

YEARBOOK SALE ENDING ON 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!

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:** 2/24, 2/26, 3/3, 3/5, 3/10, 3/12, 3/24, 3/26
- ❖ **NEWSPAPER CLUB DATES:** 2/24, 3/3
- ❖ **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING:** 2/23 @ 7:00PM
- ❖ **YEARBOOK SALE ENDS ON 2/27**

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.

ATTENTION 6TH GRADE PARENTS: Please begin gathering candid pictures from over the years of our children – perhaps from a class party, sports activity, playdates, etc. The pictures will be pasted to a collage. We are asking that you please send in a copy and retain your original. All pictures should be forwarded to the school, Attn: Melissa Piazza. Thank you.

MUSIC NEWS: Several of the fifth and sixth graders have auditioned and worked hard on new music to participate in District Band and Chorus. The students will have the opportunity to go to Kittatinny and practice the challenging music with new teachers and a mixture of students from the other Kittatinny sending districts as well as middle school students. Our rehearsals at Stillwater have been going well and we are excited to hear them perform. If your child has mentioned being part of Districts, please look for upcoming information sheets, as well as the permission slip that was sent home this week. All students performing are asked to dress in black bottoms and white tops for the evening concert. The concert is Monday, March 2nd beginning at 7pm at Kittatinny Regional High School. Please join us to celebrate Music in Our Schools' Month as we listen to all the wonderful music the district students have prepared.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The PARCC Assessment is administered in two parts – the Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) which is held in March and the End-of-Year Assessment (EOY) which is held in late April until mid-May. Below, please find the schedule for your child's grade level for the PBA portion:

Grade 3	March 2-3 Math; March 4-6 ELA
Grade 4	March 5-6 Math; March 9-11 ELA
Grade 5	March 12-13 Math; March 16-18 ELA
Grade 6	March 19-20 Math; March 23-25 ELA
Makeups	March 26-27, and held in afternoons as needed.

All sessions are held in the morning, so we ask for your help with the following:

- Please ensure that your child is well-rested each day.
- Start each day with a healthy and nutritious breakfast.
- Be sure that your child arrives at school by 8:25 am.
- Please encourage your child to do their best to help relieve any test anxiety he or she may have.
- Please keep electronic devices at home.

Our students have worked hard all year to prepare for PARCC. We have confidence that our students will perform well and do their very best on this test. Thank you for your help and support!

THIRD GRADE FAMILY MATH: Third Grade Family Math began on Thursday, February 5th. Openers included toothpick puzzles, cut a card, coin problems, tangrams and a Venn diagram. Activities enjoyed by all were "Sum What Dice" and "Double Digit" both place-value dice games. Congratulations to Ms. Pagan who came closest to the goldfish estimation of 660. She estimated 600! Congratulations! *Ms. Grau and Miss Johnson*

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILY MATH: Middle School Family Math is over for another year. Our sixth and final session was held on Thursday night, when we explored a variety of interesting math concepts. In "The Zero Board Game" we had fun adding and subtracting integers on a number line. "Exploring Number Sequences" tested us on our ability to recognize patterns that doubled, squared, and cubed numbers. Students were able to calculate their age in seconds with "Benchmarks for Estimation". Several decks of cards were used to play a game that kept our addition skills sharp and our eyes opened! We also included an activity that allowed us to explore the amazing features our classroom calculators are capable of performing. We had no idea these calculators could do so much! Our estimation jar filled with Starbursts was won by Shannon Blide. Finally, we would like to thank all of our families for the yummy snacks they provided and for making our sessions so much fun!

Mrs. Ciccolella and Miss McGinniss

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. 19th) there will be an assembly on 2/26 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':

Congratulations to Yuki Wykoff, Isabela Osorio, Jessica Contino & Abigail LoCascio! Their artwork was chosen to represent Stillwater School at the AENJ Sussex County art show. Abigail's work has also been judged and is one of six from the county to continue on to state show in Trenton!!! **Congrats!**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO JORDAN MARUSKA,
OUR 2015 YEARBOOK COVER DESIGN
CONTEST WINNER!**



SAVE THE DATE: The next 6th grade activity night will be Friday, Feb. 27th from 7:00-9:00 pm. Students will be coming home with permission slips. Please return the permission slip and money (\$3.00) as soon as possible to one of the P.E. teachers. Thank you.

FIFTH GRADE MATH NEWS: Do you know how to add and subtract mixed numbers with unlike denominators? Or how to multiply fractions? The fifth graders are becoming experts with fractions. Not only do they know how to add and subtract mixed numbers but they are learning how to multiply and divide mixed numbers as well. The students have learned a fun way called "The Butterfly Method" to simplify the fractions when multiplying. This method makes the multiplication a little easier. It challenges the students to use their division/factor skills to simplify the numerators and denominators. By the end of this unit the students will have learned how to add, subtract, multiply and divide both fractions and mixed numbers with unlike denominators. Great Job Fifth Graders!!!

SIXTH GRADE NEWS: The sixth graders recently started their study on the Holocaust. They are reading *The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen. It's a story of a young Jewish girl, Hannah, who is bored with her culture and she can't understand why she must learn what happened to Jews historically. It takes twists and turns until Hannah finally realizes why it is most important to remember her family's past. The students have also recently learned about Judaism in Social Studies to make these Language Arts lessons easier to understand.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

FUNDRAISERS

MARKET DAY: Thank you for placing your orders this month! You may pick up your Market Day order on Tuesday, February 24th at 3 pm. Questions, contact Cheryl Castner, ccastner@embarqmail.com or 973-579-3182.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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.

PROJECT ALERT RESCHEDULED: Join us at Stillwater School Wednesday, February 25th 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. FREE BABYSITTING IS OFFERED and light refreshments will be served. Not a school sponsored event. If you have any questions please call Dawn @ 973-383-9484.



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!

BASEBALL SIGN - UP: Believe it or not spring baseball is just around the corner. Sign - up sheets are due on February 27th. If you still need a form they can be picked up in the school office or at the league website. (eteamz.com/Kittatinnylittleleague) . Please feel free to contact Kyle Slack at 973-222-6811 with any questions.

STILLWATER PTA

VALENTINE'S DAY SALE: Thank you to our PTA volunteers who ran the Valentine's Day sale: Jen Kraft, Meredith Reilly, Linda Wilson, Christine Bello & Kristin Oldenburg! Thank you parents, teachers, staff, and students for your support as well!

SPRING GERTRUDE HAWK SALE: The Spring Gertrude Hawk Sale ends today, 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**. 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.

Class Baskets - Monetary donations are NOW being accepted. The suggested donation is \$5 but feel free to give what you prefer. Please send donations in an envelope marked with your child's name, grade, and homeroom teacher by February 27th. Contact Karyn Carter-karyn1213@gmail.com with any questions.

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

****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.**

NEXT PTA MEETING: Tuesday, March 3rd at 7PM in Room A119. We welcome & encourage all to attend!