

**POSITIVE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:**

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless". ~ Mother Teresa
Read by: Leo Watson

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

PARENTS, PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT MESSAGES**ABSENTEE CALLS**

All absences must be reported directly to our dedicated attendance line: **973-383-3227**. Kindly keep this number handy. **DO NOT call the main school phone number or use the personal voice mail of our nurse, Maureen Beckman.** The nurse's voice mail should be used for health concerns other than attendance.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Early dismissal time is 12:40. There is no lunch served when there is an early dismissal. Please send your child in with a snack.

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: 2/4, 2/6, 2/11, 2/13, 2/25, 2/27

NEWSPAPER CLUB MEETING DATES: 2/4, 2/11, 2/13, 2/25, 2/27

HOMEWORK CLUB DATES: 2/5, 2/12, 2/26

REPORT CARDS: FEBRUARY 6TH

YEARBOOK SALE: JANUARY 27TH – FEBRUARY 21ST

WINTER RECESS: FEBRUARY 17TH & 18TH

YEARBOOK SALE

Yearbooks are on sale now!

The sale will run from January 27th through February 21st.

ADVANCE ORDERS ONLY

Sale is for a limited time. You will not have the opportunity to purchase a yearbook after February 21st.

The cost is \$15.00 per yearbook.

Don't miss out!

CONNECT WITH KINDNESS

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

Clara Steffens Lindsey Tighe
 Brooke VanGorden Joey Barrise
 Kalla Corring

Keep up the good work!

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE NURSE:

Recently, several of our students have become ill with influenza like illness. Please keep this in mind if you or your child begins to develop flu like symptoms, especially if you did not receive a flu vaccine. Symptoms of the flu include fever, headache, excessive fatigue, cough, runny nose, and body aches. Diarrhea and vomiting may also occur, especially in children. Many of these symptoms are similar to cold symptoms but are more severe. Please keep your child at home if he/she is running a fever. Children should be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. Continue to encourage good hand hygiene and remind children to cover their coughs and sneezes. However, since the flu is primarily spread through respiratory droplet, the best way for us to prevent the spread of infection is for those who are ill with the flu to **stay at home**.

ST. JUDE'S MATH-A-THON: Once again Stillwater students have the opportunity to help the children at St. Jude's Children's Research hospital by participating in the Math-a-thon. Over the years we have raised **\$91,343.43** to help the children at St. Jude's! Please remember to return your permission slips ASAP.

THIRD GRADE NEWS: All of the third grade classes have launched their weekly writing journal projects. Each week, the children will practice their writing and self-editing skills by answering one of several choices of writing prompts. So far after just two weeks, the children have made progress developing paragraphs and responding using details and examples to support their writing. We will continue to use these journals each week to strengthen their writing skills and to get practice responding to different kinds of writing assignments.

SECOND GRADE NEWS: This month was all about ice, snow and the polar regions in second grade! The class began the month exploring the North Pole, or Arctic. The students read "Balto". This was an adventurous story about a dog that saved a town in Alaska. It was based on a true event! Balto's statue is currently standing in Central Park, NYC. Each student also researched and learned new facts about a polar animal by creating a poster or article. We viewed a webquest on a polar bear and read many informational books about this cold tundra. Next, the students traveled to the other end of the earth, Antarctica. Each child researched one of the 17 different kinds of penguin species. They read a variety of genres on penguins, including a funny book called "Tacky the Penguin". The students compared and contrasted these two icy lands. Ask a second grader to teach you about the coldest places on earth!

GO RED FOR WOMEN: Stillwater School staff members will have a jeans day and wear red day on Valentine's Day, Friday, Feb. 14th to support the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" movement. Each of our staff members wearing jeans or something red will make a charitable donation for the cause. Please check out the below link to find out more about women's heart disease and the progress that has been made.

<https://www.goredforwomen.org/wearredday/about/>

HEALTH & PHYS ED NEWS: The Physical Education and Health Department has a new student teacher, Louise Marlow, from Montclair State University. She will split her sixteen week student teaching assignment between Stillwater Township School and Kittatinny Regional High School. Louise is the Vice-President of her Exercise Science and Phys. Ed. Board at Montclair. She enjoys all sports, especially wrestling where she wrestled from the age of six through age twenty. We welcome her to our school and look forward to working with our "first" student teacher from Montclair State!



STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS: Throughout the month of February, Stillwater School will be participating in a penny drive called "Pennies for Patients", to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Students are asked to bring in as many pennies as possible from February 3rd through 28th. The two homerooms that bring in the most pennies will be rewarded with an ice cream or pizza party. Start collecting those pennies!

SCHOOL COUNSELING CORNER: Children need certain social skills to be able to interact appropriately with peers. There are a number of core skills children need to work on to be successful in their play interactions. ~Ruth Najemian

1. Listening and responding
2. Taking turns
3. Cooperating
4. Compromising
5. Being Fair



MULTICULTURAL CLUB - In the Stillwater Multicultural Club, Europe was the destination this week! Families enjoyed testing their knowledge of this diverse continent by matching pictures to various countries. We created worry beads, like the ones often found in Greece, and were stress free as we began work on our 'Living Museums'! Next week we will visit our last continent before the Cultural Fair where families will display and share their work.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

FUNDRAISERS

MARKET DAY: February flyers have bent sent home! February's Market Day sale is Tuesday, February 25th. Paper orders are due back by Tuesday, February 18th, and all online orders must be in by 11 pm on Wednesday, February 19th. **NEW ITEMS THIS MONTH:** Cheez-It Snack Packs, Dijon Encrusted Pork Chops and Fudge Dipped Brownie Pops. All \$40 (pre-tax) orders this month will receive a box of FREE Five Cheese Garlic Toast. If you input your order online, and it totals \$90 (pre-tax), please remember to input the code FEBBONUS at checkout to receive your FREE box of Cheese Ravioli. **FREQUENT BUYERS:** Make two purchases of \$40 (pre-tax) between February and April. Then place a third order of \$40 (pre-tax) in May to receive your FREE Storage Basket at the May sale pick-up. February is Cookie Dough Month! There are 11 kinds of cookies to choose from. Thank you for your continuing support of this fundraiser! Questions, contact Cheryl Castner, 973-579-3182 or ccastner@embargmail.com THANK YOU!!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

BASEBALL: Baseball is back! Be on the lookout for the Spring Baseball Registration forms. They will be coming home soon!

BASKETBALL: Stillwater basketball clinic registrations are here for K - 2nd grade. Three weeks, twice a week, starting the end of February through March please contact Chrisha Wright with any questions 973-306-2675.

TRAVEL SOCCER: North Warren Alliance U11 Boys Travel Soccer Team based at Blairstown seeks players for the spring season (2014). If your son was born between August 2002-July 2004, please contact coach Rejano at emilio_re@yahoo.com or 973-809-1435 for more information.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 710 will be visiting the Sussex County Food Pantry February 7. The girls are collecting non-perishable food to help replenish the pantry shelves. Please support our troop by making a donation. Anyone wishing to make a donation may do so by sending it into school c/o: 5th grade girl scouts, troop 710 or contact Terri at goriscak@aol.com to make other arrangements. Thank you for your support.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

EYE EXAM: The Stillwater Education Association will be hosting an eye exam clinic on February 22 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The Optical Academy's Vision Team, which consists of Optometrists, Opticians, and Vision Technicians, will be offering complete eye exams, at the school. Their mobile unit is made up of state of the art, hand held, digital equipment and also includes an on - site eyeglass shop. The purpose of this clinic is to offer affordable vision screening for those who do not have coverage through insurance or may not have complete coverage. It is open to all age groups. All insurances are accepted. No insurance? No problem. Screenings begin as low as \$30 with eyeglasses starting at just \$29. For more information or to make an appointment visit www.optical-academy.com or call 800-530-2730.

SUMMER CAMP AT FAIRVIEW LAKE: Summer at the Blue Mountain YMCA Day Camp is magical. Located on the shores of beautiful Fairview Lake in Stillwater; this unique camp setting offers all of the amenities of a sleep-away camp in a convenient day camp format. Camp focuses on building self-esteem, confidence and social skills while increasing independence and health and wellness awareness. Your camper will have fun and make new friends while exploring new experiences outdoors. Contact camp registrar, June Papa at 973-209-9622, ext. 217 or visit our website: sussexcountymca.org for more information.

PARENT-CHILD ICE FISHING DERBY: Catch and release, friendly competition with prizes for the younger "friends of fishing", on Sunday, February 9th from 1PM to 4PM at Fairview Lake YMCA Camp, 1035 Fairview Lake Road, Stillwater. Bring your own fishing equipment (including a ruler). Event cost is \$5.00 per fishing team. Competition will be for longest fish, shortest fish, and most overall fish caught. Have a fun and memorable family fishing experience! Contact Matt Lifschultz at 973-383-9282 for any questions.



STILLWATER PTA

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS: ALL KIDS STUFF COUPON BOOKS MUST BE RETURNED NOW IF YOU ARE NOT KEEPING THEM, OR PLEASE BE SURE TO MAKE YOUR PAYMENT TO THE STILLWATER PTA.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

TALENT SHOW: We are excited to announce that we will be having a Talent Show coming up this spring (April 4th, 2014). Practices have begun! Pick up your permission slips & bring us your acts! Our meetings are held Mondays & Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00PM. We have quite a large group of talented students, therefore could use a few extra adults to help at practices! For more info please contact Justine Mahon at pta2013recsec@gmail.com.

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 has a GREAT need for 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.

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 stillwaterptacorsec@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 aeconnelly@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!

NEXT MONTH'S EVENTS: 2/13-2/14- Valentine's Day Sale

OUR NEXT PTA MEETING: Thursday, February 6th at 7:00PM. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!!