



Important Dates to Remember:

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

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

On 1/16/19 our 5th and 6th grade Pinwheel students competed in an Academic Brain Bowl at Fredon School. We are extremely excited to report that Stillwater Team #2 won 1st Place at the event! Congratulations to all of our teams, way to go Stillwater!

FIRST GRADE NEWS:

The students will be learning about communication this month. They will learn about different ways to communicate with each other. Students will experiment by sending messages using Morse code. They will create their own secret code which their classmates have to use to reveal a hidden message.

SECOND GRADE NEWS:

Our second graders have been researching arctic animals! Each second grader has chosen an arctic animal to research and collect facts about their habitat, diet, physical features, and fun facts! Students will be using this information to develop a detailed report on their animal. While researching, we are learning how to use nonfiction text features such as the table of contents, bold words, captions, and diagrams to gather information. We are excited to continue learning about these amazing animals!

Do you know how many polar bear footsteps it takes to measure the Second Grade hallway? This is just one of the many exciting questions that students will be exploring as part of their non-fiction Reading and Writing Units. They are all growing their minds as they complete research on an Arctic animal and learn many new facts about non-fiction topics. They even performed surgery last week! Text Feature Surgery that is. Student enthusiasm is high and we can't wait to see what the rest of the unit brings!



FIFTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES NEWS:

The 5th graders are at it again! The history students in Mrs. Steffens' class are gearing up for the Annual Colonial Fair which will be held in February. Each student is representing one of the original 13 colonies and will be researching a specific trade from the times. During the fair, which is held in the cafeteria, each student will have the opportunity to be in character, dress in period clothing, and go by their colonial name for the duration of the event. It will also give them the opportunity to show off their knowledge on all that have learned throughout the unit. Each day the students are working hard to prepare for their big day and we are all excited to see how well they do!

BE SOCIAL NEWS:

Lunch clubs are in full swing for grade kindergarten and grade 3. Students love coming to the B Social lounge, eating their lunch, chatting and practicing social skills.

LIBRARY NEWS:

The Bears are Coming! The Bears are Coming! Stillwater Library invites EVERYONE in the school to bring a bear into school during the month of February. We are having a VERY BEARY FEBRUARY. Bears should be labeled with THEIR name, and THEIR OWNER'S name.

Students in Pre-K through Second grade will be celebrating the month with bear stories and activities during regular library classes. Students in older grades will be invited to participate in writing contests (bear stories, of course). Bear math challenges (can you guess how many bears there are?) and other beary fun ideas designed to make February enjoyable. Bears are invited to stay the month, but if they are too well loved they don't have to. Bears can come to school when your child has library and go home the same day. However, the bears that DO stay will get to meet all those other bears and have all kinds of excitement throughout the month. Mrs. Picone is in the library all day on Mondays and all of Tuesday morning. But bears can be dropped off anytime starting Friday, February 1. Just make sure they have names clearly pinned on.

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTICE OF VACANCY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Stillwater Township Board of Education is seeking a candidate from the Township of Stillwater to fill a vacancy on the Board of Education arising from a resignation. The successful candidate will be appointed to fill this vacancy until December 31, 2019.

Legal requirements for becoming a member of the Board of Education are:

1. An ability to read and write.
2. Citizenship and one year's residence in the district.
3. No interest in any contract with or claim against the Board.
4. To not hold office as Mayor or member of the governing body of Stillwater.
5. Is registered to vote in Stillwater and is not a disqualified voter under N.J.S.A. 19:4-1.

Interested candidates are requested to send a letter of interest on or before Friday, January 25, 2019 to René Metzgar, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and P.O. Box 12, Stillwater, New Jersey 07875.

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.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

KITTATINNY YOUTH LACROSSE CLUB REGISTRATION

Registration is now \$200 for the Spring 2019 season. 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 for 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. On February 10 tryouts will be held at the Fredon Civic Center for 14U 8-9 AM, 12U 9-10 AM, 10U 10-11 AM.

Community Digital Citizenship Event

Frankford Township School

2 Pines Road Branchville, NJ

Are you challenged by raising a "screenager" or is there one on your horizon?

Save the date for parents and kids alike to help understand today's social media and building a positive digital footprint.

Tuesday, Feb. 5th, 6:45-8:45pm

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

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, is tonight at 6:30 PM! Please arrive a little early to make yourself comfortable. Door prizes, snacks, and more will be provided. Bring your pillows, blankets, or chairs.

Friday, February 8th - Annual Father Daughter Dance

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

We welcome and encourage all to attend!