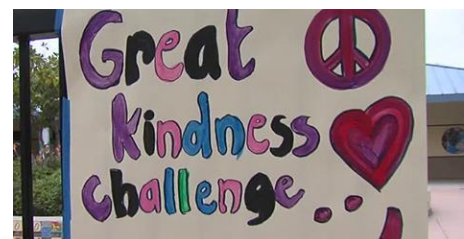
**Monday-** Be pleasant until 10 o'clock in the morning and the rest of the day will take care of itself. ~Elbert Hubbard. **Read by Aylia Mahon**

**Tuesday-** The majority of us lead quiet, unheralded lives as we pass through this world. There will most likely be no ticker-tape parades for us, no monuments created in our honor. But that does not lessen our possible impact, for there are scores of people waiting for someone just like us to come along: people who will appreciate our compassion, our unique talents. Someone who will live a happier life merely because we took the time to share what we had to give. ~Leo Buscaglia. **Read by Emma Hayes**

**Wednesday-** A little consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference. ~Eeyre. **Read by Steven Benson**

**Thursday-** The greatest degree of inner tranquility comes from the development of love and compassion. The more we care for the happiness of others, the greater is our own sense of well-being. ~Dalai Lama. **Read by Michael Mazzola**

**Friday-** Love is the only force capable of turning an enemy into a friend. ~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. **Read by Stevielee Lacika**



**SIXTH GRADE NEWS: Learning Verbs Through Games** -The sixth graders have created Action Verbs games to give to their first grade buddies on Buddy Day. Students tried very hard to create games that were age-appropriate such as charades games, matching games, memory games, word searches, and simple crossword puzzles. They loved sharing with their buddies especially during Kindness Week!

**THIRD GRADE NEWS: Force, Motion and Simple Machines** - The children have spent the last few weeks learning about force, work, motion and Simple Machines. Students used hands-on projects to learn about gravity, force, friction and energy. They also experimented with friction and its effect on the speed of a moving object. They also learned about the six simple machines: levers, pulleys, wheels and axles, screws, inclined planes and wedges. The children identified several "real-life" examples of each and worked in groups to construct their own models of these machines.

**ATTENTION 4TH, 5TH, AND 6TH GRADE STUDENTS:** Volleyball Club will meet every Thursday from February 19 through March 26 from 3:00 until 4:40 pm. Permission slips will be going home shortly. The club was a BIG success last year. We can't wait to start!!!

**ST. JUDE'S MATH-A-THON:** Students attended a kick off assembly on Friday for the math-a-thon. This is a great way to help the children at St. Jude's. Please consider participating. Permission slips were sent home and need to be returned by Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

THANK YOU! ~ Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Knapp

### 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:** For information, please contact Cheryl Castner at [ccastner@embarqmail.com](mailto:ccastner@embarqmail.com) or 973-579-3182.

### 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](http://sussexcountymca.org) and the Sussex County YMCA. Open House dates are February 15; March 15; April 12 and May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2-4pm.

**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).

### 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).

**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](http://www.optical-academy.com). You do not have to be a Stillwater resident to take advantage of this great resource.

### STILLWATER PTA

**SPRING GERTRUDE HAWK SALE:** The Spring Gertrude Hawk Sale will begin on Monday, February 9th and end on Friday, February 20th. Candy pick-up is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 16th after school. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Domaracki at [dahlhousedesign@mac.com](mailto:dahlhousedesign@mac.com).

**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](mailto:christinemenkins@aol.com).

**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).

**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](mailto: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](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. **All funds go directly to the 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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:** Spring Gertrude Hawk Sale – 2/9 through 2/20, 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.**