

POSITIVE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

Read by Emma Miller

"We would accomplish many more things if we did not think of them as impossible." C. Malesherbez

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

2/18 & 2/19 (Mon. & Tue.) – Winter Recess – School Closed
2/21 (THURSDAY) – NO AFTER SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER
2/25 – Math-a-Thon money due

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.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

ALL VISITORS TO STILLWATER SCHOOL MUST SIGN IN AT THE MAIN OFFICE UPON ARRIVAL AND SIGN OUT WHEN LEAVING.

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!

BUS NOTE GUIDELINES: In an effort to provide a safe and sound dismissal for your child(ren), and to avoid end of the day confusion, we are asking you to abide by the following guidelines when changing your child's dismissal arrangements.

Please send your bus notes to school in the morning with your child. This will help to eliminate the number of students who need to make a phone call from the office to home. It is important to note that time spent in the office is time he/she is losing in the classroom.

We understand there are occasional situations that require a last minute change in plans. If you discover during the day that you will need to pick your child up at the end of the day, (or need him/her to go home with another student) please call the office to let us know as early possible during the day, so we can follow the steps to assure that the student and teacher receive the information. Please try not to wait until dismissal time to give us this information, unless it's an emergency situation.

Important things to help us in the office to efficiently handle all bus notes:

- ❖ Please **PRINT** your child's name and all other information **clearly** on the bus note.
- ❖ **Always** include your **child's bus number** on the form.
- ❖ If you are requesting that your child go home on another bus with another student, you **must** include the route number of the bus you would like your child to ride on, as well as clearly writing the name of the student he/she will be riding with. You will receive a call from the office if we cannot accommodate your request.

Thank you for your cooperation. Keeping our teachers and office staff well informed will ensure a smooth end of the day process. If you have any questions, feel free to call Dan Cullen at 973-383-6171.

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.

HOORAY, HOORAY, IT WAS THE 100TH DAY! Since the very first day of school this year, Kindergarten has been counting each day (that we've been in school) and we have finally reached 100! Kindergarten classes celebrated by reading stories about the 100th day of school, counting to 100 by 1s, 5s and 10s and by making special 100th day projects. The children enjoyed making collections of 100 items at home and shared them with their friends at school. Some of the items they brought in were: Swedish Fish, M & Ms, pennies, candy hearts, pasta, wiggly eyes, LEGO building blocks and many more. Counting to 100 is quite an accomplishment and fun too.



SCHOOL COUNSELING CORNER: In honor of Valentine's Day, the students and I talked about "Heart Talk." Heart Talk is a caring way to talk over a problem. We use "I" statements to explain

what we are upset about. I feel _____ because _____. Please _____. The students practiced these strategies. You can practice these strategies at home as well!!!

Ruth Najemian - 973-383-3998

SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY: We have established recent procedures to ensure the maximum safety and security of the Stillwater Township School. As of February 1, we are locking the front doors of the school at 3:15pm and are requesting all parents, guardians, or community members using our facility to please enter and exit the school through the back doors located in the hallway by the elevator. All other entrance ways in and out of the school will be locked and secured in an effort to maximize our school safety and security efforts. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation to make the Stillwater Township School a tremendous place to learn and grow.
Respectfully, Daniel Cullen

CAT IN THE HAT VISITS STILLWATER SCHOOL:

The children in grades Pre-K to 3 were excited to hear the Dr. Seuss book The Cat in the Hat last Thursday morning as part of an assembly to promote "Love of Reading Week". Love of Reading Week will take place from February 25-March 2nd and will coincide with "Read Across America". In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday (on March 2nd) and as part of Stillwater Schools festivities being planned to get children excited about reading, The Cat in the Hat made a surprise visit to our All-Purpose Room as our Guest Reader Ms. Jackman shared his story with the children. The children were excited to see the story "come alive" as the life-sized Cat in the Hat interacted with them. Stillwater School has many activities planned to celebrate this week long event and hope that you and your child will share our excitement about reading!

5TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS: What do you think of around Valentine's Day? The fifth grade students think of CANDY! Our fifth grade writers recently wrote narratives that included candy bar names as people, places and things. Stop by the fifth grade hallway this week to read about the war between the Nerds and Smarties. Or maybe you want to read about the Twix who took over the world! Whatever your preference, your mouth will certainly water for candy as you read the fifth grader's writing pieces. Happy Valentine's Day.

3RD GRADE FAMILY MATH began on Thursday, February 7th. Openers included toothpick puzzles, cut a card, coin problems, tangrams and a Venn diagram. Activities enjoyed by all were the balloon ride game and "Sum What" and place-value dice games. Congratulations to The Blide Family who came closest to the goldfish estimation of 560. They estimated 550! Team LoCasio was the first family to solve the cut a card. Congratulations to all!
Ms. Grau and Miss Johnson

STUDENT COUNCIL: Our Pennies for Patients drive will continue until the end of February. Look under couch cushions, check behind the furniture, and peek into car cup holders! All of the money collected will go directly to the Lukemia and Lymphoma Society, which uses money to research and help families with children battling cancer. The top two collecting classes will receive an ice cream or pizza party! Please help the Student Council with this very important event!

PEDOMETER "OPOLY" RESULTS: The Pedometer "Opoly" program is complete. The total number of steps from all of the classes that participated combined is 3,364,342! Mrs. Ciccolella's class is the overall winner as well as the 6th grade class winner with a total of 363,276 steps! The 5th grade class winner is Ms. Corter's class with a total of 282,320 steps! The 4th grade class winner is Mrs. Bickhardt's class with a total of 276,651 steps! The 3rd grade class winner is Mrs. Winay's class with a total of 284,467 steps! Great job to all of the classes that participated! Your efforts were fantastic! Remember to keep moving! Ms. Radimer, Mr. Reed, Mrs. Hayes

SAVE THE DATE: The next Activity Night for the sixth graders will be Friday, March 1 from 7:00–9:00 pm at Kittatinny Regional High School. The information sheet about the event with attached permission slip went home today with the students. Please return the permission slip with \$3.00 as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Radimer, Mr. Reed, or Mrs. Hayes at Stillwater School. Thank you.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION: If your child will be 3 or 4 years old on or before October 1, 2013, you may register him/her for preschool for the 2013/2014 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.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

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 have been sent home. 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

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.
- **THANK YOU:** Please join the PTA in extending a heartfelt THANK YOU to Stacy Longcor! Stacy is our Valentine's Day Candy Sale Chairperson. She took on the role, planned the event, organized the volunteers, and was in the cafeteria to greet the smiling faces of our students as they purchased their special Valentines a lovely gift. THANK YOU STACY, and THANK YOU to her volunteer "Cupids" who helped her with this event!!
- **TRICKY TRAY:** The 2013 Tricky Tray is now underway. An informational letter, as well as a donation form, were sent home with the students weeks ago. 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:** It is time to return your January reading logs. Please make sure your child's name and teacher's name are on it so that you can receive your Pizza Hut coupon. When you redeem your Pizza Hut coupon, don't forget to ask for your Passport to Reading and your first sticker! 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, MARCH 6TH AT 3:15 PM. ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!!**