May 22, 2015 Iss. 33



## 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.

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 <u>authorized</u> 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 <u>must</u> be sent in that morning to the homeroom teacher. For students attending KEEP or First Impressions, or being picked up on a <u>regularly SCHEDULED basis</u>, please write that in a note (preferably on a green bus note) including the details of child's specific schedule, <u>bus route number</u>, and a contact person for our records. <u>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</u>. 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.

BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWS: If you have been a resident of Stillwater Township for more than one year and are interested in becoming a school board member, now is the time to obtain the Nominating Petitions and School Board Candidate Kit from the County Clerk's website, or the board of education office. There are four positions open, three for a three year term, and one for a one year term. Petitions must be completed and returned to the Sussex County Clerk's Office by July 27, 2015 by 4:00 p.m. The School Board Election is held with the General Election on November 3, 2015. Please contact René Solar at (973) 383-8954 or rene.solar@stillwaterschool.net if you have any questions.

**SIXTH GRADE NEWS:** Sixth grade ELA students recently began reading all different novels in class. In groups, students were given a list of the assignments/quizzes that they will need to finish with the novel. They then had calendars where they were able to choose when each assignment would be due for their group and when each quiz/test would be taken by their group. Students are reading this novel in school and at home depending on the decisions their groups make together. This is helping students build reading fluency, reading comprehension, and vocabulary. Students are also learning to work in a team, budget time, create their own deadlines, and self-discipline.

#### **Important Dates to Remember:**

- **♦ PTA BOOK FAIR: 5/26-5/29**
- ♦ FIELD DAY: 5/29 (RAIN DATE 6/8)
- **♦ 4TH GRADE DROWNPROOFING AT KRHS: 6/1-6/5**
- **♦ PRESCHOOL GRADUATION: 6/5**
- ♦ 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MOVE UP DAY AT KRHS
- ♦ 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE RECOGNITION CEREMONY: 6/19, 7pm
- **\* EARLY DISMISSAL AT 12:40PM: 6/19, 6/22, 6/23**
- \* LAST DAY OF SCHOOL: 6/23

**SOLAR SPRINTS NEWS:** The Stillwater Junior Solar Sprints teams did really well this year. We had sixteen participants, and were allowed to race five cars. All five teams and their cars won a few races. Our "Swag Car" team, consisted of Steven Benson and Antonio Sarullo, placed eleventh overall in the speed competition. This achievement invites them to the semifinals at the end of May to compete again with other students from Morris and Sussex county schools. We congratulate all of our students for having success and a job well done with their solar sprint cars this year

**NOTE FROM THE CAFETERIA:** We are quickly approaching the end of another school year. With that in mind, I would like to let everyone know that Friday, June 5th, will be the last day we will accept charging for lunches and allowing students to get the lunch of their choice if they have no money. If your child has lost or forgotten their money after that date through the end of the school year they will be provided with a PB&J sandwich, fruit, and a milk. Any charges your child/children may have prior to and up to this date, (June 5th), must be paid in full by Friday, June 12th. I will be sending home letters with any students who have charges. If your child has a pre-paid lunch ticket here and you are not sure how many days are left on it, please don't hesitate to call or send in a note. I will be happy to check that for you and let you know. Thank you for your assistance concerning this matter and for your continued support throughout the year. My staff and I wish you and your children a safe and happy summer and look forward to serving you again next school year!

~Ellen Van Skiver/Food Service Manager

**STUDENT COUNCIL:** Student Council will be hosting a car wash from 3-5pm on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> (rain date June 12<sup>th</sup>). It will take place in front of our school. All donations are welcome!

**BOXTOPS UPDATE:** In April, the PTA received the second check of the year for the Boxtops that were collected during this school year. The amount of the check was \$869.80! So, keep clipping those Boxtops and sending them in to our school to help support the PTA and programs for our children! Remember to continue clipping and collecting all summer long, we will continue with this program again next year!

#### **HOMEROOM CONTEST UPDATE:**

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

Mrs. Then/Miss Parsons - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Mrs. Murphy – Kindergarten Mrs. Ciccolella – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

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

CONGRATULATIONS to everyone who participated in the Spring Concert. You did a great job and we are proud of you!

~ Mrs. Hatch and Miss Franck

**KINDERGARTEN NEWS:** It has been a marvelous May! This month has brought us some celebrations and some Kindergarten milestones. In the beginning of the month, the Kindergarten children were busy pouring their love into projects for Mother's Day. In the middle of the month, the children went on their very first Stillwater field trip to the Shrine Circus and had a great time. Now that we are at the end of the month, our classes have been learning about giving thanks to our nation's soldiers on Memorial Day. Our classes are also wrapping up our "Letter of the Week" program which we started back in October. Every child has now thoroughly practiced every single letter in the alphabet! Knowing all the letters and their corresponding sounds is one of the keys to becoming a skilled and fluent reader. Hopefully our students are well on their way and getting ready for first grade!

## \*Congratulations to all 15 finalists who made it to the Spelling Bee Championship!

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Austin Babcock Nina Bennet Hazel Fronczkowski Megan Hurley Emily Popek

5th Grade
Shannon Blide
Steven Dalling
Arin Goriscak
Abby LoCascio
Charlie Throne

6th Grade Kyle Cain Jessica Contino Zack Mabee Kayla Saraiva Cooper Waldo

## Spelling Bee Winners ~ 2015

1<sup>st</sup> Place ~ Cooper Waldo 2<sup>nd</sup> Place ~ Zack Mabee 3<sup>rd</sup> Place ~ Jessica Contino 4<sup>th</sup> Place ~Austin Babcock 5<sup>th</sup> Place ~ Kyle Cain

\*These top five finalists will advance to the District-Wide Spelling Bee Championship to be held at KRHS on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7pm.

\*A very special thank you to the Stillwater School PTA for supporting this program once again this year! The students performed well and we are proud of their achievement! \*This year students who participated in the semi-final round (2<sup>nd</sup> round in their grade level) received a super speller pencil. Finalists received t-shirts, spelling bee pins, and certificates. The top 3 winners received medals, Barnes and Noble gift cards and certificates for their place. The top 5 finishers received "spelling superstar" pins.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

#### **FUNDRAISERS**

MARKET DAY: Thank you for placing your Market Day order this month! You may pick up your order next Tuesday, May 26th at 3 pm. Questions, contact Cheryl Castner at <a href="mailto:ccastner@embarqmail.com">ccastner@embarqmail.com</a> or 973-579-3182. Thank You!

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVENCES: Stillwater Township's Memorial Day Observances. Please join your neighbors this Memorial Day on Monday, May 25, 2015 at 10:00am to honor and remember all those who have served our country to ensure our rights and liberties as Americans. The observance will take place at the Stillwater Presbyterian Church on Main Street in Stillwater, where an Ecumenical service will take place. It will be followed by a wreath placing ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park on Pond Brook Road. All veterans are encouraged to participate. If you have any questions please call 973-579-6402.

**LITTLE MR. & MISS STILLWATER:** Event will be held on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at the opening of Stillwater Day! Any Stillwater resident between the ages of 4 – 7 interested in representing our community at the New Jersey State Fair may enter. Applications, due by June 12<sup>th</sup>, are available at the Township Hall, Stillwater School or may be downloaded on the Stillwater Township website. Please contact Rick Nothstine with any questions – 973-903-2910.

**JAZZ IN THE PARKING LOT AT KRHS:** Come out and enjoy a *free* night of jazz on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the Kittatiny Regional High School parking lot. Bring your lawn chair, relax and listen to the amazing sounds of the Kittatinny K-Train Jazz Band, with special guests: the K-Train Kaboose and the Y-Kromatones. Food will be available for purchase to support the KRHS Music Department, please do not bring outside food or coolers. Come out and get some dinner while enjoying a night of excellent music!

#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Stillwater Township Green Team Idle Free Campaign: Why should you support the *Idle Free Campaign?* Idling costs you money. A popular misconception is that idling your car uses less gas than turning it off and restarting. The truth is, if you are going to be sitting more than 10 seconds, it is more fuel efficient to turn your engine off. Idling causes more wear and tear on engine parts. IT'S YOUR TURN – TURN IT OFF.

**KRHS SUMMER SWIM PROGRAM:** Registration deadline June 19<sup>th</sup> for summer swim lessons. Please contact Suzanne Freund at 973-383-1800 x.1511 to secure your spot or visit their website:

http://krhs.net/files/pdf/athletics/forms/summer%20swim.pdf

<u>HELP WANTED:</u> Stillwater Township School now accepting applications for summer custodial help. You may pick up an application in our main office, Monday – Friday, from 8:30am – 2:30pm.

## MORRIS SUSSEX YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM:

Therapy sessions led by Master's Level and Licensed Level mental health therapists, providing supportive, structured therapy. Services and treatment modalities include: individual/family therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, anger management, stress management, life skills, emotional regulation, and trauma treatment. MSYAP Outpatient clinic accepts Medicaid, as well as other private insurances, and offers a sliding scale for uninsured, income eligible clients. Please call 973-729-3617 for further information or to schedule an appointment.

# **STILLWATER PTA**

PLEASE BE ADVISED: The following PTA executive board positions will be up for re-election at the end of this school year.

(New term is for 2 years) \*PRESIDENT, \*RECORDING SECRETARY, \*CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

If you have any interest or would like to know job descriptions, please email stillwaterptapresident@yahoo.com.

**SPRING BOGO BOOK FAIR:** This year's Spring BOGO Book Fair will be held May 26<sup>th</sup> – May 29<sup>th</sup> after school hours. LOTS of help is needed! Please contact Chrissy Menkins at <a href="mailto:christylear-right: christinemenkins@aol.com">christinemenkins@aol.com</a>.

**TALENT SHOW:** Please join us at 6:30PM on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Talent Show! Remaining practice dates: 5/26, 5/27 in the gym from 4:00-4:50PM sharp. We could still use a few extra hands to help during the event. For more info, please contact Justine Mahon at imarymahon@gmail.com.

**SPRING CLOTHING DRIVE:** It's that time of year again for the PTA's Spring Clothing Drive. The dates and times for drop off are *Friday, June 5th 3:15pm – 9pm and Saturday, June 6th 8am – 2pm.* DONATIONS ARE TO BE DROPPED OFF ON THE FRONT STEPS OF THE SCHOOL. We are looking for donations of clothing (any size/gender), shoes, gloves, purses, backpacks, ties, belts, bedding (sheets, comforters, pillows, etc.), towels, curtains, table cloths, throw rugs, stuffed animals, and disposable diapers (in unopened packages only). As always your donations will be sent to locations across the United States and overseas where there is a need for recycled clothing. Please contact Dawn Tighe at tighe8@gmail.com if you have any questions. Thank you!

**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- <a href="mailto:stillwaterptapresident@yahoo.com">stillwaterptapresident@yahoo.com</a> 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 <a href="mailto:stillwaterptacorsec@yahoo.com">stillwaterptacorsec@yahoo.com</a> 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 <a href="mailto:aeconnelly@outlook.com">aeconnelly@outlook.com</a>.

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 <a href="https://www.ShopRiteForMySchool.com">www.ShopRiteForMySchool.com</a> 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 <a href="https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7214634">https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7214634</a> 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\*\*Exciting News- We now have a website! Check us out at <a href="https://www.stillwatertwppta.my-pta.org">www.stillwatertwppta.my-pta.org</a>. Thank you to Christine Bello for making this happen and coordinating the website for us!

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Tricky Tray (5/1), Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (5/6), Mother's Day Flower Sale (5/7 & 5/8), Spring Book Fair (5/26 – 5/29), Talent Show (5/29), Spring Clothing Drive (6/5 & 6/6).\*\*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.