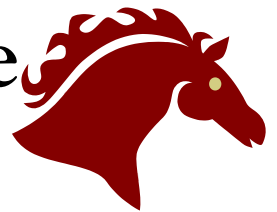


The Stoneleigh Gazette



900 Pemberton Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212

Phone: 410-887-3600

Fax: 410-887-3601

Christine Warner, Principal

Donna Wingerd, Administrative Secretary

Melissa O'Brien, Assistant Principal

Amy Eden, Secretary

November, 2009

Message From the Principal

We invite all of our parents, guardians, grandparents, and friends to join us for our upcoming American Education Week. This year the theme is: *"Making Public Schools Great for Every Child."* As we open our building on this special week celebrating our public education system, we ask your indulgence with a few procedural matters. Please drop-off your students as you would usually do and then, if you arrive a wee bit early, join us in the cafeteria/gymnasium lobby. As you enter through the cafeteria/gymnasium lobby, stop by for some refreshments sponsored by our generous and supportive PTA. There you will be asked to sign-in and given a visitor's name tag. This will ensure that all visitors are here for the appropriate purposes. Ms. O'Brien and I will be available to share your perceptions regarding the visit to our school. After your visit to the classroom, you are encouraged to fill out a comment "boot" about your time in the classroom. It is indeed an exciting week, and we are anxious to welcome you. This is truly a wonderful opportunity to see your child interact in the learning environment. We hope you are all able to participate. We also ask your indulgence with the following special requests as you visit the classrooms:

- Please turn off cell phones;
- Please enjoy snacks and drinks before entering the classrooms;
- Please refrain from chatting with other parents during instruction; and
- Please if you have younger children, step outside of the classroom if they are interrupting instruction.



So Much to be Thankful For...

As we fast approach the holiday season, it is important to reflect on the many things for which we are thankful. The entire staff of Stoneleigh Elementary recognizes that it is indeed a privilege to serve this fine community. We are blessed to work with thoughtful, responsible students and supportive families. Because of the community we serve, our *Stoneleigh Mission* is achievable as we enable our students to:

- ✓ *Participate fully in rich academic, intellectual and social opportunities;*
- ✓ *Grow in their knowledge, creativity, diversity, and self-acceptance; and,*
- ✓ *Become productive, responsible, and respectful citizens.*



Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday!



Calendar of Events

November 16-20, 2009


American Education Week

Monday, 11/16/09 - Grade 4 Visitation

Tuesday, 11/17/09 - Grade 2 Visitation



Wednesday, 11/18/09 – Grade 1 Visitation
Thursday, 11/19/09 – Kindergarten and Grade 5 Visitation
Friday, 11/20/09 – Grade 3 Visitation

- November 17, 2009 - Board of Education Meeting, Greenwood, ESS Building, 6:30 p.m.
- November 19, 2009 - Distribution of Report Cards
- Central Area Education Advisory Council Meeting (CAEAC),
Dumbarton Middle School, 7:00 p.m. Topic: “Have Questions About College?”
- November 20, 2009 - Magnet School Application Deadline
- November 23, 2009 - Elementary Conference Day, **School Closed for Elementary Students**
- November 26-27, 2009 - Thanksgiving Holiday, **Schools Closed** 
- December 1, 2009 - Board of Education Meeting, Greenwood, ESS Building, 7:00 p.m.
- December 10, 2009 - Stoneleigh Gazette goes home

Future Dates for Planning Purposes



- December 5, 2009 - PTA Holiday Celebration, 12:00-4:00 p.m.
- December 15, 2009 - Winter Concert, Stoneleigh Gymnasium at 7:00 p.m.
- December 24-January 3, 2010- Winter Break, **Schools Closed**
- January 4, 2010 - Schools Reopen

School Improvement Team

The School Improvement met in the library on October 19, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. Following are the abbreviated minutes:

1. Mrs. Warner welcomed the new members of the SIT team; Mrs. Beverly Hammer, parent representative, and Dan Green, parent representative. Mr. Green is also serving as a parent liaison for BCPS Stoneleigh Renovation Committee.
2. The results of 145 parent surveys were very positive for Stoneleigh Elementary in 2008/2009. Many items had at least 80% “agree” responses. Those that had lower percentages were larger numbers of “not sure or N/A” markings rather than more negative grades.
 - 99% of the responding parents were satisfied with Stoneleigh Elementary;
 - 97% rated the school as “safe and orderly”;
 - The largest “disagree” response (10%) occurred for item #11 related to the lunch time experience in the cafeteria and for item #10 that dealt with the appearance of the building;
 - Items with large “neutral” or “N/A” responses included item #10 appearance of the building (24%), item #11 lunch time experience (24%), item #13 administrators listen to parents and students (19%), item #21 teachers inform us about testing (21%), and item #27 teaching effective skills (28%).

For next year, we may want to consider a rearrangement and expansion of the scale to one that many schools and offices use, i.e. strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, and N/A. A suggestion

was made to include a section about testing notifications in the Parent/Student Handbook. The administration will also ask teachers to discuss this topic at Back to School Night next year.

3. The Executive Summaries of the School Plan were briefly reviewed.

The new agenda items for the November 16, 2009 meeting are follows:

- Renovation and Addition Updates
- Green School Updates

The full minutes of the meeting have been posted on the school’s website. Team members can forward new agenda items to Mrs. Warner at cwarner@bcps.org or Mr. Imirie at bimirie@bcps.org.

Renovation and Addition Updates

As you may recall in December of last year, we solicited the input of the community on what they would like to see addressed in a renovation and addition. Teachers also offered their “wishes, hopes, and dreams” for the project. Based on this information, as well as state and county specifications, the feasibility study was completed. Phase One has been completed and we are now currently in Phase Two of the planning process for the Stoneleigh Renovation and Addition. This is a long and elaborate phase involving the selection of an architect and the actual design and scope of the process. During this process, the cost of the project will be submitted in the Capital Budget – Proposed 2011 for the 200 seat Renovation and Addition Program. Additionally, the process for Educational Specifications will be reviewed by the Division of Curriculum and Instruction Offices. As a part of this planning phase, we are looking at numerous program enhancements and systemic renovations. These are tough budget times and therefore all of our “wishes, hope, and dreams” for this project may not be realized. The good news is that we will be creatively approaching how we look at the budget and space to maximize our ability to continue providing the best instructional program possible for our Stoneleigh families. We are happy to announce that Mr. Daniel Green, (father of Ben in third grade), is the PTA representative serving on the committee during this process. He will continue to offer insights on behalf of our families. We will use this newsletter as a means to update you periodically as we work through this process. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have (cwarner@bcps.org). It is an exciting endeavor!

American Education Week

“Making Public Schools Great for Every Child”

In an effort to help our families plan ahead, we again release the schedule for American Education Week:

Stoneleigh Elementary’s Schedule is as follows:



<i>Monday, November 16th</i>	-	<i>Grade 4 Visitation</i>
<i>Tuesday, November 17th</i>	-	<i>Grade 2 Visitation</i>
<i>Wednesday, November 18th</i>	-	<i>Grade 1 Visitation</i>
<i>Thursday, November 19th</i>	-	<i>Kindergarten Visitation</i>
	-	<i>Grade 5 Visitation</i>
<i>Friday, November 20th</i>	-	<i>Grade 3 Visitation</i>

Visitation hours will be from 9:00-11:30 a.m. (or until the subject ends that you are visiting at the 11:30 a.m. hour). All afternoon visitors should enter through our front doors using our buzzer system. There will be a table for you to sign-in and secure a visitor's badge.

In the event that you are unable to attend the designated day assigned to your child's grade level, please send a note to the teacher with the day you are able to attend. In that way we will attempt to have adequate chairs for our guests. Additionally, if the morning time slot does not fit your schedule, you may also send a note to the teacher designating a time between 1:30 and 3:00 p.m. **We regret that none of our parents will be able to join us for lunch due to capacity issues.** Thank you for understanding!

Calling All Parent Volunteers

Parents, we are in need of a few additional parent volunteers for our monthly cultural arts assemblies. If you are able to volunteer on any of the dates or some of the times listed below, please contact Mrs. Darwin at 410.825.6231 or lisadarwin@yahoo.com.

1. Wednesday, December 23, 2009 at 1:45 p.m. (all grades)
2. Monday, April 26, 2010, K-2 @ 1:00 p.m. and 3-5 @ 2:00 p.m.
3. Wednesday, May 5, 2010, K-2 @ 1:00 p.m. and 3-5 @ 2:00 p.m.

Additional dates in January or February may be added and if so, we will need volunteers. Please consider helping out in this endeavor and just think you get to be with your students and see a great show!

Parents, please remember that you must be a trained volunteer in order to assist with the assemblies. If you have not been trained, please contact the school office to set up a mutually convenient time to come in to view the video and complete the necessary paperwork.

Coats 4 Kids Campaign

Again, this year we are having a Coats 4 Kids drive. Last year we raised \$575.00 for this very worthy cause. The campaign will take place during American Education Week, November 16-20, 2009. If you chose to donate; all you have to do is make a check payable to: Fund for Social Welfare and place it in the box that will be located on the table when you sign in during American Education Week. A new coat for a child is about \$20.00 and this non-profit organization will make sure that a child in need will receive a warm coat for the winter. We will **NOT** be collecting coats, only monetary donations. If you are not able to visit Stoneleigh Elementary during American Education Week, you can still send a check in with your child.

If you are interested in donating a coat, the Volunteer Office of the Baltimore County Department of Social Services would be happy to accept your gently used coat to have available in their clothes closet for families that they are not able to provide with a new coat. You can drop off your gently used coat at the Baltimore County Department of Social Services-Volunteer Office, 6401 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21212.

Thank you in advance for your generous support.

Physical Education News

Fall Cross Country Runs

Stoneleigh Runners enjoyed a successful fall season participating in cross-country races at Pinewood and Rodgers Forge Elementary School. Third, fourth, and fifth graders from Stoneleigh competed against runners from Pinewood, Rodgers Forge, Hampton, St. Pius, Riderwood, Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Joseph's, Gunpowder, St. Ursula's, Timonium, and St. Michaels.

Congratulations to the following Stoneleigh runners:

Peter Mogilnicki
Kennedy Scott-Lynch*
Karen Prem*
Kevin Wassenius
Burke Harman
Allison Sassano
Rose Riggs
Nate Bowman
Mackenzie Christensen

Trey Wagner*
Colin Skeen
Raley Young*
Andrew Pagano*
Sam Maldonado
Will Spiccioli
Amelia Kline
Carter Vogel

Riley Wagner*
Sierra Cockerille*
Emily Wassenius
Sam Weisz
Will Langenberg
Emma Riggs*
Colin Connelly
Nate Johnson

*Ribbon Winners (First thru Tenth Place)

Marathon Kids: Remember to keep tracking your miles and keep up with your mile sheet through the winter months.

Instrumental and Vocal Music News

The Winter Concert is almost here! All fifth grade Band, Orchestra, Steel Drum, and Chorus students will be performing an assortment of holiday favorites and multicultural pieces!

Come join us on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the gym.

Get excited for a night of beautiful music and an amazing showcase of talent!

Library/Media News

Birthday Book Club: A Special Way to Remember Your Child's Birthday

In honor of your child's special day, please consider participating in our Birthday Book Club. Here is how it works. We cannot accept books purchased at book stores. They are not "library bound", (a more durable binding that lasts longer), nor are they shelf ready, having to be sent for cataloging. We ask that students and parents complete the form below and return it to Mrs. Mooney. Please list books that you would like to see in the library and they will be given priority on book orders. When the book arrives, a special book plate will recognize your child's birthday and your child will be the first to borrow the book. The average cost of a library book is \$20.00, but we will gladly accept contributions in any amount. Special thanks to Charlene Prem who has volunteered to assist with the program.

Birthday Book Club

Child's Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Given By: _____

Requested Titles (please indicate at least three)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

All books suggested must meet BCPS standards for literature. Paperback books can not be ordered.

Technology News

As Stoneleigh is a green school and we're always trying to care for our environment, we continue to educate our children on ways they can contribute to this cause. You and your family can help out by not only recycling daily items in your homes, but by also recycling old technology equipment, parts, and pieces. If you have any used or unwanted ink cartridges, batteries, or cell phones, please send them into the school office to



be recycled. Along with our efforts to help the environment, recycling these items also earns money to go toward new technology for Stoneleigh Elementary! If you have any questions about what can/cannot be recycled or about this program, please email Meaghan Slattery (msslattery@bcps.org) or Donna Wingerd (dwingerd@bcps.org). Thanks! Stay Green, Stoneleigh!

Central Area Educational Advisory Committee

On Thursday, November 19, 2009, 7:00 p.m. at Dumbarton Middle School, Mr. Chip Saltsman will be speaking to parents who "Have Questions About College." Mr. Saltsman has previously spoken at Dulaney and Pikesville High School with rave reviews. Please RSVP to Laura Mullen at lmullen4@verizon.net if you are interested in attending or just show up!

Availability to Classrooms

Classrooms are available to students from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. If your student forgets something, he or she will have to secure the item on the next school day. Consider having your student team



up with a buddy to contact for a forgotten assignment. Students, parents, and guardians **will not** be permitted to return to unattended classrooms. Thank you for your understanding as we work to build responsibility and independence in our students.

Calls to School

As Stoneleigh Elementary School has only two incoming/outgoing telephone lines and increased enrollment, it is important that after school **changes/reminders for students**, i.e. girl scouts, brownies, going home with Mrs., are communicated to your student before they leave the house in the morning. If you are uncertain about whether your student will remember a change in plans, please send a note to the teacher for that day.



As always, emergency changes to dismissal plans should be communicated directly to the office staff as soon as possible so that we can facilitate this change with your student and the homeroom teacher.

Changes?



Throughout the school year, if your address, telephone number, cell phone number, work number or emergency information changes, please notify the school office immediately. Any changes should be made in writing, addressed to the school office and signed by you. In the event of an address change, the school should be notified in **writing within ten days**. After notifying the school, updated proof of residency information will be required to be presented to the school office.

We ask that you comply with this request as it is important for the school to have the most up-to-date information concerning your children in the event of an emergency. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Attention: Field Trip Volunteers

Were you aware that all chaperones on school field trips are expected to be trained as volunteers prior to participation in the field trip? If you missed the Volunteer Training do not fret. We invite you to call the school office any day **prior to the trip** to schedule a time to come in to view the volunteer video, complete the *Application for Volunteer services* and complete the *Volunteer Training Certificate*. Thank you for attending to this requirement and most of all thank you for being willing to support and serve our Stoneleigh students!



“It’s been on my mind...”



Name _____ Telephone Number _____