

Important Dates to Remember:

- ◆ **ASLC DATES: 3/10, 3/12, 3/24, 3/26, 4/14, 4/16, 4/21**
- ◆ **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING: 3/9 @ 7:00PM**

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.**

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.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION: If your child will be 3 or 4 years old on or before October 1, 2015, you may register him/her for preschool for the 2015/2016 school year. Please call Mrs. Eileen Theys at 973-383-3998 to have a registration packet mailed to you, or you may pick one up at the school office. To guarantee enrollment for your child, the completed registration packet must be returned to Stillwater Township School as soon as possible as there are a limited number of spaces available.

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.

TECHNOLOGY CLASS NEWS: In the second grade classes, students are researching different United States' National Symbols and Presidents. The students gather information and pictures from different websites and then write their own ideas to create a report in Microsoft Word. This is an engaging activity for second graders.

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: Families taking the 3rd grade Family Math Class enjoyed the M&M, Create a Puzzle activity using geometric word vocabulary, Pentasquares and "How Close Can you Get" card game. Warm up activities included a Birthday graph, Box Math, bean salad word problems, a height activity, geoboards and clock activities. Congratulations to Colin Webb who won the estimation jar of Cherry M&M's. Ms. Pagan won the Cheez-it crackers estimation jar. We will meet again on Thursday evening of next week.

Mrs. Grau and Miss Johnson

FOURTH GRADE SCIENCE NEWS: 4th grade science students have begun their study of weather and weather forecasting. We have been exploring the water cycle and the effects of cold and warm air masses. We will continue our study by creating weather forecasting tools we can use to determine what the weather will be.

FIFTH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS: Students have begun reading the book, Maniac Magee, by Jerry Spinelli. It is a novel about a runaway orphan searching for a place to call home. 5th grade students are excited to embark on a wild and crazy adventure with Jeffrey Lionel Magee. Jeffrey's nickname is "Maniac Magee", and students will soon find out why. Stop by the 5th grade hallway to see some of our illustrated predictions of the story. We aren't sure what to expect, but we do know there will be a Little League field, band shell, Finsterwald's house that no one wants to go to, and a knotted piece of string hanging on a flag pole at Cobble's Corner. What do these things mean? Well, we'll have to read the book to find out!

MULTICULTURAL CLUB: The Fifth Grade Multicultural Club hosted its 4th Annual Cultural Fair last week. This culminating event celebrated the culture and traditions of countries from around the world through 'Living Museums' designed and created by club members and their parents. The 'Living Museums' were on display for guests to enjoy and included food, pictures, games, crafts, artifacts, flags, research and music. Visitors were able to get their passports stamped at each 'Living Museum' they explored. Guests were able to explore the cultures Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Russia, Marshall Islands, Bahamas, El Salvador, Ireland, and Spain. The fifth graders did an outstanding job hosting our journey around the world! Thank you to all of the participating families for making this event a huge success!

ST. JUDE'S MATH-A-THON: Last call for your Math-A-Thon money. If you forgot to bring it back please return it **ASAP**. We will be ordering prizes shortly. Remember, the kids at St. Jude's really appreciate your help!

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Knapp

SCHOOL COUNSELING CORNER: First grade guidance lessons will be presented on I Don't Like the Sound of NO!, a great book by Julia Cook. It tells the story of a boy who must accept the word "no" and learn how to disagree the right way. Then students will join the "Say Yes to No Club".

-Ruth Najemian 973-383-3998

SIXTH GRADE NEWS: Last week our 6th graders participated in a math contest sponsored by the New Jersey Mathematics League. As usual, our students performed extremely well. I am pleased to announce the names of our top-scoring students. First place was awarded to Dana Nigro for her outstanding score of 23. 2nd place went to Gabriel Arias for his score of 20. There was a three-way tie for the 3rd place score of 18: Antonio Sarullo, Phoenix Olasin, and Emma Hayes. Other students who deserve recognition for their high scores are Cooper Waldo, Jordan Maruska, Patrick Franco, Connor Hanna, Anna Fronczkowski, Amanda Gorisak, and Kayla Saraiva. **Congratulations to all!**

KINDERGARTEN NEWS: February may be a short month but the Kindergarten classes were engaged in a long list of activities that centered around Valentine's Day, President's Day, the 100th Day and Dr. Seuss's upcoming birthday. These celebrations provided various fun and engaging learning opportunities. While the students were busy counting down to the 100th day of school, they enjoyed hearing stories about two past presidents and learned some interesting facts. The children wrote about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and learned to identify them and the money that they are pictured on. Identifying and counting money is a skill that we are working on! Of course they are enjoying hearing Dr. Seuss stories as well. Some of our favorites include The Cat in the Hat, Green Eggs and Ham, Wacky Wednesday and so many more!

THIRD GRADE NEWS: The children completed the unit on fractions and have become quite skilled at naming parts of a whole (or group) using fractions. They also used number lines and fraction bars to identify equivalent fractions and to compare fractions. We have moved on to a new topic, Geometry. The children have been introduced to the concepts of lines/line segments, angles, polygons, triangles, quadrilaterals, making new shapes by combining and separating them and problem solving. There is a lot of new vocabulary for the children to learn. Please continue to support your children by encouraging them to use and apply these new words. Search for these items in "real-life" with your child. Shapes, lines and angles are all around us!

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

FUNDRAISERS

MARKET DAY: March order forms have been distributed. NEW THIS MONTH: Orange Creamsicle Pie, Peach Supreme Pie, and Spiral Sliced Ham. March is also Pie Month!! There are nine delicious pies to choose from, plus the two mentioned above. If your order totals \$90.00 (pre-tax), please remember to input the promo code "MARBONUS" at checkout to receive a FREE 4-Pack of ChicNSteakes. FREQUENT BUYER: Make two purchases of \$40.00 (pre-tax) between February and April. Then, place a third order of \$40.00 (pre-tax) in May to receive a FREE set of Collapsible Storage Bowls at the May sale pick-up. IMPORTANT: Due to changes Market Day has made, there will be only two payment options available beginning with the March sale: Credit card or personal check. The credit card option is available to those who place their own orders online at the Market Day website. You must provide your credit card information when placing your order. Credit cards will not be accepted at the sale pick-up. Personal checks will be accepted when you pick up your order. Cash payments will no longer be accepted. Any questions, please contact Cheryl Castner at ccastner@embarqmail.com or 973-579-3182. Thank you for your continued support!!

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.

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).

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!

ZUMBA PARTY: Come out to get some exercise and help fund our 6th Grade Recognition Party at the same time! **Please join us TONIGHT 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.

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 School yearbook sale has been extended until Tuesday, March 3rd.
This will be the FINAL opportunity for you to purchase one.
DON'T MISS OUT!

STILLWATER PTA

SPRING GERTRUDE HAWK SALE: 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: LAST CALL! Attention Parents: We need your help! In order to host a Talent Show this Spring, we still need 4 more parents who would be willing to volunteer their time in the following areas; assistance at rehearsals, and stage hands the night of the event. We hope to have this event sometime in May. If we don't have the help needed, we will not be able to host the Talent Show. 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.

****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!