



Hawk Talk

Month of December & January 2015 • www.stillwaterptsa.org • Carnation,

A Message From Your PTSA Presidents



Happy Holidays Stillwater Families!

Did December come too fast this year or is it just us? We hope everyone is enjoying their holiday season. November was a busy month for the PTSA and we most certainly had a lot to be thankful for. We'll start off with the Hop-a-Thon. WOW! What a great kick-off to our fundraising efforts. We raised just over \$15,250!!! Thank you Stillwater families for your support. We tried something new this year with the classroom goals and the pie-tastic incentive from Mr. Madigan. We received an outpour of positive feedback with these changes and we hope to continue a similar model with our Hawk Walk in May. Now, as to what the PTSA does with the money raised, we provided a detailed breakdown of our budget and fundraising goals in the October newsletter. We have since posted it online and it can be found at <http://stillwaterptsa.org/ptsa-budget/>. In addition, we had several comments on our Hop-a-Thon survey requesting that we give specifics on what the money will be used for in future fundraisers. We issued a statement in regards to this topic. The full statement can also be found online at <http://stillwaterptsa.org/presidents-corner/> and we ask you to please read it if you have not already done so. It will explain why we legally cannot mention specifics when fundraising. Our statement has to be and was, "We are fundraising for the PTSA and the PTSA funds x, y, and z." There are SO MANY wonderful programs at Stillwater that the PTSA supports and it is ALL laid out in the budget article previously mentioned.

Moving on from the Hop-a-Thon we want to mention that planning for next year's PTSA Board has already begun. We had 2 board spots sit empty this year, and in addition most of our board spots can use a co-chair. So we are hoping to increase the size of the board next year to spread the workload among many and widen the opportunity for involvement. We will be staying after the PTSA General Membership Mtg on December 10th to answer any questions from anyone interested in joining. By signing on now, you will have the opportunity to work with any outgoing chairs! No experience is required to be on the board, anyone is welcome. And we have positions with varying degrees of time commitments.

There were so many volunteers that helped us out in November. Thank you to Serene Norris and Jami Drake for leading our Santa Bingo event! Serene and Jami had a team of volunteers helping them, and they will recognize them later in the newsletter. We had several volunteers that came in during hearing/vision testing to help bring the kiddos to and from testing: Robin Lawson, Cari Orme, Holly Gellner, Araceli Montoya and Mireille Bellamare. And lastly we had 17 S'mores Ice Cream parties to throw thanks to the huge success of the Hop-a-Thon and we couldn't have done them alone. Thank you to Sarah McKenzie, Ann Marie Gill, Serene Norris, Sharla Hall, Gale Britton, Audrey Dean, Mireille Bellamare, and Jen Coffey for your help! THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!!

Please note that there will be no January newsletter. This newsletter will cover December and January events.

CHEERS!

Jen & Lindsey

December:

Thursday 12/10

PTSA General Meeting

2-3:15 Portable B

12/7-12/18

Talent Show Audition Sign

up Available

12/19-1/3

Winter Break – No School

January:

Th/Fri 1/14-1/15

Talent Show Auditions

Monday 1/18

MLK – No School

Thursday 1/28

Talent Show

2 & 6:30pm

Friday 1/29

Teacher Day – No School

February:

2/10

Dads 'N' Donuts 8-9am

2/12-2/16

Mid-Winter Break – No

School

Quick Tip



Search Stillwater
Elementary PTSA

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

PTSA General Meeting

When: December 10th
Where: Stillwater Elem
Portable B
Who: Everyone!

Talent Show Audition Sign Up Available

When: Dec 7-Dec18
Where: Front Office

Winter Break

When: Dec 19-Jan 3
Enjoy the time off!

Have something to say about an event?

We will send out surveys after every major event to hear your feedback!

Attention: Supplies needed for Art Docent

The art docent program is currently in need of 70 empty hand soap bottles for our 1st grade artists. Please send in your clean empty hand soap bottles to the school and drop in the box in the office. These soap bottles are needed every year for our program, so please save and turn in whenever you have them!

Thank you!

~Lisa

Art Education

artedu@stillwaterpta.org



Legislative Assembly

I think we all have a general idea of what the PTSA does for schools, with a focus on helping to make sure the school experience is positive for parents, teachers, and last but not least, our students. Much of the PTSA work is done through fundraising, but a core function of the PTSA that is not often talked about is legislative advocacy. The Washington State PTA takes the laboring oar on pushing advocacy issues, but input and participation from the local level is also critical to ensuring our voices are heard.

The Washington State PTA adopts both legislative principles, which are long term public policy objectives, and platform issues, which are short term policy proposals. These issues are discussed and goals are set at the annual Legislative Assembly, held recently in Olympia. It was inspiring to see the number of people who work tirelessly to ensure the PTA's mantra of "Every Child. One Voice" is put into action.

The five platform issues this year are: (1) funding *McCleary*; (2) Creating positive school climates through social emotional learning; (3) increasing capital funding; (4) increasing access to higher education; and (5) breakfast after the bell.

Although each of these issues is important, funding *McCleary v. State of Washington* is at the top of the list. The *McCleary* decision has a long history and this short article could not do justice to the many complicated issues. To break it down to its simplest terms, in January 2012 the Washington State Supreme Court ruled that the State is violating the constitutional rights of children by failing to live up to its "paramount duty" to amply fund the education of all students through 12th grade. The court ordered the Legislature to create and implement a plan showing progress toward fully funding education, with full funding to be achieved by 2018. Unfortunately, little to no progress is being made. In August of this year the Washington State Supreme Court began imposing a \$100,000 per day penalty on the State for failing to create and adequate plan for providing that education and the funding necessary to support it.

As critical as school funding is, our governor and legislators are hearing very little from the citizens demanding this issue be made a priority. We encourage you to help make a difference by calling or emailing Governor Inslee and your legislators. The email can simply have a subject of *McCleary* Funding, and request that fully funding our children's educations be made a priority.

If you are interested in learning more about PTSA advocacy issues, valuable information can be found here:

<http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/>.

Thanks for reading! ~ Vicky

Who collected the most Box Tops??

2015-2016
Stillwater Elementary
PTSA Board of
Directors

Co-Presidents:
Jen Anderson
Lindsey Tolson
president@stillwaterptsa.org

Vice President:
Karen Hendrickson
vicepresident@stillwaterptsa.org

Secretary:
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Treasurer:
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Michelle Berens
Cari Orme
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Communications Chairs:
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Rebecca Manjarrez
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Fundraising:
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Social Chairs:
Jami Drake
Serene Norris
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Art Education:
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Legislative Advocacy:
Vicky Garcia
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Newsletter Editor
Rebecca Manjarrez



The class that collected the most Box Tops & Labels for Education in November 2015 is Miss Epps Class. They collected 314 Box tops & 29 Labels for Education. Super job!!

The classes that are currently in the lead for the cumulative yearly total are:

- 1) Mrs Arnold's Class with 592
- 2) Miss Epps Class with 573
- 3) Ms Goforth Class with 525

Any Box Tops or Labels for Education that you collect can be placed in a baggy with your child's name, teacher and grade and then put in the bin by the front office. The top classes from Sept-May will be rewarded each month with a treat. The class that accumulates the most by the end of the year wins a SWEET surprise.

Thank you for collecting Box Tops & Labels for Education!

Planning treats for those special teachers?? We have had a few parents ask us for the Staff Favorites list we posted during Staff Appreciation Week last year to help them make Holiday purchases this year. As a result, we have re-surveyed the staff to make any updates to their answers last year and also get favorites for those staff members new to Stillwater this year. The favorites lists can be found online at

<http://stillwaterptsa.org/staff-favs/>

Our teachers work so hard for us and sending one of their "favorites" to them is a great way to say THANK YOU!

~PTSA



PTSA Member Benefits



Welcome to the busy and often expensive month of December! Would you like to save a few dollars this month (and during the rest of the school year)? As a PTSA member, you are already entitled to many discounts that will benefit you during the holiday season and beyond.**

Looking to travel or entertain over the holidays? Check out these discounts for PTSA members:

- **Hertz:** (20% off reservations, FREE child seat with every rental)
- **Great Wolf Lodge** (20% off available rates)
- **XFINITY Arena at Everett** (tickets up to \$5 off to Disney Live! 1/17 show and up to \$7 off to Harlem Globetrotters 2/14 show)
- **KeyArena/McCaw Hall** (discounted event tickets)
- **Schwan's** (new customer offer of \$10 off on \$50 first Schwan's purchase)
- **The Nutcracker at Pacific Northwest Ballet** (10% discount off all performances)
- **Wild Waves Holiday with Lights** (up to \$6 off adult admission to a nighttime wonderland of rides, lights and holiday fun in December)

Looking for some discounts on shopping, printing or creative gift ideas?

Check out these discounts for PTSA members:

- **Staples** (10-25% discounts, free shipping at Staples.com)
- **FedEx Office** (15% discount)
- **Boxed.com** (No-membership wholesale shopping shipped to your door--exclusive coupons)
- **Silverwood Theme Park** (Actual tickets won't be available until Summer 2016, but tickets were offered at a 15% discount in 2015)
- **Wild Waves Theme Park** (Actual tickets won't be available until Summer 2016, but tickets were offered at almost half off in 2015)
- **TeenSafe** (Smartphone monitoring service--33% lifetime discount on software)
- **LifeLock** (Identity theft company--10% discount)
- **Sylvan Learning** (50% off a Sylvan Insight Assessment)

You can access a specific discount code or flyer for the businesses listed above via the links in the "Welcome to WA State PTA" email you received that contained your 2015/16 PTSA membership card or you can always email membership@stillwaterptsa.org and we will gladly assist you.

There are also periodically one-off discounts offered to PTSA members (for example in October we enjoyed a special one-day benefit of 20% off Krispy Kreme doughnuts!). We post these offers on the Stillwater Elementary PTSA facebook page, so please request to join if you haven't already. Thanks!

Are you not yet a PTSA member and totally bummed out after seeing all of these great discounts? It's not too late to join! Sign up today to be a PTSA member for the 2015/16 school year online at <http://stillwaterptsa.org/membership/> and all of these benefits will be yours! Thanks to all of you, our PTSA has achieved BRONZE level membership status for this school year and we are just a few members away from reaching SILVER membership status (a 5% increase of the previous year's final paid membership number). We appreciate your support!

Thank you! ~ Cari & Michelle

**Please note that discount offers may change over time and that Local, State and National PTA do not endorse any commercial entity, product or service.

Volunteers Needed for Dad 'N' Donuts

Our next event is coming up quick! February 10th is our Dads and Donuts event! This is the event where kids can bring their father figures and show them off. Kids and their father figures come to mingle, play and eat donuts! If this sounds like a morning you would like to help out with please contact us. It's a great way to get to recognize the men in our community and show them how much we appreciate them. Thank you!

Jami Drake &
Serene Norris
social@stillwaterptsa.org



Santa Bingo Success

Santa Bingo was a HUGE success! What a fun night. What more could you ask for Food, Fun, Games, and Santa!?

Thank you again to all that made this evening run smoothly. Mr. Madigan and Denver McKelheer for emceeing our Silent Auction. Mrs. Craig, Miss Houser and Mrs. Heinson for running the bingo. Jennifer Tai thank you so much for taking fantastic Santa pictures for us again this year, and thank you to Chris Parker for making Santa so real for our children once again. Thank you to Monique Linz and her volunteer bakers for putting together an amazing spread of delicious treats: Al Arnes, Margie Bergstrom, Edyie Conrad, Amy McHenry, Cari Orme, Heather Darrington, Anna Peterson, and Grateful Bread. We also want to thank Jenn Anderson, Lindsey Tolsen, Eriko Loi, Sarah McKenzie, Stacy Reddy, and Gayle Saunders for all the back ground planning these ladies help us do to make this evening come alive. The evening would not have been a success without the help of Cari Orme, Ann Marie Gill, Jessica Bie, Kristy Cloutier, and Susan Nguyen helped run the meal lines and sales tables. Last but not least thank you to the Cedarcrest National Honors Society for all your hard work. We could not do it without all these teens volunteering their time and giving back to their community.

To download the Santa pictures go to:

<http://jenntai.pixieset.com/stillwaterbingonight2015/>

Password is StillwaterHawks2015

Happy Holidays

Serene Norris and Jami Drake

PTSA General Membership Meeting

When: Thursday, December 10th at 2 PM

Where: Portable B *Make sure you check in at the front desk before going to the Portable*

Who: Everyone is welcome! Including littles, feel free to bring any snacks/entertainment for the littles. *Only PTSA Members can vote on motions*

What: The PTSA holds 4 general membership meetings a year. During this meeting we will be voting to approve the Nominating Committee, we will have a review of the Hop-a-Thon and the remaining fundraising plans for the year and we will also discuss open volunteer spots on the board this year and next. Planning for next year has already begun! If anyone wants to be more involved in the PTSA but is not sure how, Jen and Lindsey will be staying after the meeting to answer any questions or concerns.

Why: Keep informed on PTSA activities and vote on important motions. During the June and September meetings we review and vote on the PTSA Budget. During the March board meeting we nominate and vote in the executive board for the following year. If all that isn't enough, FREE Italian Sodas and a Spiritwear Drawing!

Talent Show Tryouts

Can your child sing, dance, tell a fun joke, create a great skit or any other unusual and exciting talent? The Annual Stillwater Talent Show is just around the corner (after the holiday break). Your child can show their fellow classmates and Stillwater parents a special talent they can do.

Audition sign-ups will be December 7th -18th. There will be a sign up sheet on the front desk in the office. Please have your child sign up for a time slot they prefer. The tryouts are after school on January 14th and 15th. For more information feel free to contact Gale Britton at brittonduv1@aol.com or Megan Cutter at megan@cutters-ak.com if you need additional info!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to the following businesses for sponsoring staff jumps during the Hop-a-Thon. Each business pledged \$250 if the staff could reach 7,500 hops. The staff did over 10,000 hops!!!



Jennifer McGeary



Grant Success!!!

Grant News!

We have some exciting news to share. The Stillwater PTSA applied for 2 grants since the start of the year and BOTH have recently been approved!!! The first grant we submitted was for a Coca-Cola Health and Well-Being grant awarded through the Washington State PTA. We asked for \$480 to replace the foam stilts that Mr. Hammons uses in some of his physical education lessons. Many in his inventory were broken and it only allowed a few students to use the foam stilts at one time. The second grant we submitted was to the Riverview Education Foundation (REF) for the purchase of a kiln. We are the only school in the district without a kiln, and we have to outsource all firings of clay projects. REF approved our grant in the amount of \$3,623 to cover the cost of the kiln itself and then various materials required to install it. The school is currently working with the district on an installation plan for a kiln. More information to come soon! We just wanted to let you know that the PTSA is working hard to find other ways to fund projects at Stillwater!



We appreciate our sponsors!

The Stillwater PTSA was floored by all of the generous donations from so many members of our community for our 1st Annual Silent Auction! We were able to raise \$2,800.00!!! We want to give a thank you to them all: Ary K's Cakes, WinCo Foods, Fabkids, Seattle Sun Tan, Kid Kraft, Super Jock 'n Jill, Red Hook, Point Defiance Zoo, McLendon Hardware, Best Buddy Car Wash, Redmond Athletic Club, Woodland Park Zoo, SNVYSA, Thai Duvall, Anchorhead Coffee, WSU, UW, The Swirl, Bae Bae Cakes, McMenamins, North Bend Theatre, STG, Pete's Club & Grill, Seahawks, Worx, Silverwood Theme Park, Northwest Art Center, Lazy K's, Stevens Pass, SVNLL, UK Elite, Sno King Ice Arenas, Imagine Children's Museum, Salt Mine Arium, Keurig, Sounders FC, Tolt Yarn & Wool, Anytime Fitness, Bella Couture Parlor-Heather Jordan, DoTerra Oils – Carin Brimley, Duvall Fitness, Oriental Trading Co, Mandy Cook, Susan Nguyen, Green Planet Carpet Cleaning, Gina Graham, Beautycounter – Rebecca Manjarrez, Redmond School of Glass & Adventure Bowl/Sahara Pizza.