



the Hawk Talk



Stillwater Elementary

www.stillwaterptsa.org

Unit 2.16.24

March 2014

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Focus Day

A Message from your PTSA President

Legislative advocacy is at the heart of National and State PTA organizations. Each year Washington State PTA organizes Focus Day, a day that PTA members from all over Washington State rally in Olympia to remind legislators to keep focus on our kids, teachers and schools. I have attended Focus Day for the past 8 years and most of those years I have taken my children. It is a wonderful opportunity for them to learn about our State, our government and how to make a difference.



On February 4th, I had the privilege of taking 5 Stillwater students and 2 Tolt students - Skylar Brown, Zachary Brown, Riley Crosby, Alisha Deming, Lora Deming, Shawn Deming and Delaney Saunders, to Focus Day 2014. The students came prepared with questions they wanted to ask legislators, notes from their classmates to deliver to our 5th District Representatives and Senator, and a scavenger hunt that took them to the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State and Treasurer, and various other areas in the Legislative Building. They found our state symbols, got to see the state vault, visited the Governor's conference room often seen on TV, and rubbed George Washington's nose for good luck.

We started our morning meeting with Representative Chad Magendanz and Senator Mark Mullet in the Representatives' conference room. The kids asked Rep. Magandanz questions about his job, his favorite color, his favorite sports team, his family and his school experiences. We were joined by a group of parents from the Issaquah School District for a lively discussion about school funding. Senator Mullet then took us to the floor of the Senate Chamber, showed us his desk, talked about what senators do, how votes are taken, the number of senators (49), etc. He then took us to his office via the "secret" staircase, nicknamed the "Harry Potter" or "Hogwart's" staircase. The kids continued to talk with Senator Mullet about his life and job. They found out he owns a pizza restaurant and the Ben & Jerry's ice cream shop in Issaquah, is from New York, has children who attend school in Issaquah, and his pet is a chocolate Lab. His favorite sports team? Seahawks, of course.

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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

March

Friday, March 7th
 Hoe Down 6-8pm

Thursday, March 27th
 All Arts Day

March 7, 14, 21 & 28
 2:00 Dismissal

March 31-April 4
 Spring Break

**2013—2014
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PTSA President Message (continued)

Senator Mullet explained how a law is made and the kids gave him some ideas about laws they would like to have and some they would like to see go away. When asked about why he wanted to be a Senator, Senator Mullet responded that he wants to help people. He explained that when someone is elected, the people give that person permission to vote for them on various matters. He gave an example of his work on the law that now allows schools to have Epi-pens available in case someone has an unexpected allergic reaction. This law saves lives.



After our meetings and lunch, we joined the Rally in the Rotunda with other PTA groups. We met Governor Inslee and listened to him speak about the importance of education and plans for funding schools. The kids were invited to stand with Senator Rosemary McAuliffe, who works on the K-12 Education Committee, while she addressed the group and reminded Legislators that kids should be their primary focus. After the rally, we took an official tour of the Legislative Building, learned about the cupola, the Tiffany chandeliers, the marble, the bronze doors, county flags, the curtains with the state seal embroidered in real gold, and so many other interesting things. We learned that behind the door marked "Senate Locker Room" is really a cafeteria where the senators can go to eat. Did you know there are 42 steps leading up to the Legislative Building because Washington is the 42nd state? We also visited the Temple of Justice where we learned about the Supreme Court, and visited the Law Library where we had the opportunity to hold and look through the very first case law in Washington Territory (before we were a state).

It was a busy day with lots of walking and going up and down stairs, but the kids learned a lot. Some of them have made presentations to their classmates about their trip, complete with photos. Although it was a missed day of school, these 7 kids learned things they will not learn in school. After seeing the Law Library and holding some of the books, Skylar wants law books of her own. Shawn is intrigued by the state vault, which was put in place before the building because it is so heavy the building had to be built around it. Now that she has met Governor Inslee and learned a little about how government works, Delaney has set a goal to be President. When she's elected, I'll be able to say "I knew that girl when she was in the third grade." (Maybe she'll invite me to the White House.) These kids all went home with stories and information to share with their parents and friends. First-hand experiences are always memorable teaching moments and I am glad I was part of the experience for these 7 kids. Thanks for making it a GREAT Focus Day kids!

GRAB YOUR BOOTS AND HATS AND SCOOT ON OVER TO THE

STILLWATER HOEDOWN

FRIDAY MARCH 7TH
FROM 6:00-8:00

THE CHUCK WAGON WILL BE SERVIN UP PIZZA, DRINKS
AND OTHER GRUB THAT YOU CAN PURCHASE!
ENTRANCE TO THIS PTSA
EVENT IS FREE FOR THE WHOLE
FAMILY.

EMAIL MELANIELOUGRAY@YAHOO.COM IF
YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS



2014 - 2015 Nominating Committee Report

The 2014-2015 Stillwater PTSA Nominating Committee places the following names in nomination:

For the office of President; Julie Logan and Serene Norris;
For the office of Vice President; Gayle Saunders and Dawn Spencer;
For the office of Secretary; Noel Caryl;
For the office of Treasurer; Lynda Brown and Gale Britton.



Elections will take place at the PTSA General Meeting on March 27th 7pm.

The nominating committee has confirmed that all nominees have been a member of a PTA for at least 30 days prior to the election, and meet other requirements as stated in the *Washington State PTA Uniform Bylaws*.

Are You A Member of the PTSA?

If you answered yes to this question, I sincerely thank you. So do all our kiddos, classrooms, and teachers who benefit from your membership.

If you answered no I must ask "Why not?" It only takes a few minutes of time, has a small cost associated with it and does not have any obligations attached to it.

Individual membership is \$15

Family membership is \$25.

Some people aren't aware that if they are a member at another school it does not benefit Stillwater. Membership in the PTSA only benefits the school where you signed up so please, if you are a member at Tolt or Cedarcrest, please join Stillwater as well. We all need your support. I know a few people who are members of all 3 schools! Yeah for us!!!

You can sign up online through our PayPal account at: <http://stillwaterptsa.org/membership/>

If you would like to write a check or pay cash you can do that by filling out the form which I can get to you or you can pick up at school. It is on our Membership bulletin board by the front door. It is a tri-fold brochure style form. You can fill it out and put it in the black drop box across from the office.

Please contact me, Gayle Saunders, if you have any questions. My email is: gaylemaries@gmail.com



BoxTops Winners

December Winner

Mrs. Marchel had the most with a total of 195. 134 BoxTops and 61 LFE labels.

January Winner

Mrs. Heinson had the most with a total of 362. 37 BoxTops and 325 LFE labels.

Up Coming Events

March 5th	All District Skate Night
March 6th	Class Pictures (K-3)
March 7th	Class Pictures (4-5)
March 7th	Hoe Down
March 20th	Kindergarten Information Night
March 27th	All Arts Day
March 27th	PTSA General Meeting Board of Director Elections
March 31-April 4	Spring Break
April 10th	Moms & Muffins
April 17th	District Choir Performance
May 5-9th	Staff Appreciation Week
May 16th	Wild West Carnival
May 22nd	Walk a Thon
May 22nd	PTSA General Meeting Volunteer Appreciation
May 26th	Memorial Day—No School
May 30th	Dismissal @3:30pm

If you are interested in volunteering please contact:

Julie Logan	juliemlo@hotmail.com
Gayle Saunders	gaylemaries@gmail.com
Jae Holt	jae-holt@hotmail.com

Plant Sale

Plant Sale will take place in April. Be on the look-out for information coming home around Spring Break.

Art Docent Supply Request

The Art Docent Program is looking for empty 8 oz. hand soap/sanitizer pump bottles. We are needing 90 bottles by April 7th. A box is in the foyer at school.

All District Skate Night, March 5th

March 5 is the all District Skate Night at Skate King in Bellevue. Skate from 6-8pm. The cost is \$4.50 per person. Stillwater is joining Cherry Valley, Carnation, Eagle Rock and Riverview Learning Center Students for a night of fun.

Help Wanted

Need a few good men....only men, this is a time for us to serve, honor and love on our most important assets, the women in our lives that keep the world turning. Please contact Lloyd McCracken at llomcc@cablespeed.com if you are available to help and give our girls a nice start to their day.

Mom's and Muffins(or other baked goods)

Who is invited?

All mothers, aunts and grandmothers or sisters.

When?

Thursday, April 10th 8am-9am

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

What's it cost?

Nothing, just need you to come and have fun.

Where?

Stillwater Cafeteria/Gym

Join the PTSA today
www.stillwaterptsa.org