

Happy
Holidays!

Important Dates to Remember:

- ☐ SCHOOL CLOSED FOR WINTER RECESS: 12/24-1/1
- ☐ BOE Meeting 1/7/19 at 7pm in Library
- ☐ SCHOOL CLOSED: 1/21/19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

BRRRRRR 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.

To STILLWATER STAFF, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY:

Thank you so much for your generosity this holiday season!

Ruth Najemian

School Social Worker

THIRD GRADE NEWS:

In third grade students are working hard on finishing up their independent research projects during writing class. Some of the wonderful topics include Golden Retrievers, the role of cats in Ancient Egypt, Pumas, and Abraham Lincoln. In reading we will be starting our unit on biographies when we return from break. In science, students just finished learning about inherited traits. They enjoyed learning which traits they inherited from their mom or dad! We will be starting our next unit in Social Studies when we return from Holiday Break. Third grade will be learning about Native American and Early European Explorers.

THIRD GRADE MATH NEWS:

Third graders continue working hard to master their multiplication facts, and most recently practiced relating multiplication and division. Fact families is one way to show the relationship between numbers. Students modeled a variety of fact families in a festive way and are displayed on their classroom bulletin boards! Students did a great job! Practicing multiplication facts at home is a big help for any third grade student! The third grade teachers would like to wish everyone a happy holiday!

Art News:

Our S.T.E.A.M art classes are currently creating ceramic pieces on the pottery wheel! An understanding of Physics including; force, pull, gravity and friction is required to complete the process. Our students have developed a great respect and appreciation for professional Ceramicist, considering the level of technique and skill required for success. If you apply too much external force, the clay will collapse. Allow friction and centrifugal force to take, the clay will fly off the wheel! Students will also be given the opportunity to glaze their pottery before the final kiln firing.



P.E. CLASS NEWS:

This past week the students had an opportunity to participate in a variety of fun Holiday stations! The stations included a giant snowball relay, a snowball fight, Holiday tic-tac-toe, a bobsled course, ring in the new year, stocking stuffers, and jingle bell basketball. The students practiced their skills, exercised, and had a blast! Happy Holidays! Have a great break and we'll see you in 2019! Mr. Reed & Ms. Radimer

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

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!

KITTATINNY YOUTH LACROSSE CLUB REGISTRATION

Registration is currently \$170 for the Spring 2019 season, but will increase to \$200 on January 1st. A partial payment option is available again this year to spread the cost over several months. Please register soon as possible as teams are filling up quickly!

<https://www.kittatinnylax.com/>

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

Thank you to Traci and Keith Trotter for chairing the Holiday Shop!

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	Stillwaterptapresident@yahoo.com
Vice President, Alicia Gardner	ptavpstillwater@yahoo.com
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Rec. Sec., Christine Bello	Stillwatertwppta@gmail.com

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. We will be showing Incredibles 2

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