



the Hawk Talk



Stillwater Elementary

www.stillwaterptsa.org

Unit 2.16.24

January 2014

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Your Stillwater PTSA wishes you a Happy 2014! !

A Message from your PTSA President

We hope that you have participated and enjoyed the events PTSA has provided thus far – Back To School BBQ, Raffle & Chili Contest, Kindergarten Play Date, and Welcome Back Hospitality Room in September, Reflections and Book Fair BINGO in November, and Elf Workshop in December. In addition, a PTSA representative attended the Washington State PTA Legislative Assembly in October to represent Stillwater PTSA, and the Board of Directors attended training and classes this fall to better represent you. We've got our second wind and are off and running, planning upcoming events. Look for information about the always popular Talent Show, Dads & Donuts, Spring Hoe Down, Moms & Muffins, Staff Appreciation Week, and Walk-a-Thon over the coming months.

As you can see, Stillwater has a very active PTSA. Many things would not happen at Stillwater without PTSA. Are you one of 182 Stillwater PTSA members? If so, thank you for your PTSA support. If not, why not? I've been a PTA/PTSA member at various schools for over 30 years. I think I've heard every excuse out there for not being a member. Most common are "I don't have time", "I don't want to attend meetings", "I don't want to be a member of that clique" and "Is PTA still around?" Some people believe that if they are a PTA/PTSA member at one school, they are members at all schools. Every PTSA is an individual non-profit corporation under the umbrella of a state and national PTA, so membership is exclusive to each school. The truth is, many things do not take place in schools and many students go without certain things without the support of a PTA/PTSA in a school.



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Fill out your forms online!
 Stillwater PTSA now offers parents the convenience of event, membership forms etc. all in one place:
www.stillwaterptsa.org

Save the Date

January

Monday January 20
 No School, MLK Holiday

Thursday January 23
 PTSA Meeting, see pg 6

Wednesday January 29
 Talent Show Dress Rehearsal

Thursday January 30
 Talent Show

Friday January 31
 No School

President Message continues on page 2 ->

**2013—2014
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PTSA President Message (continued)

We know you don't always have time to volunteer. We ask for volunteers for our events, but you are only asked to do what you have time to do. There is NO requirement to volunteer. We know you don't have time or don't want to attend meetings. Your PTSA Board of Directors is given the responsibility to run the business of our non-profit corporation. Meetings are a requirement to maintain our PTSA in good standing. But, the good news for you is: YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ATTEND MEETINGS! Meetings are voluntary for members, but they are the only avenue for you to have a vote on what your PTSA does and who is running the show. I know PTSA appears to be a clique, and, honestly, quite often that is true. I think you'll find, however, that to be less true at Stillwater right now, and I'm asking you to give us a chance. We have a very diverse Board of Directors this year and we are striving to be welcoming to everyone and involve everyone who asks to be involved. And, YES, PTSA is still around. The unofficial slogan this year: "Not your mother's PTA!" National PTA is the largest and oldest child advocacy organization in the nation. Check out the National PTA website at www.pta.org if you'd like to see for yourself what it has accomplished over the years. But PTA has moved into the 21st Century with new ideas, innovation, technology and purpose.

If you meant to join PTSA in the fall but never got around to it, NOW is a great time to do so. If you have an excuse for not joining, I'd like to hear it and have a chance to convince you to join. Our goal is to have as many PTSA members as we have students enrolled at Stillwater. We are close to the halfway mark so we need your help reaching our goal. Everything PTA does on a local, state, national and world level is to improve the lives of children. Your \$15 membership fee (\$25 for two adults living in the same home) helps support PTA/PTSA advocacy efforts in many ways. Most important to most parents, however, your membership ensures that a PTSA will continue to exist at Stillwater, and events, programs and advocacy efforts will continue to benefit YOUR child(ren). Without our members and volunteers, well...you get the picture. Joining is easy. Go to our website, www.stillwaterpta.org, fill out the membership form and pay with Paypal. Or get a membership form at school, fill it out and return with your check. The 2013-14 Student Directory is being distributed. You'll get one at no cost with your membership.

~ Pam Deming, Stillwater PTSA President

Donuts With Dad

Come enjoy a donut with your Soaring Hawk and then burn off some of that sugar by playing Stillwater's famous "Dads And Dodgeball"

Who Is Invited?

All fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, or other male role models. One lucky guy will win a prize just for attending- It's a good one... I PROMISE!!!

When Is It?

Thursday February 6th from 8:00-9:00 am

(Students may not be dropped off until the duty teachers are present. Please make plans to stay with your child for the entire event)

How Much Does It Cost?

Absolutely Nothing!!! You work hard and we appreciate it.

Where will it be held?

In the Gym/Cafeteria

Who Can Help?

Any female volunteers would be greatly appreciated! Please contact Sarah McKenzie at sarahlmckenzie@outlook.com if you are available to help set up and serve breakfast for these hard working Hawk Dads.

**You Donut
Want To
Miss It!!**

IN SEARCH OF:

**2014-2015 SWE PTSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY & TREASURER**

OUR VISION

The vision of Stillwater Elementary PTSA is to enhance the educational experience of children and to establish a sense of community for all Stillwater Elementary families.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Stillwater Elementary PTSA is to work in partnership with parents, students, community members and school personnel to support Stillwater Elementary School. The PTSA enhances the curriculum and programs provided by the Riverview School District by providing safe, fun and educationally enriching programs and activities.

YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Are you interested in seeing any changes to the SWE PTSA? Would you like to help make this association a stronger, more vibrant force in our school? Now is the time to have your voice heard. We are searching for PTSA members (current or not), who would be interested in serving as president, vice-president, secretary or treasurer for the 2014-2015 school year.

You can be a member of a strong team! We all work together and support one another for everything from events to meetings. If you are interested and would like more information about the positions, please go to stillwaterptsa.org. There are complete descriptions of each position. If you are interested in talking to the Nominating Committee, please contact Julie Logan at juliemlo@hotmail.com, Lynda Brown at l.brown@earthlink.net or Jennifer Anderson at jennandjoeanderson@hotmail.com. Thank you!



It's Not to Late to Volunteer!

The PTSA has many fun events coming SOON! We need volunteers to make them happen.

<u>Events</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Dads & Donuts	February 6
Hoe Down	March 7
Moms & Muffins	April 10
Staff Appreciation Week	May 5-9

These events all have leads. We need volunteers to help plan the event or just help out that day. If you are interested in helping with one or more of these events, please contact Julie Logan at juliemlo@hotmail.com, Jae Holt at jae_holt@hotmail.com or Gayle Saunders at gaylemaries@gmail.com. Thank you!

A Big Thanks

We would like to thank all the Stillwater Families that participated in the fall catalog/cookie dough fundraiser. We made over \$7000 towards our budget. The barrel racer on the PTSA fundraiser bulletin board has moved a couple notches towards our goal! Thank you for supporting Stillwater PTSA!

Co-Fundraising Chairs
Janah Pierce and Marsha Staley



Planning for Staff Appreciation Week

We are starting to plan for Staff Appreciation Week, May 5-9. Are you interested in leading a team or volunteering during that week? Please contact me at bb092182@gmail.com and put SAW in subject line if you would volunteer in anyway.

Thank you , Many Smiles
Bronwyn Boman
Special Projects

Meet Roni Rumsey at the next PTSA meeting, Jan 23

Meet Roni Rumsey, Director of Teaching & Learning for the Riverview School District

WHEN: Thursday January 23, 7-8pm Stillwater Library

Learn how learning & teaching standards are changing:

WHAT ARE:

- COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS?
- NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE?
- 21st CENTURY SKILLS?



Ms. Rumsey will explain these standards and Riverview School Districts plan for implementing these new standards.

BRING YOUR QUESTIONS. PTSA general meeting followed by presentation by Ms. Rumsey and question and answer period.



We are excited for a memorable 2014 Talent Show! here are the dates:

Dress Rehearsal - January 29th
The show will be on January 30

If you would like to help please contact Julie Logan at juliemlo@hotmail.com.

Join the PTSA today
www.stillwaterptsa.org

You're Invited to Focus Day, Feb. 4

Event: FOCUS DAY 2014

Pre-Rally and Legislative Briefing at 11:00

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Rally in Rotunda – 12:00 to 1:00

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Place: General Administration Building, WA State Capitol Campus Olympia, WA



Washington State PTA Focus Day is a rally inside the Capitol dome where PTA members from across the state gather for briefings, meetings with legislators and staff, leave notes, and network with other PTA advocates. PTA members make a big difference when they go to Olympia in large numbers. We need to speak up visibly for child-friendly budgets and policies in what will again be a difficult economic climate.

Why go to Focus Day?

- We are constituents and our opinions carry a great amount of weight with our Legislators;
- Our Legislators want and need to hear what we have to say;
- When we show up in person, our Legislators hear us loud and clear;
- We show our strength in numbers;
- We establish personal relationships with our Legislators;
- We remind our Legislators of PTA's legislative priorities;
- We support our Legislators in taking action;
- We take an active part in the legislative process;
- **IT'S FUN! IT'S EDUCATIONAL! IT'S IMPORTANT!**

Bring your children! A special capitol tour is being arranged for kids and parents, which will include a time for Stillwater children to meet with at least one of our local Representatives or Senator so they can deliver notes from their classmates.

Please sign up to attend Focus Day by filling out the form online or e-mailing the information to Pam Deming at dustcollector@msn.com. More information will be provided to those attending.