



Important Dates to Remember:

- ☐ **BOE Meeting 1/7/19 at 7pm in Library**
- ☐ **SCHOOL CLOSED: 1/21/19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY**
- ☐ **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: 1/22 – 1/25 (9:30 AM– 1PM)**
- ☐ **Yearbooks go on sale: 1/28 for \$19.00**

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.

FIRST GRADE NEWS:

First grade students have discovered sound all around us! We have learned how sound is made. In stations, the children completed experiments. They made rice and water move. Ask your child to share their knowledge with you!

FOURTH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS:

In Language Arts, students have been working hard on literature essays. Everyone has grown in their writing stamina and organization skills. We started reading a new novel this month, *Year of the Dog* by Grace Lin. It has been fun to see how the characters celebrate the Chinese New Year and learn a little about the unique traditions for this holiday.

SIXTH GRADE NEWS:

6th Grade Baby Photos - Attention 6th graders if you have not submitted your Baby Photo for the yearbook please get it in ASAP. You can send in an original picture with your name that will be returned to you or you can email a photo to Miss Radimer or Mrs.Riva.

MUSIC NEWS:

Welcome back and welcome 2019. There are many new things coming up in the New Year, especially in the music room. Students in grades five and six will have the opportunity to audition for District Band and Choir. Auditions will take place during school next week, January 7. Check into Ms. Franck's teacher webpage for specific requirements. Third graders will be starting their recorder unit! Each student will receive a recorder and folder filled with music to learn this beginning instrument. And thinking of beginning instruments, fourth graders in Beginning Band will start their full band rehearsals! Rather than just practicing as individual instruments, all the students will meet on Friday's during activity period to start preparing for the Spring Concert! Some Advanced and Beginning Band lessons have changed, so please double check on-line. Copies are available to students at school. Looking forward to new songs, activities and instruments this year!

MAKERSPACE UPDATE:

Makerspace Magic Update! The continued transformation of the Makerspace into an innovative space for all students has led to some interesting activities so far this year! While focusing on the Engineering Design Process and Project-Based Learning, students have been challenged in a variety of ways. Here are some updates at each grade level, highlighting what students have been working on...

Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2:

- Exploration of coding with Dash and puzzlets
- Hour of Code - Kodables App
- Makerspace Exploration - Lego Wall, Aquaponics System, Keva Contraptions and Dash!

Grade 3:

- Wonder Workshop -Dash and Dot robot challenges
 - Programming Dash with challenge cards
- Makerspace Exploration - Lego Wall, Keva Contraptions, Magnetic Marble Run

Grade 4:

- Makerspace Exploration - Gyroscopes, Lego Wall, Keva Contraptions, Magnetic Marble Run
- Engineering - Catching the Wind - Designing Windmills
 - Designing and Testing sails, creating arms for a windmill

Grades 5&6 - STEAM Cycles:

- 3-D Printing - Pencil Holder Design Challenge
- Go Fish - Engineering Prosthetic Tails



VOLLEYBALL CLUB:

Attention 4th, 5th, and 6th Graders - Permissions slips are going home to sign up for Volleyball Club! It will be taking place on Thursdays beginning February 7 and continuing February 14, 21, 28, and March 1 and 8. It will run until 4:15. Please return your permission slip as soon as possible to guarantee your spot in the club.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION for 2019-2020 School Year will be January 22 – 25, 2019:

If your child will be 5 years old on or before October 1, 2019, you may register him/her for Kindergarten for the 2018-2019 school year. Registration packets will be available beginning Monday, January 7, 2019. You may call Mrs. Lisa Roycroft (973-383-6171) or email her at lisa.roycroft@stillwaterschool.net beginning January 7, 2019 to request a registration packet to be mailed to you, or you may pick one up at the school office beginning January 7th between the hours of 9:30am – 2:00pm.

Complete instructions and important dates are included in the packet. Packets must be returned to school during Kindergarten Registration Week, Tuesday, January 22nd through Friday, January 25th, between the hours of **9:30am – 1:00pm ONLY**. Please call Mrs. Roycroft if you CANNOT come to school at the above mentioned dates and times, and an appointment can be made. Your child does not need to be with you when you register.

REQUIRED FOR REGISTRATION:

Birth Certificate (original – with raised seal)

Up to date immunization history – please contact our school nurse, Maureen Beckman, with questions regarding immunizations at 973-383-6171 ext. 216 or maureen.beckman@stillwaterschool.net

Physical examination form completed by your child's physician

Proof of Residency (2) – preferred items are:

Copy of deed/mortgage or lease agreement

Stillwater residence tax bill

Utility bill for Stillwater residence

Copy of driver's license with Stillwater address (not a PO Box)

Kindergarten pre-screening dates are planned for Wednesday-Thursday, April 10 and 11, 2019. An appointment will be scheduled for your child when you return your registration papers.

There will be a Kindergarten Orientation on Wednesday, June 5, 2019, from 9:00-10:30am. More information to follow

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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!

Kittatinny Youth Lacrosse is excited to announce our 2nd year youth lacrosse clinic open to grades K – 2 boys and girls. Come experience the fastest growing sport in the country! This clinic will be based off of the US Lacrosse Soft Stick Development Program. It will be fun and drill based with the kids broken into small groups and constantly moving and learning the fundamentals in a fun and exciting way. The goal is to eventually field a team for these younger age groups to compete in the NJYLL. The clinic will take place for 5 weeks starting February 25th – March 23rd from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Fredon Civic Center. Kids will need a mouthpiece to participate. All other equipment will be provided at the clinic. Become part of our growing and thriving Kittatinny Lacrosse Family! Go Cougars!

LINK FOR K-2 YOUTH CLINIC

<https://kittatinnylax.sportngin.com/register/form/908711940>

The Kittatinny Travel Softball Program will hold tryouts for those interested in joining the 14U, 12U and 10U teams. The 14u (eligible if you are 14 or younger on 1/1/19) 12u (eligible if you were 12 or younger on 1/1/19) and 10u (eligible if you were 10 or younger on 1/1/19). Tryouts will be held at the Fredon Civic Center on February 3, 10 and 24. 14U tryouts will be from 11:00-12:00, 12U tryouts will be from 12:00-1:00, and 10U tryouts will be from 1:00-2:00.

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.

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	Stillwaterptapresident@yahoo.com
Vice President, Alicia Gardner	ptavpstillwater@yahoo.com
Treasurer, Kayla Philhower	treasurerstillwaterpta@yahoo.com
Corr. Sec., Tanya O'Shea	Stillwaterptacorsec@yahoo.com
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: Family Movie Night: The Incredibles, Friday, January 18, 2019 at 6:30 pm. Snow date 1/25/19.

NEXT PTA MEETING: Thursday, March 7, 2019 from 7:00-8:00PM in room A119.

We welcome and encourage all to attend!