

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

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.

SECOND GRADE NEWS:

Second graders are making their very own book of holiday traditions! Our students have been working hard to compose a writing piece that describes a holiday that their family celebrates, what their family does to decorate, activities they do to celebrate, and what they eat! Not only are our second graders authors, but illustrators! They are creating pictures to include in our book as well. We are excited to finalize our book and receive the final product!

THIRD GRADE NEWS:

Have you ever read a newspaper or magazine article? An article is a type of informational text that informs readers about a topic by providing facts. Third graders have been working extremely hard on writing articles. Students also included text features and cited their sources. Ask a third grader what topic they wrote about. We have also been recently relating multiplication and division facts. This is helping students learn their multiplication facts. Please continue to practice fact fluency often for mastery. Visit www.multiplication.com for online practice.

FOURTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES NEWS:

Our students are entering the new land that is now New Jersey and how Great Britain is affecting the colonists. The King continues to add more taxes while the colonists become angrier. The conflict continues while the colonists boycott Great Britain and their products. The final tax on tea infuriates the colonists and the Boston Tea Party takes place. All of these events are steps leading to freedom, eventually away from Great Britain.

FOURTH GRADE SCIENCE NEWS:

In science, we are learning about the changing land and how the effects of weathering or the rate of erosion by water, ice, and wind are continually changing the earth. The two most recent labs we completed demonstrated how sediment is visible in water when erosion takes place. This first lab was called "Shake It." The students see the effects of erosion using a sugar cube in water and gravel. The sugar cube and its particles as sediment are visible in both substances. The second lab we completed was titled "Waves on the Beach" and the objective was to see how the ocean current erodes a coastline, especially after a storm. Our students apply these concepts in simple labs for a complete understanding of "Changing Land." Great job fourth graders!

FIFTH GRADE MATH NEWS:

The fifth graders have been working extremely hard in class to master double-digit long division. This is a difficult concept that most students don't enjoy! But, with practice and more practice, the students are mastering the concept and even begun to enjoy it! With practice, all things are easier. Our next topic is double-digit long division with decimals!

SIXTH GRADE MATH NEWS:

Grade 6 math students have spent this past month learning what an equation represents. They used a balance scale to represent an equation being the same on both sides of the equal sign. Students built upon that understanding to show how the properties of equality can be used to keep that equation true and balanced. By the end of the unit, students were able to apply the properties of equality to isolate a variable in an algebraic equation and solve for the unknown. Students expanded on this concept by writing inequalities and graphing the solutions on a number line and identified dependent and independent variables.

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.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2018-2019 Stillwater Recreation Activity Club

Hello Stillwater Families,

To start off our monthly Activity Club we will be holding our first session on Wednesday December 19, 2018 at the Stillwater Town Hall from 3:30-6:00pm. Come out and enjoy making some holiday crafts, nothing is better than handmade gifts for friends, family and teachers. Each member will also be making a Holiday Greeting Card for Senior Citizens at one of our local Senior Housing Facilities! Help us spread the cheer of the season to those who need it! For more information and to confirm your child's attendance please contact Tara Tosti by calling or texting 973-903-5604. This is not a school sponsored event* this is sponsored by the Stillwater Recreation Committee

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES – Harmony Hill United Methodist Church, 919 Fairview Lake Road. Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 7:30 pm in the church sanctuary. Come, and experience the wonder of this most holy night. Our Christmas Eve Barn Service with Live Nativity will take place at 11 pm in the barn at 928 Mount Holly Road in Stillwater. Come, listen to the Christmas Eve narrative, sing Christmas Carols, and live in the moment of this holy night amongst the holy family, and the animals. We hope to see you there – Merry Christmas!

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

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, and pt-avenue.com. Code: stillwater.

Like us on Facebook- "Stillwater Twp. PTA".*

2018-2019 PTA Executive Board OFFICERS

President, Arlean Konar

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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 6th 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: 1/11/18 Family Movie Night

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