

POSITIVE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

Read by, Julie Vazquez

“If you aren’t fired with enthusiasm, you will be fired with enthusiasm.” Vince Lombardi

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

2/5/13 (Tue.) – Report Cards
2/18 & 2/19 (Mon. & Tue.) – Winter Recess – School Closed

SPRING CONCERT: The Spring Concert is scheduled for Tues, May 21, 7:00 p.m.

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.

YEARBOOK ORDERS: OUR 2012-2013 YEARBOOKS ARE ON SALE NOW! Your memories will be filled with color and design within a quality paperback book. Yearbooks are only \$15.00 each! Checks can be made out to Stillwater School. Sale ends February 8, so please order your copy today, supplies are limited!!



SCHOOL COUNSELING CORNER:

This week we worked on meeting new people and making friends. We brainstormed different questions, phrases, or compliments that can be said when meeting someone or beginning a conversation.

Ruth Najemian - 973-383-3998

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILY MATH: The library was the place to be for several 5th grade families last Tuesday night as they gathered for our third session. Some of the initial activities we attempted were discovering pi by using ratios and circumference, trying to beat one another in a fun multiplication game, and using only four 4’s to form equations equaling the numbers 1-20. “Pico Fermi Bagels” was a unique number game that required good listening and logic skills. It was also a challenge working together to use up all of our ingredients in “Gorp” to make bags of snacks and see who would pay the least penalty for amounts left over. Finally, Mr. Nodarse was rewarded with a jar full of “Mike ‘n Ike’s” for his excellent guess of how many were actually in the estimation jar. Congratulations!

TECHNOLOGY: Digital Learning Day is a nationwide celebration of innovative teaching and learning through digital media and technology that engages students and provides them with a rich, personalized, educational experience. Stillwater School will present their “Technology in the Classroom” on Wednesday, February 6, 2012 from 3:15pm – 5pm. Contact Mr. Iradi for more details. Fred.iradi@stillwaterschool.net

ART NEWS!: CONGRATULATIONS to Christopher Nicol, Laci Rosenfeld, Sylvia Atnip and Elizabeth LoCascio! Their artwork has been selected to represent Stillwater School in the AENJ Youth Art Month exhibit for Sussex County. Their artwork, along with the work of many other young artists from Sussex County, will be on display at the SCA&HC gallery in Newton from March 7th to March 21st. A very special CONGRATULATIONS goes to Elizabeth LoCascio! Elizabeth’s piece was one of 6 from the county, selected by the Sussex County Y.A.M committee, to represent all participating artists at the state show in Trenton!!

REACH: Students from practically every state and several countries competed recently in the Elementary Knowledge Master Open academic competition. The teams, consisting of fifth and sixth grade students, used computers to answer 100 challenging questions from all curriculum areas. A team of ten students from the 6th grade REACH class of Stillwater School placed 6th in the state of New Jersey. The 5th grade REACH also competed. The Knowledge Master is no mere trivia contest. The questions require higher-level thinking skills and cover thirteen curriculum areas-American history, world history, government, recent events, geography, literature, English, math, physical science, biology, earth science, health & psychology, fine arts, and useless trivia. The Knowledge Master Open was designed to stimulate enthusiasm for learning and recognition for academic accomplishment. The contest ran on a classroom computer projected onto the ActivBoard to allow the students the opportunity to compete in a large academic event without the expense of traveling to a central site.

3RD GRADE NEWS: POETRY - Third graders recently began a new Language Arts theme about poetry. Students are reading a variety of poems, written by famous poets and fellow classmates. They are learning about alliteration, couplets, similes, and poetry forms. Each student is creating a collection of poems using the internet to publish their booklet. The students also had the opportunity to meet with a second grade class to create a book about couplets. Together the second and third graders practiced many different writing skills. We are creating “Walls of Poetry” in and near our classrooms.



SPORTS

ATTENTION ALL SOCCER PLAYERS! There will be a 2013 SPRING season for our rec. program. Extra registration forms 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.

FUNDRAISERS

MARKET DAY: Thank you for continuing to support this fundraiser AND Harmony Hill UMC. February's order forms were sent home this week with the students. NEW ITEMS THIS MONTH: Sweet Potato Encrusted Pollack, Seasoned Wedge Fries, and Fudge Covered Cheesecake Pops. All \$40 orders (pre-tax/pre-discounts) will receive a FREE package of Five Cheese Garlic Toast. Online orders totaling \$90 (pre-tax/pre-discounts) will receive a FREE package of Cheese Ravioli. To receive the free raviolis, please remember to input FEBBONUS at checkout when you place your order. FREQUENT BUYERS: Make two purchases of \$40 (pre-tax/pre-discounts) between February and April. Then

place a third order of \$40 (pre-tax/pre-discounts) in May to receive your FREE EcoBags (3-pack) at your May sale pick-up. 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

FREE SENIOR LUNCHEON: On Saturday, February 9 at 12 PM at the Fire Dept. on Stillwater Rd., Harmony Hill United Methodist and Stillwater Presbyterian Churches will be hosting a FREE SENIOR LUNCHEON. All Stillwater seniors are welcome to attend. Seating is limited. Please call (973) 383-4868 to RSVP by Monday, Feb. 4.

OPEN MIC NIGHT: On Saturday, February 16, Harmony Hill United Methodist Church will be hosting its first monthly Open Mic Night, which is open to all styles and to all ages. This event is FREE and is a great opportunity for people of all ages to share their talents, whether they are musicians, poets, artists, dancers or any other form of art. The Open Mic will run from 7 - 10 PM.

STILLWATER PTA

- **PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD OPENINGS:** As of June 30, 2013, the PTA Executive Board will have two open positions; President and Corresponding Secretary. These positions will be open due to the conclusion of their current two-year terms. If anyone is interested in being nominated for either of these positions, please contact Marilyn Geydoshek at msc23@ptd.net or 973-579-9414.
- **VALENTINE CANDY SALE:** The annual Valentine Candy sale is coming soon!! The sale will take place in the cafeteria during all lunches on February 13th and 14th. Should school be closed on one of those dates due to inclement weather, there will be a "snow date" on February 15th. The students will have the opportunity to purchase sweet treats and Smencils for their family members and friends. All items will be priced between .50¢ and \$1.50. If you would like your child to be able to purchase a Valentine Surprise for a family member or friend, simply send them to school on one of the above dates with their money in an envelope, and they can make their purchase during their lunchtime. Any questions, contact Stacy Longcor at 973-300-4733.
- **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!!!!
- **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.
- **BOOK IT:** The Book It reading program is back and will be running 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 Wal Mart 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 AND MAGNETS:** 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.
- **COMING NEXT MONTH:** Rollerskating, Book Swap.
- **OUR NEXT PTA MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH AT 7 PM. ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!!**