

POSITIVE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

Read by, Joseph Rincon

"Whatever you attempt, go at it with spirit. Put some in!" David Starr Jordan

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

1/21/13 (Mon.) – 12:40pm Dismissal
 1/25/13 (Fri.) – 2nd 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*



SCHOOL COUNSELING CORNER:

A wonderful website for teaching social skills is www.sandbox-learning.com. This latest skill sheet is titled, "Helping Children Develop Friendships." Here are some simple strategies that can help children develop friendships:

1. Get involved- participate in sports teams, art program, community event.
2. Look for activities the child enjoys.
3. Role play difficult skills
4. Provide examples
5. Model being kind
6. Do not force friendships that are not working.

Ruth Najemian - 973-383-3998

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.

ST. JUDE'S MATH-A-THON: St. Jude's Math-a-thon: Did you know that Stillwater School has been participating in the Math-a-Thon since 1986. Even better, our students have raised \$88,235 to help the kids at St. Jude's during this time! We are going to extend the time for returning permission slips until Monday, January 21 for anyone still interested in participating. Thanks for all your help! *Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Knapp*

THIRD GRADE NEWS: Third graders have been exploring everyday simple machines by finding them in our everyday lives. They have also participated in hands-on stations to learn about force and motion. Students have read fiction and non-fiction texts, to discover new facts about simple machines. Students currently read in differentiated groups: Amazing Structures, We Have Got Wheels, and Machines All Around Us. So, remember to ask a third grader, "What simple machines have you used recently?"

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILY MATH: Mrs.Ciccolella and Mr. Orlando welcomed the following 5th grade families to their first session of Middle School Family Math this week: the Slobodzian's, Humenik's, Stanwick's, Rigby's, Block's, Nodarse's, Schwartz's, and Loff's. The evening began by exploring non-consecutive number arrangements, numbers increasing exponentially, real-life multiplication and division situations, and cut-a-card, which incorporates visual/spatial conceptions. Group activities included using factors strategically in "Tax Collector", and algebraic reasoning in the five "Cats and Canaries" problems. Congratulations to Stephanie Block for winning the contents of the estimation jar by guessing closest to the correct number of Tootsie Rolls in the jar! We look forward to more math fun with these families in the coming weeks!

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.



SPORTS

BASKETBALL: Kdg. – 2nd 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. We are also looking for coaches!

ATTENTION ALL SOCCER PLAYERS!: There will be a 2013 SPRING season for our rec. program. Registrations went out this week, and extras can be found in the main office or on our website www.stillwater-rec.org. Training will be on Tuesday nights provided by Pure Soccer Academy. Registration deadline is 2/22.

SOFTBALL: Stillwater Rec. softball registrations are being accepted until SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17. All girls Pre-K (5 years by 3/1) thru 9TH grade are welcome. PLEASE ALSO HELP GET THE WORD OUT TO ALL 7TH – 9TH GRADERS AT KITTATINNY! Contact Wendy Fabian with any questions at weefabian@hotmail.com or 973-300-4705. The softball program is looking for a new Program Coordinator. This will be my last year as Coordinator and the girls are in need of someone to take over the reins and keep this program moving forward for them. There will be a lot of very disappointed girls if this program ends. This is my 6th year as Coordinator, and I have had a LOT OF FUN working with some of the best players, coaches, parents, umpires opposing teams, etc. during that time. I have everything set in place that is needed to continue running the program smoothly, and will help with EVERYTHING for as long as needed. Please contact me at weefabian@hotmail.com or 973-300-4705. PLEASE DON'T LET THE GIRLS OF STILLWATER DOWN!

FUNDRAISERS

MARKET DAY: January order forms went home with the students before the holiday break. NEW ITEMS FOR JANUARY: Zucchini Munchables, 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 22 (**NEXT WEEK**). The cutoff for placing your orders online is 11 pm on Wednesday, January 23 (**NEXT WEEK**). Pickup date is Tuesday, January 29 from 3pm - 4pm. Any questions, contact Cheryl Castner 973-579-3182 or ccastner@embarqmail.com.

SIXTH GRADE RECOGNITION PARTY FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER at Applebee's Saturday March 2, 8am - 10am. - \$10/ticket includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, and a beverage. All proceeds will go towards the Sixth Grade Recognition Party Please contact Melissa Nelson to purchase or sell tickets. melissa@tellurian.net or 973-903-6940.

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.

STILLWATER PTA

- **PTA MEMBERSHIP:** The Stillwater PTA would like to extend a heartfelt Thank You to every single family and school staff member who joined the PTA this year. Having your continued support of the PTA and the students of Stillwater School means a lot to us. The PTA could not do everything it does without your support...many hands make light work. THANK YOU!
- **TRICKY TRAY:** The 2013 Tricky Tray is now underway. An informational letter, as well as a donation form, were sent home with the students last 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. (**Thank You to everyone who has already sent their class and family donations in!**) 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.
- **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. THANK YOU!!!!
- **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, which was sent home this week. 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 WalMart gift card!! Questions, please contact Chrissy Menkins at christinemenkins@aol.com.
- **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.
- **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. THANK YOU!
- **COOKBOOKS:** We have cookbooks! The cookbooks are chockfull of recipes from students' families and friends, township residents, and the school staff and administration. Cookbooks are on sale for \$8.00 each. Also available are Stillwater Township School Magnets for \$2.00 each. Purchase a cookbook today and offer your family a new taste at dinner tonight, or purchase a magnet and proudly display it on the back of your vehicle. If you wish to purchase either (or both), please contact Amanda Connelly at 910raw@gmail.com.
- **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 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!**