



For the Dads

A Message from your PTSA President

Recently I read a blog at www.fathers.com that I hope will touch and inspire all our Stillwater dads. Here's how it went:

A dad named Lane came home after a week-long work trip. His nine-year-old son Andy, without his mom helping or even knowing about it, created and left a series of handwritten notes around the house, like a scavenger hunt for his dad.

The first note was on the front door and said "Dear Dad, I know right now as you are reading this I am asleep. I have had a very good week. Especially when I got that Bionicle set. Tomorrow morning may you please leave a letter of how your week went? Love, your son Andy."

The second note was a few steps into the house. It read "First clue: Go to the kitchen [for] a bite to eat. Then go [to] the loft for your second clue."

In the loft Lane found the third note. "Second clue: Go to the kids' room and you will find your third clue."

Lane continued to the kids' room and found the next note. "Third clue: Go to the loft again and find the fourth clue."

Okay, so now Lane is really intrigued to see where this is leading. Back in the loft he found the last note. "Fourth clue: Hooray, you found the surprise!"

The "surprise" was 4 handwritten notes taped together to form a little book. The pages read: "You Are a Great Father, by Andy." "When I am down, you help me up. When I get hurt, you help me out of pain." "You are good. You keep us healthy. You keep us safe. You keep us happy." "You are a great father."

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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

October

Tuesday, Oct. 15
Reflections: Early Bird Deadline

Friday, Oct. 11 & 25
No School

Monday, October 28:
Reflections: Deadline for all entries

**2013—2014
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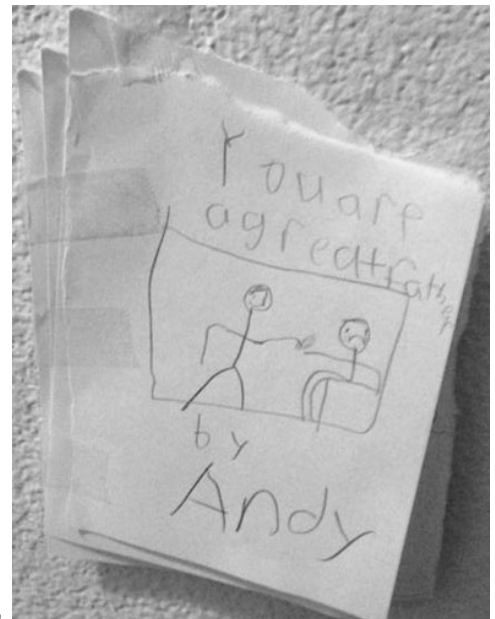
Pam Deming
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Newsletter Editor
Ann Marie Gill

For the Dads (continued)

We have so many great dads here at Stillwater. I hope that this series of notes from Andy inspires you to know that your children love and appreciate you every day.

We invite and encourage you to join your child(ren) at Stillwater as often as you can. Our students love having their moms volunteering in their classrooms, the library and on the playground. But having a dad on the Stillwater grounds is truly SPECIAL - not only for your kids, but for all Stillwater kids. Want to feel like a superstar? Spending time at Stillwater will do that for you. We know you have a busy schedule and many commitments. Whether you can commit to once a week, once a month, or just occasionally, we have volunteer opportunities for you. Whether you can spend a couple of hours during the school day in your child's classroom, reading to kids in the library, building something, or helping with an evening event, we have a place for you. Lloyd McCracken is the Dad Volunteer Organizer for Stillwater PTSA. He can find a place for your talents and time and help you get involved. Contact Lloyd at lloccc@cablespeed.com. We look forward to seeing you around Stillwater this school year!



Sincerely,

Pam Deming

President

Stillwater PTSA 2013-14

Reminder: Send in your Directory info

A flyer was sent home last week to fill out your correct contact information if you would like to be included in this year's student directory. Please send that in or go to www.stillwaterptsa.com to download the form. Contact Dawn Spencer at communications@stillwaterptsa.org if you have questions.

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated!

Are you interested in volunteering for a PTSA event, but aren't sure what is available? Or where you'd fit in? There are many areas to volunteer! You are needed! From Popcorn Wednesdays to Library Volunteers, we always need more help!



There are several areas where we need help now! From kidmail to Hearing & Vision Testing to Enrichment Chaperones, please consider giving a little of your time. If you would like to be involved a bit more, we are still in need of a co-chair for Enrichment, a co-chair for Elf Workshop and a chair for Legislative Advocacy.

The Stillwater PTSA 2013-2014 Volunteer Sign-Up Form went home in last week's kidmail. Please return the form, so we can help you get started. Once you volunteer for an event, we'll forward your contact information on to the chair. Depending on the date of the event, you'll either get started right away or wait a few months.

If you didn't receive the form, you can always sign-up on our handy new volunteer sign-up site: www.goo.gl/KcK32g. This is a very easy way to sign-up for all the fun volunteer opportunities! Or visit our website www.Stillwaterptsa.org

Please note that the Riverview School District has volunteer application packets, which need to be completed before any volunteering can take place. This is needed, whether you are volunteering for a PTSA event or in your child's classroom.

If you have any questions, you can email one of us VP's, Jae Holt at jae_holt@hotmail.com, Julie Logan at juliemlo@hotmail.com or Gayle Saunders at gaylemaries@gmail.com.

Many thanks from your veeps,

Jae Holt

Julie Logan

Gayle Saunders

Thank you for a great turnout: BBQ Roundup

THANK YOU to everyone one who attended the Stillwater PTSA Back to School BBQ, Raffle and Chili Contest. What a great evening for nearly 400 people – a lot more than we expected! We had 300 presold meals, but quickly sold out of meal tickets at the door. We encouraged people to buy meals in advance, and had only planned for a limited number of at-door sales so we didn't have a lot of food left after the event. We apologize to those who didn't get a meal at the door.



At the beginning of the week many teachers were expressing concern that their raffle boxes were nearly empty. But by Thursday, YOU came through with your raffle donations. The raffle was a huge success. 18 lucky people went home with beautiful raffle boxes. Mrs. Farnworth's 3rd grade class earned an ice cream party by receiving the greatest number of bids on their raffle box, with 155 bids. Way to go kids!

We received 14 entries in our first ever Chili Contest. Entrants were up against Mr. Madigan, who had boasted for weeks that he intended to take home the Chili Contest prize. In the end, our elite panel of judges, Stephanie Rosbach, Hannah Tobin, and Allison Craig, did not choose Mr. Madigan's chili as one of the three winners. (It's a good thing the judges were only given a number with each chili since Mr. Madigan is their boss.) Congratulations to our three winners: Precious Ray, a student at Tolt Middle School, with her Italian Chili, Lynda Brown with her Paleo Pumpkin Chili, and Holly Gellner with her Piggy Chili. Each of the winners received a "Chili Champion" apron, a certificate and an ice cream party for the classroom of their choice. Thank you to our judges and 14 entrants. The judges thought all your chilies were tasty, but they had to choose three "top pots". We hope this is the first year of what will be a tradition at Stillwater.

Thanks are in order for all those who worked so hard to organize this event and make the evening a success: Lynda Brown, Noel Caryl, Tristan Caryl, Ruby Childs, Pam Deming, Shawn Deming, Van Deming, Holly Gellner (pony lady), Ann Marie Gill (website and online payments), Julie Logan, Emily McCracken, Lloyd McCracken, Stan Olson, Janah Pierce, Mike Pitt, Mary Roberts, Bill Saunders, Gayle Saunders, and Marsha Staley. PTSA also extends a big thank you to the Stillwater staff, especially Mr. Madigan, for enthusiastically supporting PTSA and the Back to School event. As a result of everyone's generosity, PTSA earned over \$2,500 toward its \$25,000 fundraising goal for this year.

Chili Contest Recipes

Recipe:

Paleo Pumpkin Chili

- 3 lbs ground turkey, chicken, or beef
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 bell pepper (red, yellow or orange)
- 1 14oz can pure pumpkin
- 1 tsp pepper
- 2 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- 1 jar chipotle salsa
- 1 box Tomato & Roasted Red Pepper soup

Cook ground meat, diced onion, and pepper in a large pot until meat is crumbly and no pink. Drain. Add remaining ingredients. Bring to boil, then reduce heat and simmer for one hour.



Recipe:

Piggy Chili - Holly Gellner

- 1 boneless pork shoulder cut into cubes
- bacon drippings
- 2 onions diced
- 1-3 jalapenos seeded & diced
- 1/2 C chili powder
- 2 tsp salt
- 1 T cumin
- 1T granulated garlic
- 2t dried mexican oregano
- 2t dried thyme
- 24 oz crushed tomatoes
- 12 oz can of V-8
- 1 14.5 oz can chili beans
- 1 cup of love (secret ingredient)

In a heavy bottom pan melt bacon dripping to coat the bottom. In batches, brown all sides of pork cubes. Reserve on a plate. Sauté onions and jalapeno in same pan until onions are translucent. Add pork and spices, sauté another 2 minutes. Add remaining ingredients except beans, bring to simmer, and cover. Simmer for 2-4 hours, stirring often, and until pork is tender. If it becomes too thick just add water 1/2 c at a time until desired thickness. Lastly, add beans, heat through. Serve with rice and sour cream if desired. Enjoy!!



Recipe:

Precious Ray's Italian Chili

- 1-1/2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 lb. ground Italian sausage
- 3 15-oz. cans tomato sauce
- 1 12-oz. can Italian Rotel tomatoes
- 3 15-oz. cans red kidney beans (cooked and drained)
- 2 15-oz. cans chili beans (cooked and drained)
- 1 diced yellow onion
- 1/2 diced green pepper
- 1/2 diced red pepper
- 1 Tbls. minced garlic
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 2 packages dry chili seasoning
- 1 or more cups of water (depends on desired thickness)
- 5-6 chopped cilantro leaves

Cook ground meat, diced onion, and pepper in a large pot until meat is crumbly and no pink. Drain. Add remaining ingredients. Bring to boil, then reduce heat and simmer for one hour.



Legislative Corner

Each year delegates from PTA/PTSAs around Washington State gather at the Sea-Tac Marriot for the two-day Washington State PTA Legislative Assembly in October. Each PTA/PTSA can send one or two delegates to represent its PTA/PTSA and vote on its behalf. Stillwater PTSA has not heard from anyone interested in acting as Legislative Chair this year, so PTSA President, Pam Deming, will represent Stillwater.

You should have received the 2013 Legislative Issues Survey in kid mail recently (blue paper). The survey is your opportunity to voice your opinion on how Washington State PTA should spend its time and money lobbying our legislators on matters of importance to kids, schools and families. **Please complete the survey and return it to school no later than October 10th.** Our representative will take your surveys to the Legislative Assembly and vote according to your opinions on the survey issues. You can read the proposals and supporting papers that go along with the survey at www.wsptalegassembly.bolgspot.com

For over 100 years, PTA has been an organization advocating on behalf of children, locally, at the district level, at the state level, and at the national level. You can find all that Washington State PTA has accomplished on its website, www.wastatepta.org, and nationally at www.pta.org. You will be surprised at how many things we take for granted were achieved because of PTA advocacy. Your voice is important! If you are interested in working on issues that affect kids, schools and families, and would like more information on acting as Legislative Chair for Stillwater PTSA, please contact Pam Deming at dustcollector@msn.com.

Grandparents Support by *Grandma Ann*

It has been my privilege to volunteer at Stillwater School in my grandsons classrooms. I am honored to be a member of the PTSA which supports the success of children. Volunteering at Stillwater gives me an opportunity to give to the next generation of students. I have been a teacher and community volunteer all of my adult life and I love seeing what is happening in the classrooms at Stillwater. Being a Grandparent volunteer gives me a way to be part of my grandsons school life.

By joining PTSA I help to fund some of the great academic and social learning activities which add so much to our children's learning experience. With all of the school budgets so tight and classroom sizes large it is extremely important to have these extra funds and sponsored activities. And as Grandparents we have the time and opportunity to volunteer to help with these PTSA sponsored programs. Get involved in your children's school and PTSA activities. It is good for everyone! Maybe we need to call it GP-PTSA! Grandparent, Parent, Teacher, Student Association.

Join the PTSA today
www.stillwaterptsa.org