

## POSITIVE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

Read by, Michael Nelson

*"The only peace, the only security, is in fulfillment."*

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

1/21/13 (Mon.) – 12:40pm Dismissal  
 1/25/13 (Fri.) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period Ends  
 2/5/13 (Tue.) – Report Cards

**CHANGE TO SCHOOL CALENDAR:** School will now be in session on Monday, January 21, with a 12:40pm dismissal. This is so we can make up one of the days lost during the hurricane.

**ABSENTEE CALLS:** Please call the attendance line **383-3227** when calling your child out of school. Do not 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 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. And the more days they miss, the harder it is to catch up.

**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).** Thank-you for your cooperation!

**PHOTO COPYING PROCEDURES:** This is a reminder that all photo-copying for the PTA and/or other groups must be done in the downstairs copy room. Please be sure to sign in at the front office and get a visitor pass to do so. Also, all flyers must be distributed through the main office, first being approved by Mr. Cullen. No hand-outs are to be given directly to homeroom teachers. Thank you for your cooperation. ~ *The Administrative Team*

### GUIDELINES FOR DROPPING OFF STUDENTS:

1. Enter driveway near the church, which is a one-way entrance from 8:15am – 8:45am.
2. Please stay in line. Do not pass other vehicles or buses.
3. Drop off students at the curb only and please try to get them out of your vehicle promptly.
4. You may pass a bus parked in the lot during our dismissal, however, we ask that you exercise extreme caution.
5. Should you need to come into the school with your child, please use a parking space to the right when you enter the driveway and escort your child into the school.
6. Visitors must report to the main office prior to going anywhere in the building. This procedure was developed with the safety of your children our only priority.



**NEWS FROM THE NURSE:** Since returning from the holiday break, some of our students have come down with a variety of seasonal illness including influenza like illness, strep throat, and a gastrointestinal illness with vomiting and diarrhea. Please keep children home from school if he/she has a fever the evening before or the morning of a school day. An oral or tympanic temperature (ear temp) of 100 degrees F is considered to be a low grade fever. Children should be kept home if they are vomiting or have diarrhea. Strep tests continue to be available in school but it is preferable that a child with a fever be taken to the doctor for a strep test to help prevent transmission of the infection in school. Practicing good hand hygiene, avoiding touching the T zone (eyes, nose, and mouth), and avoiding contact with sick individuals will help prevent the spread of most infections. It is more difficult to prevent the spread of influenza. Influenza is primarily spread through air droplet and is contagious for about 24 hours before symptoms appear. The best protection against the flu is getting an annual flu shot. We will do our best to prevent the spread of infections in school by encouraging hand hygiene, cleaning surfaces, and sending sick children home from school. Hopefully, with your help at home, this period of increased illnesses will pass quickly and we will have a healthy winter.

**4TH GRADE NEWS:** LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW! That's what the fourth grade students are saying! The language arts classroom is decorated with snowflakes with hope that the cold winter winds will soon bring us our wish for a blanket of fresh snow throughout Stillwater! Students are developing their descriptive writing skills while working on responses to prompts like... When I see a snowflake, it makes me feel like...; The best thing about the snow is...; My favorite thing to do when it is snowing is...; If I could change one thing about snow, it would be... And that's not all; students read a selection of non-fiction writing filled with important facts about snow, sleet and hail. Questions were answered so that students could be sure they know the facts. Maybe all this "snow" work will get Mother Nature going!

**PRE-SCHOOL NEWS:** HAPPY WINTER! The preschool children are enjoying their study of the winter season. They are reading books, singing songs, and doing chants about the season. They especially enjoy sharing stories about all the fun activities they are having in the snow. The children are also learning about animals that hibernate. Our class bear, Buddy Bear, has settled down for his long winter nap. Happy hibernating Buddy Bear- see you in the spring!

**WORLD LANGUAGE:** The students celebrated Three Kings Day in French classes this week. The custom, which is held on January 6th in France, is that a large round cake is baked. A small bean is hidden inside the cake. Whoever finds the bean gets to be King or Queen for the day. Instead of a cake, Le Professeur hid the bean in a child's desk. Whoever found the bean got to wear a gold crown and be either King or Queen for French class. Congratulations to our kings-Ayden, Gage, Anthony, Michael, Billy, Christos, Quinten, Logan, Jude, Frank, Jamie, Alex, Brian, and Cody. Congrats also to our Queens-Ali, Anna, Shannon, Lindsay, Ariana, Ava, Kayla, Katie, Molly, Jessica, Cleary, Michelle, Hailey and Hannah.

**ST. JUDE'S MATH-A-THON:** Once again the students in Stillwater will be participating in the Math-a-thon. This is a great way for students to practice their math skills and help the children at St. Jude's research hospital. Permission slips need to be returned no later than Wednesday, January 16.

**JEANS DAY:** Stillwater School staff wore jeans today to donate to a good cause. They donated money to a group of retired county teachers who will be traveling to the Dominican Republic for the Dream Project. These teachers are collecting money to purchase supplies to supplement the public schools in this country. It is exciting to see the difference our donations make to the teachers and students born into poverty in the rural areas of the Dominican Republic. The teachers take white board erasers & markers, permanent markers, pencils, glue sticks, self-laminating sheets and flash cards. Our staff also does not forget the needy in our community. They also donated a food item to be taken to a local church food bank.

**ATTENTION SIXTH GRADE PARENTS!:** There is a meeting on **Tuesday, January 15 at 6:30pm** to discuss fundraisers for the Sixth Grade Recognition party. Joe Corbi flyers will be sent home next Friday, and Melissa Nelson will be running the pancake breakfast at AppleBees in March (more info to follow). A huge thank you to the PTA for their generous gift of \$450.00 to the sixth grade class. If you have any questions please contact me at [mholderlin@yahoo.com](mailto:mholderlin@yahoo.com)

## SPORTS

**KITTATINNY LACROSSE:** Registration is now open for Kittatinny Youth Lacrosse Club boy's and girl's lacrosse, grades 3-8 for the spring 2013 season. Forms can be found at [www.kittatinnylax.com](http://www.kittatinnylax.com). Sign-ups will also be held @ McKeown Elementary on January 5 from 8:30am - 1pm; Fredon Rec. Center on January 12 from 8:30am - noon; and Stillwater Elementary Gym entrance on January 12 from 8:30am - noon. Come play the fastest game on two feet!

**BASKETBALL:** Kdg. - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade basketball clinic registration sign up is now through January 27. Extra forms are in the main office. If you have any questions, please contact Chrisha Wright 973-306-2675 OR [CJWRIGHT11@PTD.NET](mailto:CJWRIGHT11@PTD.NET). We are also looking for coaches!

## FUNDRAISERS

**MARKET DAY:** January order forms went home with the students before the holiday break. **NEW ITEMS FOR JANUARY:** Zucchini Munchtables, Mediterranean Tilapia and Whole Grain Sweet Pea Blend. Everyone who makes a purchase in January will receive a FREE Eat Well Guide. This is a full color guide with delicious recipes, easy serving suggestions and healthy eating tips. Please return all order forms to school by Tuesday, January 22nd. The cutoff for placing your orders online is 11 pm on Wednesday, January 23rd. Pickup date is Tuesday, January 29th from 3 to 4 pm. Any questions, contact Cheryl Castner 973-579-3182 or [ccastner@embarqmail.com](mailto:ccastner@embarqmail.com).

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**FAIRVIEW LAKE YMCA:** Winter Wonderland event will be on Sunday, January 27 from 1pm -4pm. The cost is \$10 per car. For more information, please go to [www.fairviewlakeymca.org](http://www.fairviewlakeymca.org).

## STILLWATER PTA

- **PTA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:** The PTA membership directory is ready to be sent off to the printer. If you would like your information in the directory, and you have not already sent it in, please send in your membership envelope, with payment, **NO LATER THAN Wednesday, January 16, 2013.** Thank You!!
- **TRICKY TRAY:** The 2013 Tricky Tray is now underway. An informational letter and a donation form were sent home this week. This letter includes information about both your FAMILY tray and donating towards your CLASS tray. We are asking for donations of a family tray valued at \$45 (minimum) and a \$5 class donation per child per class. With the class donations, the class parent will put together a fantastic tray from the entire class. As an incentive, the first class to have 100% participation will receive a pizza party! For the past three years, we have had classes reach that goal. Please continue the winning streak! Please label ALL class tray donations PTA TRICKY TRAY with the student's name, teacher's name and grade. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Kimble at 973-214-4643. The Tricky Tray is also on FACEBOOK (Stillwater PTA Tricky Tray). Please "LIKE" that page and check back often for updates and current information. You may also email us directly at [stillwatertrickytray@yahoo.com](mailto:stillwatertrickytray@yahoo.com).
- **TRICKY TRAY:** Planning for this year's Tricky Tray has begun. The Tricky Tray is our largest endeavor and most successful fundraiser of the year. Without the proceeds from it, many of the events and items that the students benefit from throughout the school year would not be able to be offered to them. This fundraiser needs MANY HANDS in order to succeed. If you are willing to volunteer to help with this event, please contact our Tricky Tray Chairperson, Trish Hendershot, at [stillwatertrickytray@yahoo.com](mailto:stillwatertrickytray@yahoo.com). THANK YOU!!!!
- **ROLLER SKATING:** Roller skating is TONIGHT, January 11, from 6:30 to 8 pm in the school gym. For safety purposes, no child is permitted to skate without the proper safety measures, so please remember those helmets! **THIS IS NOT A DROP OFF EVENT. PARENTS/GUARDIANS MUST REMAIN IN THE GYM SUPERVISING THEIR CHILDREN.** Questions, contact Colleen Hurley at 973-940-1035.
- **BOOK IT:** The Book It reading program is back! We will be running the Book It! program for the second half of the school year. Please check your child's backpack for their January reading log. You can return the completed reading log during the first week of February. Please make sure your child's name and homeroom information are on the log so that they will be sure to receive their Pizza Hut coupon. The top three students who read the most number of books for the combined months of January, February, and March, will each be awarded a Wal Mart gift card! Questions, please contact Chrissy Menkins at [christinemenkins@aol.com](mailto:christinemenkins@aol.com).
- **BOXTOPS UPDATE:** The race is on! The homeroom with the most boxtops collected to date is Mrs. Malmstrom's 1st grade class! There is still plenty of time to clip those boxtops and send them in to keep your class in the running! We will keep collecting and counting until June. Just send them to school in an envelope or bag, labeled with the homeroom teacher's name. Good Luck!
- **SPRING CLOTHING DRIVE:** While winter has arrived, it's never too early to start thinking about our Spring Clothing Drive! The drive will take place in early May. Between now and then, please keep the drive in mind when you take the new season's clothing out and put the prior season's clothing away. And, we are not only collecting clothing! Here is a list of things that are being collected: Clothing of any size and for either gender, shoes, gloves, purses, backpacks, ties, belts, bedding (sheets, comforters, pillows), towels, curtains, tablecloths, throw rugs, stuffed animals and disposable diapers (unopened packages). Please consider donating anything you can to this worthy cause. Questions, contact Dawn Tighe, 973-222-8376 or [tighe8@gmail.com](mailto:tighe8@gmail.com).
- **CELL PHONE COLLECTION:** The Stillwater PTA is collecting cell phones to benefit DASI of Sussex County. DASI is a non-profit organization that helps provide counseling and shelter to victims of domestic abuse in need. Please consider donating your old cell phones to this worthy cause. A collection box is located outside the main office. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Robin Waldo at 973-459-8724 or [ms.nut@hotmail.com](mailto:ms.nut@hotmail.com). THANK YOU!
- **TALENT SHOW:** In the past, the PTA has held a Spring Talent Show. It is open to all Stillwater School students. There is no judging or prizes...it is simply for entertainment purposes, and it allows the students who participate the chance to be on stage and showcase what they are passionate about. It could be dancing, singing, acting, comedy, etc... It has always been a huge hit with the students. In the past, practices were usually one or two days a week after school, for several weeks, culminating in the Talent Show, which is held at Kittatinny Regional High School. Due to the lack of a chairperson, we have not been able to hold this event for the past few years. Since this is such a huge hit with the kids (they have really missed it the past few years), we are currently looking for a Chairperson or a group of parents who would like to work together, plan, coordinate, and run the Talent Show. If you are interested, please contact Marilyn Geydoshek at [msc23@ptd.net](mailto:msc23@ptd.net) or 973-579-9414.
- **COMING NEXT MONTH:** Rollerskating, Valentine's Sale, Gertrude Hawk Candy sale, Cultural Arts Night.
- **OUR NEXT PTA MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 AT 7 PM. ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!!**