

if we all do
one random act of
kindness daily
we just might set
the world in the
right direction



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: 2/10, 2/12, 2/24, 2/26, 3/3, 3/5, 3/10, 3/12
- ❖ NEWSPAPER CLUB DATES: 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24
- ❖ BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING: 2/9 @ 7:00PM
- ❖ SCHOOL WILL BE IN SESSION, 2/17

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. Letters are automatically generated by our data system.** 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.

BOXTOPS UPDATE: In December, the PTA received the first check of the year for the Boxtops that were collected through the end of last school year, the summer and early fall. The amount of the check was \$531.36! So, keep clipping those Boxtops and sending them in to our school to help support the PTA and programs for our children! Two more boxes with our submissions were mailed this past weekend, totaling over \$850 to support



the PTA events for our children. We will receive our next check in April that will include this amount.

HOMEROOM CONTEST UPDATE: Here are the top three leading homerooms in the Boxtops Collection Contest:

- Mrs. Then – 3rd Grade
- Mrs. Ciccolella – 6th Grade
- Mrs. Murphy – Kindergarten

*The contest will run until June, so keep clipping and sending those Boxtops in, labeled with the teacher's name!

~Elaine Makarevich – Boxtops Coordinator

LABELS FOR EDUCATION UPDATE: Currently we have a point balance of 12,843 in our Labels for Education account! Recently another submission was mailed in to the program, totaling over 2,200 additional points for our account. These points are used to purchase items for classrooms that directly benefit our children, so keep sending in those labels! Check out the website for more information regarding participating products and bonus point offers for our school at: www.labelsforeducation.com

~Elaine Makarevich – Labels for Education Coordinator

YEARBOOK SALE!

Yearbook sale will run from
January 26th – February 27th.

ADVANCE ORDERS ONLY!

You will not have the opportunity to purchase a yearbook after February 27th.

The cost is \$17.00 per yearbook.
DON'T MISS OUT!

THE GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE: The Kindness Tunnel – Teachers and staff members holding their arms high above their heads, welcoming every student to school Wednesday morning! The smiles and waves returned were priceless. Stillwater School kicked off The Great Kindness Challenge with a school-wide assembly and a Proclamation read by Mr. Robinson. Students read "Kindness Quotes" to encourage us all. Finally, the entire student body joined together in singing the song "The Kind-Hearted Hand", led by Mrs. Hatch and Ms. Franck. Each student received a checklist, and was challenged to perform as many kind deeds as possible during the week. Art classes with Mrs. Piazza helped design a banner and school decorations to promote kindness. Even the playground fence joined in with "KIND" spelled out in cups! Buddy Day, titled "Unite the Big and Small", created an opportunity for younger and older students to work together, design a kind-hearted handprint, and share in the Great Kindness Challenge. What a wonderful way to encourage our students to remember that *Kindness Matters* to everyone!



'ART IN THE NEWS':

Alexa Babcock, 6Co
Self-portrait/Zentangle design permanent marker & pen.

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 100th 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 100th 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!

ATTENTION PARENTS: In an effort to make up one of the 5 snow days used, school will be in session on Tuesday, February 17th

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM: 5th and 6th grade science - We have officially received our new stock of trout from Pequest. The 30-40 fish are thriving and are about 1 to 1.5 inches long. New filters, cleaning, and a complete water change occurred between populations. We are diligently working to help the conservation efforts in maintaining a population of rainbow trout. Thankfully, we will be able to have a trout release in the spring at Freedom Park in Blairstown. Details to come!

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILY MATH: Our group met for their fourth session Tuesday evening, Feb. 3rd. The fun began with our families trying each of the five opening activities. Many of these were "addicting" number games, some allowed us to use calculators, and others gave us practice with fair vs. unfair spinners. In "How Long is a Name?" we used our families' names to calculate the mean, median, mode and range of our data. In "Raindrops" the idea of probability was introduced, leading to some interesting predictions and discoveries. Congratulations to Amanda Goriscak for being this week's winner of the estimation jar filled with Jolly Ranchers! Many thanks, as always, to the families for providing tasty snacks each week!

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: Thank you for ordering last month! February's flyers have been handed out. NEW THIS MONTH: Tuscan Cod, Cookies & Cream Pie Cups, and Special K Strawberry Pastry Crisps. There are two specials this month for those who put their order in online: 1) FREE \$20 to Spend with Shutterfly. You will receive a unique promo code via email after the sale closes. 2) FREE Cheese Ravioli with your \$90 (pre-tax) online purchase. Please remember to input the promocode FEBBONUS when you place your order to receive the free ravioli. **FREEQUENT BUYER:** Make two purchases of \$40 (pre-tax) between February and April. Then place a third order of \$40 (pre-tax) in May to receive a FREE Set of Collapsible Storage Bowls at the May sale pick-up. All paper orders are due by Monday, February 16th, and all online orders must be input by 11 PM ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH. Please make note of the new order cutoff date (Tuesdays, no longer Wednesdays). Sale pick-up date is Tuesday, February 24th at 3 pm. Questions, contact Cheryl Castner, ccastner@embarqmail.com or 973-579-3182.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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.

KITTATINNY COUGAR ATHLETIC ASSOC.

BEEFSTEAK DINNER: April 18, 2015, \$40 per ticket, Fredon Rec Center. Event begins at 7:00pm. Catering will be by the Brownstone, music by Snake Oil Willie Band. Call #973.579.6424 for tickets - no tickets at door.

ZUMBA PARTY: Come out to get some exercise and help fund our 6th Grade Recognition Party at the same time! Please join us on Friday, 2/27/15 (snow date 3-13-15) for a Zumba party in the All Purpose Room from 7-8pm. The suggested donation is \$10.00.

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. You do not have to be a Stillwater resident to take advantage of this great resource.

STILLWATER RECREATION LEAGUE: Attention parents! We are looking for dedicated and responsible people to fill key roles to help keep this league running. The league consists of about 200 kids total between soccer, softball, basketball. Only with your help can we keep these activities running for our children. If you may be interested, feel free to come to our next meeting. We meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 7 pm in room A119 at the school. Or you can contact us by email. Jessica Pappa - jesspappa@yahoo.com, Tami Batwinas - nybblett3@embarqmail.com. Hope to see you there!

STILLWATER PTA

VALENTINE'S DAY SALE: This year's Valentine's Day Sale will be held on Thursday, February 12th and Friday, February 13th during all lunch periods in the cafeteria. We will be selling lollipops for \$1.00 and Valentine Smencils for \$2.00. If your child would like to purchase something, please send money in with them on either of these dates. Checks can be made payable to Stillwater PTA. Any questions, please contact Kristin Oldenburg at stillwaterptapresident@yahoo.com.

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.

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