



### Important Dates to Remember:

- ☐ **BOE MEETING: 12/17, 7:00 PM IN LIBRARY**
- ☐ **EARLY DISMISSAL: 12/21 AT 12:40 PM**
- ☐ **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR WINTER RECESS: 12/24-1/1**

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

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Do you know a classroom teacher who is dedicated, inspiring, and making a difference?** If so, please take the time to recommend this person for the Governor's Educator of the Year Program by completing the nomination form attached to the newsletter. All forms need to be returned to Mrs. Cramer by 12/14/18. Please contact her with any questions you may have.

#### **PRESCHOOL NEWS:**

The preschool children are bursting at the seams with excitement over the winter holidays! Stories and songs about Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Hanukkah are enriching the season and adding to the joy this time of year. A great lesson learned is that giving is very rewarding as they create holiday cards and gifts for their families. The children are enjoying the daily antics of Calvin, our classroom Elf. The preschool wishes all of our friends and families a happy and healthy holiday season!

#### **KINDERGARTEN NEWS:**

The kindergarten classes have been learning about the different ways that the December holidays are celebrated. We learned about Kwanzaa and Hanukkah. We also learned a cute song for the Senior Luncheon. The children loved performing for our Stillwater Seniors! We are learning our sight words, writing sentences and working very hard on our beginning reading skills. We are having fun making holiday crafts and our hallways look very festive with all the trees made by our kindergarten students and their families. We wish you a happy, healthy holiday season.

#### **FIRST GRADE NEWS:**

The children listened to the story, "Elf on a Shelf." Each classroom was visited by an elf. Their names are Elfie and Spike. The children learned about writing friendly letters. They wrote a letter to the elves at the North Pole. Elfie and Spike delivered our letters to the elves. We are eagerly awaiting a response to our letters.

Fun traditions to start with your child during the holidays! Children remember the time you spend with them so why not make the holidays special for everyone!

Parents Magazine

<https://www.parents.com/holiday/christmas/traditions/creating-family-traditions/>

Family Education

<https://www.familyeducation.com/fun/christmas-activities-traditions/12-days-fun-cheap-christmas-activities-families>

#### **SCHOOL NURSE NEWS:**

December 2-8 is National Influenza Awareness Week. If you have not done so already, it is not too late to get yourself and your children a seasonal flu shot. Vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older as long as they do not have a medical contraindication to getting the vaccine. The flu shot is the best way to reduce your risk of getting the flu and may prevent serious complications even if you do get the flu. In New Jersey, all pre-K students up to 59 months of age are required to receive an annual flu shot by Dec. 31st of each year if they attend school.

**BRRRRR IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!** The winter weather always seems to arrive too soon but it is definitely upon us. Please make sure that your children are dressed appropriately and are prepared to go out for recess on these cold days. We continue to see children coming to school in shorts and without jackets or gloves. I often have children come to the health office requesting to borrow a jacket or an extra layer of clothing. Older children who dress themselves in the morning may need to be reminded that they are expected to dress for the weather. With a little preparation our children can continue to enjoy outside recess on most days during the winter months.

**ABSENTEE CALLS:** All absences must be reported directly to our dedicated attendance line **by 9:30am - 973-383-3227**. Kindly keep in mind this number is for **Absentee Calls ONLY**. If you need to speak directly to the nurse Maureen Beckman or leave a message for her, she can be reached at 973-383-6171 ext. 216. The nurse's voice mail should be used for health concerns **other than attendance**.

**SCHOOL HOURS:** The school day is 8:25 AM until 3:06 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.** Morning drop-off is available in the gym from 8:00-8:25 am. Any drop-off after 8:25 is at the main entrance after the buses have unloaded.

**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. 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).**

**MORNING DROP OFF:** Morning Drop off is available in the gym from 8:00 – 8:25 a.m. Any drop at 8:25 or after is at the main entrance after all buses have unloaded.

**AFTERNOON PICK UP:** Parents will need to wait outside the gym doors and your child/children will be brought out to you. You will be greeted at the doors by a staff member to sign out your child/children. Once you have signed them out, a staff member will bring the students to you at the door.

### **AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES PICKUP:**

If your child is staying for any after school activity, it is your responsibility to pick up your child at the designated time. We know that emergencies can occur, however, there is no one to answer the switchboard after 4:00 p.m. If an emergency occurs please plan for an alternate or emergency contact to pick your child up from the activity.

**SIGNING STUDENTS OUT:** All students who are leaving the school building must be signed out by a parent/guardian or **authorized** 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 **must** be sent in that morning to the homeroom teacher. For students attending KEEP or First Impressions, or being picked up on a **regularly SCHEDULED basis**, please write that in a note (preferably on a green bus note) including the details of child's specific schedule, **bus route number**, and a contact person for our records. **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.** 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 Mrs. Roberts or Mrs. Roycroft.

**REAL TIME PARENT PORTAL:** Please remember to login to the Real time parent portal and update your child(ren)'s contact information if needed as well as filling out any forms for the current school year.

### **REMINDER TO PARENTS:**

Students are not to bring personal items for play into school. Various balls and equipment for recess are provided by the school. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **REMINDER TO PARENTS REGARDING SCHOOL BUS SAFETY (Please review with your children):**

#### **Waiting for the Bus and Getting on the Bus**

- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing or other behavior that can lead to carelessness.
- Do not stray onto the street, alleys or private property.
- Line up away from the street or road as the bus approaches.
- Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before approaching the bus.
- **Wait for the bus driver to signal you to cross the street *and* look both ways before crossing the street.**
- Use the handrail when boarding the bus.
- Proceed to your assigned seat immediately upon entering the bus.
- Put your seat belt on and place backpack on your lap.

### THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### **Fairview Lake YMCA- Super Friends – First Friday of the month from 6-8pm**

Join us as we spend our Friday evenings together making friends and having fun. This program is designed for people with different abilities to come together and spend the evening making memories. Families are welcome and encouraged to join us, as they too can connect with one another and build a network of families. We will offer a variety of programming over the course of the year, with each session focusing on a different aspect of our camp! Youth and teens are encouraged to join us on the first Friday of each month and adults are able to join us on the third Friday of each month. Fridays, 6-8PM, **December 7:** Youth/Teens – Candle Making

#### **Breakfast with Santa**

SATURDAY December 8, 2017, 8-11am  
Stillwater Area Volunteer Fire Co.

#### **Holiday Craft Fair**

##### **Crafters, Artisans and Vendors**

Saturday 12/8 9-2:30 pm  
North Warren Regional School

#### **Rainbows – Grief Group for Children**

The Sparta United Methodist Church is again sponsoring *Rainbows* to benefit our community children. Rainbows is a grief group for children who are experiencing loss as a result of a death, divorce, separation, deployment, or incarceration. Life changes such as these alter the entire family system and profoundly impact children. Rainbows is a national organization dedicated to creating a safe supportive space to explore feelings, build coping skills, and foster healing. The Sparta *Rainbows* program is staffed with sensitive, caring, and trained facilitators who are devoted to assisting children put their feelings into words, understand grief, and move towards greater acceptance of what has taken place in their family. Rainbows is a strong addition to a support network, it is not a substitute for counseling with a mental health professional. If you are aware of families and children that would benefit from such a program please consider sharing our information. The program will meet this fall beginning October 4th.

#### ***When:***

**Thursdays, Feb 21,28; March 7-28 (2019)**

6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. – first session  
6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. – remaining sessions

#### ***Where:***

**Sparta United Methodist Church**

71 Sparta Avenue, Sparta, New Jersey 07871

**Registration required! Please contact:**

973.207.3352

[spartarainbows@gmail.com](mailto:spartarainbows@gmail.com)

[www.rainbows.org](http://www.rainbows.org)

# Stillwater PTA

\*Please check this section of the newsletter weekly for PTA news, updates, and special events.\*  
You can also visit our websites at [www.stillwatertwppta.my-pta.org](http://www.stillwatertwppta.my-pta.org), and [pt-avenue.com](http://pt-avenue.com). Code: stillwater.  
Like us on Facebook- "Stillwater Twp. PTA".\*

## **2018-2019 PTA Executive Board OFFICERS**

<b>President, Arlean Konar</b>	<b>Stillwaterptapresident@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Vice President, Alicia Gardner</b>	<b>ptavpstillwater@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Treasurer, Kayla Philhower</b>	<b>treasurerstillwaterpta@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Corr. Sec., Tanya O'Shea</b>	<b>Stillwaterptacorsec@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Rec. Sec., Christine Bello</b>	<b>Stillwatertwppta@gmail.com</b>

*The Stillwater PTA would like to welcome back all students, parents, and faculty! We are looking forward to a fantastic school year!*

## **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 that are raised go directly to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington, D.C! 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. Please note by downloading the app you can now simply select the items you plan on purchasing or have already purchased and scan your receipt for validation. Your account is linked to Stillwater school when you sign up! Visit the link at: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/bonusapp>
3. Shop at AmazonSmile! Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to 18906 Stillwater PTA. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7214634> and support us every time you shop.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** 12/12 – 12/14 - Holiday Shoppe

**NEXT PTA MEETING:** Thursday, January 3, 2019 from 7:00-8:00PM in room A119. We welcome and encourage all to attend!