Hawk Talk

Month of October 2015• www.stillwaterptsa.org • Carnation, WA



October:
Thursday 10/1
Reflections Contest Begins
Thursday 10/8
School Picture Day
Thursday 10/22
STEM Night
Wednesday 10/28
Reflections Deadline
Thursday 10/29
2:30 & 7pm
4/5 Grade Music Program
Friday 10/30
School Harvest Festival
1-1:30pm

November:
Thursday 11/5
Hop-A-Thon
Thursday 11/19
Reflections Gala 6:30-7:30
11/16-11/25
Book Fair
Friday 11/20 DATE CHANGE
Santa Bingo

December:
Thursday 12/10
PTSA General Meeting
2-3:15 Portable B

Quick Tip

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A Message From Your PTSA Presidents

Hello Stillwater Families,

Happy Fall Y'all! We hope you've had a great start to the new school year. Thank you to all the families that joined us for the BBQ. Your participation and support made it a great success! On behalf of the entire board, we would like to express our gratitude to all of the wonderful BBQ volunteers. Kristine Nelson was the lead of the BBQ team, and she did a fantastic job tackling the ENORMOUS task that is the Back to School BBQ. She was accompanied by her core team of helpers that led ticket sales, raffle baskets and the pie contest: Jenn Anderson, Gayle Saunders, Rachel Ormiston, and Eriko Loi. Thank you to our fabulous BBQ cooks who made the evening possible: Lloyd McCracken, Ryan McHenry, and Eric Bie. Thank you Robin Lawson and Courtney Questad for lending your artistic talents to make the BBQ posters, Jennifer Tai for taking pictures, Mireille Bellemare for helping with set-up, and Audrey Dean who helped with raffle baskets and ticket sales. A big thank you to Ann Marie Gill for our awesome PTSA website and making online ordering a possibility. Remlinger Farms not only donated 8 pies to our pie sale, but they also donated a raffle basket. Thank you for the generous donation! There were so many Stillwater staff members that helped before, after and during the BBQ, and the PTSA could not pull off any event without their support. Finally, we want to say thank you to Pam Deming who previously lead the BBQ team for many years. She passed on the torch this year, and Kristine was able to pick up that torch and run with it because of the organization and detailed notes provided by Pam. Side Note – If anyone is willing to pick up the BBQ torch next year, let Serene Norris or Jami Drake know! ☺

Congratulations to the winners of the pie contest and raffle baskets! Please look for the winning pie recipes featured later in this newsletter. Those winning raffle baskets and homemade pies could not have happened without the donations from all of you, and our three pie judges that increased their blood sugar all for a good cause: Missy Harvold, Jenna Farnworth, and Ann Marchel.

As we look ahead, your PTSA board is hard at work on our fall events including the Hop-a-thon, Reflections Gala, and Santa Bingo. Look for more information on these in the coming weeks.

Switching gears, we had our first general membership meeting on September 24th. The next meeting will be on December 10th. Everyone is invited, but only PTSA members can vote on motions. During this last meeting we motioned to approve our 2015-2016 PTSA Budget and Standing Rules. Both motions passed. To provide clarity on PTSA fundraising goals, we wanted to review the budget numbers in this newsletter. Please see the last page for an overview of our budget and fundraising strategy.

Thank you for your continued support of our school!

Sincerely,
Jen Anderson and Lindsey Tolson
PTSA Co-Presidents

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

School Picture Day

When: October 8
Where: Stillwater Elem
More details to come through kidmail from the school!

STEM Night

When: October 22
Time: 6:00-7:30 pm
Who: Families are invited to Stillwater for some Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math fun!)

School Harvest Festival

When: October 30
Time: 1:00-1:30pm
Where: School
Who: All Grades participate in a parade!

Have something to say about an event?
We will send out surveys after every major event to hear your feedback!

Santa Bingo & Christmas Cookie Dash

November 20 5:30-8pm

DATE CHANGE

This year we have a Christmas/Holiday event with a new spin!

We are offering:

- Dinner
- Pictures with Santa in a fun and crazy photo booth
- Bingo & Cookie Dash
- Holiday Silent Auction

We are very excited to try something NEW this year. If you are interested in helping with any part of this evening please reach out to:

Serene Norris or Jami Drake at social@stillwaterptsa.org

Our social events could not be a success without the help and enthusiasm from our Volunteers.

THANK YOU!

Note: It was previously advertised that Santa Bingo would occur on 12/4, but we have changed the date so it does not interfere with the Duvall tree lighting ceremony.



HOP-A-THON

The PTSA's first fundraiser of the year, the Hop-a-Thon will take place on November 5th. All students, including Am/PM kindergarten, will participate during their specialist time on this day. The PTSA will have volunteers leading students through various jump rope activities. We are currently working through plans to re-vamp the logistics of our fundraisers to simplify the process for families and teachers. More information will be coming out the 2nd week of October when the donation collection envelopes are sent home. This fundraiser is purely donation based! The funds raised are essential to keeping PTSA programs, events and school grants in place - see the last page for more information on our fundraising goals and how your donations support Stillwater. We will be providing incentives for all students. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions or would like to volunteer to help on November 5th please send an email to president@stillwaterptsa.org and fundraising@stillwaterptsa.org. Thank you!



We are excited to announce the 3 winners of the Membership Spiritwear Drawing: Susan Nguyen, Melinda Smith & Liz Vernon! Congratulations and enjoy your new Spiritwear!

Even though the drawing is over, there's still great perks to being a PTSA member! It's never too late to become a member of the PTSA for the 2015/2016 school year, supporting our kids and school! Individual memberships are $15 and a household membership (2 adults) is $25. To become a member email us at membership@stillwaterptsa.org for a membership form or register online at http://stillwaterptsa.org/membership/.

2015/2016 PTSA Members did you get your PTSA Membership card via e-mail from Jen Anderson?

If not please email membership@stillwaterptsa.org

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:
Kristy Cloutier
secretary@stillwaterptsa.org

Treasurer:
Jessica Bie
tres@stillwaterptsa.org

Membership Chairs:
Michelle Berens
Cari Orme
membership@stillwaterptsa.org

Communications Chairs:
Jessica Coon
Rebecca Manjarrez
communications@stillwaterptsa.org

Fundraising:
Sarah McKenzie
fundraising@stillwaterptsa.org

Social Chairs:
Jami Drake
Serene Norris
social@stillwaterptsa.org

Yearbook:
Dani Graham
yearbook@stillwaterptsa.org

Art Education:
Lisa Cardenas
artedu@stillwaterptsa.org

Legislative Advocacy:
Vicky Garcia
advocate@stillwaterptsa.org

Newsletter Editor
Rebecca Manjarrez

The class that collected the most Box Tops & Labels for Education in September 2015 is Mrs. Marchel's class. They collected 173 Box tops & 30 Labels for Education. Super job!!

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

1) Marchel, 203
2) Goforth , 200 (so close!)
3) Epps, 180

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.

Reminder to Mrs. Dice's 4th Grade Students from Last Year!!!!



Your class won for the highest cumulative total of Box Tops and Labels for Education for the year, and in addition to your sweet surprise, you were given a box to collect additional box tops over the summer. You can turn that box in anytime and receive an EXTRA prize (write your name on the box)! So far we have only received 4 of these boxes!!

Thank you for collecting Box Tops & Labels for Education!

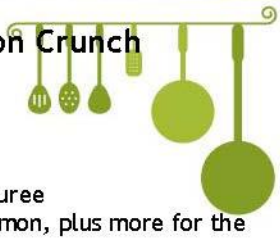
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPIRIT WEAR ORDERS

Spirit wear order forms were due on September 30th. We cannot sell spirit wear year-round, so we hope you placed your order! We have processed your forms and have placed our order with the supplier. Once the items arrive, we will be sending the spiritwear home with your kids unless you request otherwise. The board would like to give a big THANK YOU to Zoe Anderson who worked tirelessly over the summer to overhaul our spiritwear program. If you have any questions Zoe can be reached at zoepoirier@hotmail.com.

2015 Back to School BBQ Pie Winner Recipes!

Bobby Flay Inspired Pumpkin Pie with Cinnamon Crunch

From the Kitchen of: 1st Place Winner - Liz Hunter



INGREDIENTS

Topping
Of 1/4 cup of flour
1/4 cup of brown sugar
1/4 cup of butter
1/4 cup of crushed pecans
Crust
2 cups graham cracker crumbs
8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted
1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 large egg, lightly beaten
Filling
3 large eggs
3 large egg yolks
3/4 cup dark muscovado sugar
1/4 cup granulated sugar
2 tablespoons molasses
11/2 cups canned pumpkin puree
11/4 teaspoons ground cinnamon, plus more for the top
1 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
1/2 teaspoon fine salt
1 cup heavy cream
1/2 cup whole milk
1/2 vanilla bean, split lengthwise, seeds scraped out and reserved, or 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
Bourbon-Maple Whipped Cream (recipe follows), for serving
Bourbon-Maple Whipped Cream

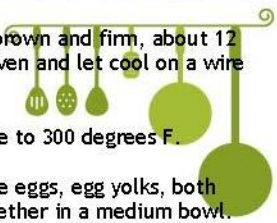
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1 1/4 cups heavy cream, very cold
1/2 vanilla bean, split lengthwise, seeds scraped out and reserved
2 tablespoons Grade B maple syrup
1 to 2 tablespoons bourbon

DIRECTIONS

To make the cinnamon crunch, preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

To make the crust, combine the graham cracker crumbs, butter, and cinnamon in a bowl and mix until combined. Press evenly onto the bottom and sides of a 10-inch pie plate. Brush with the beaten egg. Bake until light golden brown and firm, about 12 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool on a wire rack.



Reduce the oven temperature to 300 degrees F.

To make the filling, whisk the eggs, egg yolks, both sugars, and the molasses together in a medium bowl. Mix in the pumpkin puree, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, cloves, and salt. Whisk in the heavy cream, milk, and vanilla seeds or extract. Strain the mixture through a coarse strainer into a bowl. Whisk in the butter.

Place the pie plate on a baking sheet, pour the pumpkin mixture into the shell, and sprinkle additional cinnamon over the top. Bake until the filling is set around edges but the center still jiggles slightly when shaken, 45 to 60 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack and cool to room temperature, about 2 hours.

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2015 Back to School BBQ Pie Winner Recipes!

Attention Supplies needed for Art Docent!

The art docent program is currently in need of 90 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!
Also, we still need a volunteer for Dr. F's class. Please let me know if you can help.
Thank you!
~Lisa
Art Education
artedu@stillwaterptsa.org



Recipe: Sarah's Pecan Pie

Ingredients: Dough: 1c flour, 1/4 tsp salt, 1/3 c butter, 3 tblsp cold water
Filling: 1 1/4c pecans, 1c&1tblsp dark corn syrup, 3 eggs, 1/2c&1tblsp sugar, 1-1/2 tsp vanilla, pinch salt

Instructions: Preheat oven to 350F. In a bowl combine flour & salt, cut in butter until crumbly. Slowly add cold water, tossing with a fork until a ball forms. Roll out pastry to fit a 9" pie plate. Transfer to pie plate, flute edges. Sprinkle with pecans and set aside. In a small bowl, beat corn syrup, eggs, sugar, vanilla and salt until well blended. Pour over pecans. Bake at 350F for 45-50 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.

From the kitchen of:
Sarah McKenzie - 2nd Place Winner

Recipe: Zoe's Blackberry Pie

Ingredients: 6c blackberries, 1c sugar, 3tbls corn starch, 1tsp lemon juice, 1/2 tsp lemon zest, 2tbls unsalted butter, 1 large egg & your fave pie dough recipe

Instructions: Preheat, oven to 400 F. In a large bowl, toss the blackberries, sugar, corn starch, lemon juice and lemon zest, let stand, mixing & coarsely mashing occasionally for 20 minutes. Roll out pie dough and place in 9" pie plate. Trim the edges, leaving a 1/2" overhang and refrigerate while you roll out the other dough and cut into 11, 1 1/4" wide strips. Pour blackberry mixture into the pie shell and dot the top with butter. Use the dough strips to create a lattice on top & crimp the edges. Lightly beat the egg w/ 1 tbsp water and brush the top, sprinkle with sugar. Place pie on baking sheet and bake 45min-1hour.

From the kitchen of:
Zoe Leffard - 3rd Place Winner

2015-2016 PTSA Fundraising Strategy and Budget Review

For us to be able to provide the same level of support to Stillwater next year, our total fundraising efforts has to hit a minimum of $31,000 as outlined in the budget numbers below. Last year during our fundraisers it was noted that we wanted to raise money for the PTSA, so that the PTSA could help fund a kiln and new playground equipment for Stillwater. You do not see that listed in the budget because the plans are not finalized. Currently Stillwater is working with the district to put together a kiln plan. It is not as simple as purchasing a kiln, there has to be a designated place at the school to put it with proper ventilation. So there will be building modification fees associated with the installation of the kiln. In addition, the PTSA is working with the recess teachers (and subsequently the kids) on new playground equipment requests, as well as some current pieces of equipment that need repair. Once both items have been thoroughly investigated and bottom line cost numbers associated with them, we will be able to add them to our budget. Those two items could also increase our fundraising goal for the year, but without a solid number to associate with the cost for both of them the budget will stay as is for now.

With approximately 450 students at Stillwater, each student needs to raise around $70 for us to hit our goal. There was some communication on social media regarding suggested fundraising tactics for the PTSA, such as, “write us a check for x amount and we will not ask you for money the rest of the year.” Since every student at Stillwater would not be able to raise $70, the PTSA has to depend on fundraisers like the Hop-a-Thon and Walk-a-Thon that motivate kids to call/visit relatives and family friends. Both are purely donation based fundraisers, we do not sell t-shirts or equipment during these fundraisers. But we provide prizes and incentives for the students. Years ago, the PTSA listened to the families and went away with the candy, wrapping paper, entertainment book and cookie dough sales and switched to donation based fundraising.

So what can you do? Energize your students about participating in our two fundraisers for the year: the Hop-a-Thon in November and the Walk-a-Thon in May. The Dance Guy, field trips, art docent lessons, assemblies, and field day are all items kids LOVE and all items that require PTSA funding! You can also help Stillwater fundraise by doing everyday things: clip Box Tops and Labels for Education off your home and grocery items, shop at AmazonSmile instead of Amazon and use your Target Red Card if you have one when you shop at Target (for both AmazonSmile and Target Red Card make sure Stillwater PTSA is designated as your charity). Retail Funds, which encompasses those 3 things I just talked about earned Stillwater PTSA $3,141.37 last year. If you can make a donation and you work for a company that does corporate matching, please make sure you submit your donation to your company for a match. Last year Stillwater PTSA earned $3,242.72 in corporate matching funds.

If you have any questions please reach out to Lindsey or Jen at president@stillwaterptsa.org.

2015-2016 PTSA Budget Expense Plan

Funds directly to Stillwater for: All Arts Day, Assemblies, Classroom Gifts, Field Day, Field Trip Stipends for all Grades, Library, Music and PE Enrichment funds, REF Auction Basket, STEM Night, Safety Patrol Recognition, Random Acts of Kindness Club, Girls on the Run Club and Teacher/Staff Grants - $14,525

Funds to support our Art Docent Program, Reflections, Talent Show and the Dance Guy - $6,800

Scholarships for local high school students - $850

Volunteer Appreciation and Membership Supplies/Hospitality - $600

Staff Appreciation and Staff Luncheon - $950

Special Outreach Programs: Dads and Donuts, Mom and Me - $1,000

Legislative Assembly, PTSA Convention and Awards - $2,125

Expenses related to running a corporation: Photocopies, Plaque Engraving, Post Office Box, Supplies, Website, Bank Charges, Checks/Deposit Slips, Insurance, Legal Registration, Accountant Gift, and Bookkeeping Software - $4,044

Misc Expenses: President Discretionary Fund, PTSA Property Enhancements - $200

Expense for Fundraising: Hop-a-Thon, Walk-a-Thon, Spring Fundraiser Plant Sale, and Retail Funds - $4,415

Expenses for break-even events and actives (they pay for themselves): Yearbook, Spiritwear, Raffle, Back to School BBQ, the Dance, Family Fun Night (Bingo this year), Directory and Membership Dues - $16,980

TOTAL Budget Expense Plan - $52,489

2015 - 2016 PTSA Budget Income Plan

Income from activities that pay for themselves and special outreach programs - $20,215

Fundraising income: Hop-a-Thon, Walk-a-Thon, Spring Fundraiser Plant Sale, Retails Funds and Corporate Matching - $31,000

TOTAL Budget Income Plan - $51,215

Net Budget Plan: -$1,274 (difference to be covered by bank balance funds from previous years)