



POSITIVE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:
 Read by: Nicole Vassallo & Renee Slobodzian
 "Give the world the best you have, and the best will come to you!"
 ~ Madeline Bridge

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

ABSENTEE CALLS: Please call attendance line **973-383-3227** when calling your child out of school. Do not use the personal voice mail of our nurse, Maureen Beckman. The nurse's voice mail should be used for health concerns other than attendance.

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.

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).** Thank-you for your cooperation!



AFTER SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER DATES: 12/12, 1/7, 1/9, 1/14, 1/16, 1/21, 1/23, 1/28, 1/30
HOLIDAY CONCERT: 12/10 – 7:00PM
SENIOR HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: 12/11 – 11:00AM
PTA HOLIDAY SHOP: 12/17 – 12/19
EARLY DISMISSAL: 12/20 – 12:40PM
HOLIDAY RECESS, SCHOOL CLOSED: 12/23 – 1/1

SENIOR HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

We cordially invite all grandparents, honorary grandparents, and significant seniors to the Stillwater School Holiday Luncheon on Wednesday, December 11th (snow date, December 12th). Seating begins at 11:00am.

Due to the popularity of this event, seating is limited. Please call 973-383-6171 to make your reservation.

Come enjoy all of the delights prepared for you by the Stillwater students.



MUSIC NEWS: It will be here before you know it!!! On Tuesday, December 10th the 2nd, 4th, and 5th graders, along with the Handbell Ensemble and the Advanced Band will be performing in our Holiday Concert. The concert begins at 7:00 p.m. and all families and friends are invited to come hear the Stillwater students in their first performance of the year. The children have been working hard and are

excited to participate in this concert. We will start at 7:00pm and be finished by 8:00pm, so we hope to see all of you there. Wednesday, December 11th, the Advanced Band, all of the 5th Graders and the Handbell Ensemble will do an encore performance at the beginning of the Senior Citizen Luncheon. Later in the luncheon, the Kindergarten classes and the 1st graders will provide more musical entertainment. What an exciting time of the year!

Q: Where do penguins go to dance?
A: The snow ball!
Q: Where does a penguin keep its money?
A: In a snow bank!
Q: Where do penguins go to the movies?
A: At the dive-in!



FIRST GRADE NEWS: The children in first grade had a visit from three of Santa's elves last week. Each elf was given a new name: Alfie, Buddy and Tom. The children wrote letters to Santa's elves asking about the North Pole. Our elf friends took our letters back to the North Pole to share with the other elves. We are eagerly awaiting their responses.



FOURTH GRADE NEWS: Fourth graders have been diligently practicing their skills in the tech lab. During both language arts and math, students are learning to answer multiple choice and open-ended questions on-line. Math knowledge and lessons are applied to these tasks. The next topic will be multiplying two digit numbers! Sandwich book reports were shared at the end of November. Each report was connected to a realistic fiction book selected in library. Many students incorporated their creativity to complete the final report. These are on display in the fourth grade homerooms.

MRS. RIVA'S CLASS NEWS: The students of Mrs. Riva's class used the money earned at the B-Social School Store to purchase fruit, snacks, drinks and sandwiches to create 60 take home meals for Manna House. With the help of Mrs. Piazza, the art teacher, the students created stamps and decorated the lunch bags with Thanksgiving scenes. While the adults made and packaged the turkey and ham sandwiches, the students worked in assembly line style to pack the bags. On Thursday, November 21, 2013, Mrs. Najemian, Mrs. Riva, Ms. Williamson, Mrs. DeCiuceis and Mrs. Sallitt accompanied the students to deliver the take home meals to Manna House. The students also assisted in setting up the dining room for lunch. The take home bags will be provided to each individual who comes to Manna House for the noon meal. After the students returned from Manna House they each provided a written reflection about how the process made them feel.

WORLD LANGUAGE NEWS: ¿Donde se habla español? - Where do people speak Spanish? If you are wondering, just ask any 4th, 5th, or 6th grade student! During the last few weeks these students have been researching this question during Spanish Class, and have discovered some interesting facts. After selecting a country to study, each student researched information and completed a report, which included details such as el capital (the capital city), los animales (the wildlife), la comida (the food), and el mapa (the map). Several of the reports are displayed in the hallway near La Clase de Español (Spanish Classroom)... come check out the answer to the question: ¿Donde se habla español?

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS: Student Council would like to thank everyone who donated paper goods during our recent paper goods drive. Several packages of napkins, paper towels, paper plates, paper cups, and plastic utensils were donated to Manna House last month, and were greatly appreciated. This month we spent time making festive holiday cards for senior citizens living at Barn Hill and Bristol Glen. These will be delivered to the residents to bring them some holiday cheer.



YEARBOOK NEWS:
CALLING ALL D.C. TRIP PHOTOGRAPHERS!!!
 If you were a chaperone for the 6th grade Washington D.C. trip and would like to help provide photos for the 2013-2014 yearbook, please contact Mrs. Piazza, our Yearbook Advisor. Your help and participation in this matter will be greatly appreciated! Thank you. melissa.piazza@stillwaterschool.net

CONNECT WITH KINDNESS

Students showing good behavior and character are being recognized with "Connect with Kindness" awards. This week we would like to congratulate:

John Cammarieri
 Cooper Waldo
 Billy Saylor

Keep up the good work!





Today, Friday, December 6, the Stillwater teachers and staff wore jeans to collect donations for the Dominican Dream Project for the SCEA, to fund the Dominican Republic Education and Mentoring program. We also collected gently used sporting equipment such as baseballs, bats, baseball mitts and craft materials .



THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

FUNDRAISERS

MARKET DAY: Welcome to December Market Days! December is cookie dough month, with 12 flavors to choose from, including the new S'mores Cookie Dough! We sampled this at our last sale pickup, and it is delicious! Your holiday favorites are back as well: Flavored Hot Cocoa Assortment, Chocolate Toffee Pretzels, Fannie May Mint Meltaways, Fannie May Pixies, and Gingerbread Boys in a new collectible tin. These make excellent hostess gifts! **NEW ITEMS THIS MONTH:** Sweet Potato Biscuits, Fiesta Pizza, and Calamari. **FREQUENT BUYERS:** If you have qualified for the frequent buyer item, please remember to place your December order of \$40 (pre-tax) to receive your FREE Hanging Organizer at sale pickup. Orders of \$90 or more (pre-tax) will receive a FREE 1 pound Pork Tenderloin (please remember to input DECBONUS at checkout to receive this). All \$40 (pre-tax) orders will receive a FREE 7 ounce sample of Kraft Mac & Cheese. All paper orders are due back by Monday, December 9th, and all online orders must be input by 11 pm on Wednesday, December 11th. Questions, contact Cheryl Castner, 973-579-3182 or ccastner@embarqmail.com. Thank you!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

APPLEBEE'S BREAKFAST: Stillwater Recreation League is hosting a pancake breakfast fundraiser on Dec. 14, 2013. Tickets are \$8.00. Contact Jessica Weinberg at 973-222-8814 jessroseben@yahoo.com or Jessica Pappa jesspappa@yahoo.com. We strive to keep registration cost affordable so everyone can participate. Please join us in supporting the sports our kids love to play!

BASKETBALL CLINIC: We plan to have the free clinic again, for boys and girls entering grades K-2, on Saturday, December 7th, from 1:30-3:00 pm in the main gym at Kittatinny High School. Please send an email to Chrisha wright with child's name and grade level cjwright11@ptd.net

RESIDENTS OF STILLWATER: It has been one year since Super Storm Sandy and there still may be trees leaning on electrical wires in town. If you notice any tree leaning on wires or trees which may be leaning precariously close to wires please report them to the township. Call 973-383-9484 or send an email to clerk@stillwatertwp.com Thank you, Stillwater Environmental Commission.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

SEASON OF HOPE TOY DRIVE: Project Self Sufficiency & partners are teaming up to bring holiday joy to thousands of children in our community. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Please consider donating a new, unwrapped gift for needy children (infants through teens). Donations will be gladly accepted at Project Self Sufficiency 127 Mill Street, Newton, NJ, Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 8:30pm, and Friday from 9:00am to 4:30pm. Pick-Up arrangements can be made if needed. Suggested items are: art supplies, books, building toys, learning toys, personal care items, sports equipment, gift cards, pretend play, and electronics. Please call Project Self Sufficiency at 973-940-5300 for a more detailed list of items or for further information, or visit www.projectselfsufficiency.org.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Please join us for our 2nd Annual Christmas Concert at Harmony Hill UMC on December 7th, at 7 p.m., at 919 Fairview Lake Road, Stillwater. This concert is free of charge and all are welcome. Join us in kicking off the Christmas season with a concert featuring performances from Sussex County's best! If you have any questions, please call the church at 973-383-4868.

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP HOME HOLIDAY

DECORATING CONTEST: Please pick up an entry form at town hall and submit no later than Monday, December, 9th. Judging will take place on the evening of 12/12 and the prizes awarded at our annual tree lighting ceremony on 12/14. All entries must be homes in Stillwater Township & winners need not be present to win. Any questions, please don't hesitate to call Donna Fritsch-Stillwater Recreation Commission at 201-280-0627 or donnafritsch@gmail.com



STILLWATER TOWNSHIP ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

CELEBRATION: Saturday, December 14th from 6-9pm at the Swartswood Fire House located on Newton Swartswood Rd. (Route 622), in Stillwater. Santa will be available for pictures with the children, along with food, drinks and the announcement of our Home Holiday Decorating Contest winners. We hope to see everyone there - **Stillwater Recreation Commission & Stillwater Township.**

STILLWATER PTA

FAMILY FUN NIGHT: The PTA will be hosting a Family Movie Night TONIGHT, (12/6) at 7PM . We will be showing "Monsters University". Hope to see you there!

HOLIDAY VENDOR/CRAFT FAIR: The Stillwater Township School PTA is happy to announce it is once again holding it's Holiday Vendor/Craft Fair! Friday, December 13th from 3-9 pm, the All-Purpose Room will be filled with Vendors and Crafters selling their wares for you! The vendor list is growing daily (we're up to 20!), so you won't want to miss this show! We'll have something for everyone on your list, and you can help support local businesses. Please come on by, whether it's right after school, after practice, after dinner, or any time in-between! Interested in being a Vendor/Crafter? Please contact Cheryl Williver, Chairperson, for details at 973-886-2686. See you at the Show!

HOLIDAY SHOPPE: The dates for this year's Holiday Shoppe are December 17th -19th. Prior to the event, students will be sent home with envelopes for parents so they can provide them with money for shopping. Volunteers are needed & greatly appreciated! If you can give a couple hours of your time, please contact John Miller at johnhenrymilleriii@gmail.com or (973) 262-2827.

BOOK IT!: Be sure to fill in your book logs and send them in to the PTA mailbox during the first week of each month. Don't forget to supply a name and homeroom teacher. Every child who completes a book log earns a coupon to Pizza Hut for a free pizza! Any questions can be sent to Chrissy Menkins at christinemenkins@aol.com.

TRICKY TRAY: The PTA is in need of a lead chairperson and a family tray collection chairperson for the Tricky Tray. This event is held in the Spring, but requires many months of planning. This is also the PTA's largest fundraising event, so please consider one of these positions! For more info, please contact Trish Hendershot at stillwaterptapresident@yahoo.com.

MEMBERSHIP: PTA membership is still underway! Please promptly complete your envelope and return it to the school as soon as possible.

PTA CHAIRPEOPLE: Now that this school year is in full swing, so is your PTA. With the many events the PTA provides, we have several parents helping behind the scenes. Part of the job of running a PTA event is putting out flyers to the school to notify everyone of the upcoming event. These flyers must be approved by the PTA and Mr. Cullen. Please send all flyers to Wendy Kimble via email at stillwaterptavp@yahoo.com for PTA approval. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy via the email address above. Also, if you would like something submitted in the weekly newsletter regarding your event, please email your submission to Jen Kraft at stillwaterptacoresec@yahoo.com no later than Wednesday for it to be published that same Friday.

STILLWATER COOKBOOKS: (\$3 each) and Stillwater School Car Magnets (\$2 each) are available for purchase! If you are interested in purchasing these items or if you have questions, please contact Amanda Connelly at aconnelly@outlook.com.

Have you heard about ShopARoo? It's an easy way to help support Stillwater School. 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!

DECEMBER'S EVENTS: Family Fun Night- 12/6, Holiday Vendor/Craft Fair- 12/13, Holiday Shoppe- 12/17-12/19

OUR NEXT PTA MEETING: Wednesday, January 8th at 3:15PM. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!!