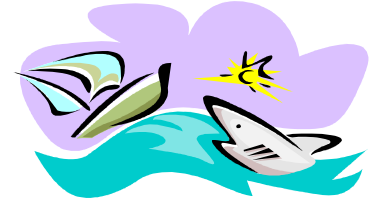




# The Stonegate Splash .....Riding the Waves of Success

THE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER FOR STONEGATE FAMILIES

STONEGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
14811 NOTLEY ROAD  
SILVER SPRING, MD 20905  
301.989.5668



## A Message from Ms. Fladung

One marking period down.....and we are busier than ever at Stonegate. Teachers are busy preparing for second quarter and our students are busy completing projects, doing homework, attending after-school activities, participating in class, and showing evidence of real learning and living together at school. As your children commit themselves to academic and social success, please check your child's book bag on a regular basis. Teachers are consistently sending home completed work with feedback and are submitting data notebooks for your review and input. Please remember that your child's final grade is comprised of a variety of data points over time. Tests and quizzes are only one part of that grade. Therefore, it is important to review all in-class assignments and to note areas where children are excelling and demonstrating complete mastery as well as areas where they are developing or perhaps showing minimal understanding. It is not expected that children show immediate mastery of a taught concept. It is over time, with instruction and possible re-teaching, that they can demonstrate true progress and mastery. Praise their efforts, their growth, and their ultimate success!

## A Message from Mrs. Glawe

The Flu Mist will be administered at Stonegate in the health room, on November 12th beginning at 1:00p.m. Please contact the Stonegate health room for an appointment. The process described below should be used by parents wanting their child to be vaccinated.

- Parents contact the health room to make an appointment
- Parents or a designated adult accompany children to the health room
- Parents or a designated adult bring the completed and signed consent forms to the health room

Do not send the consent forms to school, as they need to be brought with you the day your child has an appointment to be vaccinated. IF you have sent the form in to school recently, it will be returned home. Thank you for following the procedures for the Flu Mist Vaccination Clinic.

Friday, October 29, 2010

Audra Fladung, Principal

Carla Glawe, Principal Intern

### Special Points of Interest:

- **Monday, November 1st is a Professional Day for Staff. NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS!**
- **Tuesday, November 2nd is Election Day. THERE IS NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF!**
- **There will be a PTA meeting on Tuesday, November 9th at 7:00 pm.**
- **Parent Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, November 11 and Friday, November 12. BOTH DAYS ARE HALF DAYS FOR STUDENTS. STUDENTS WILL DISMISSED AT 12:35.**
- **Picture Re-Take Day is scheduled for November 18.**





## School Improvement Planning

Our School Improvement Team met on Monday, October 25th to analyze data and to review our School Improvement Plan. We focused on the first Key to College Readiness: Advanced Reading in Grades K-2. The county benchmarks to achieve this key with success include reading on a level 6 at the conclusion of kindergarten and performing at the 70th percentile or above on the TN2 in second grade.

In June of 2010, over 60% of our kindergartners ended the year

reading at a level 6 or higher. However, a number of students regressed over the summer and entered first grade below the college readiness benchmark. Our team has noted the importance of creating strong foundations in reading both at home and at school. Like any skill, students must practice reading every day in order to improve and to successfully interact with text independently.

In reviewing the TN2 data, 55% of our second grade students met

or exceeded the 70th percentile benchmark in reading. The 2011 performance target is for 81% of our second grade students to meet or exceed the 70th percentile in reading. In order to meet this target, we will continue to implement best practices in reading, including small group instruction, fluency development, and inferential thinking skills. We will also focus on perseverance through challenging text and becoming independent with reading directions, completing tasks, and providing details to responses.

## Parent Conferences Coming Soon

Parent conferences are scheduled for **Thursday, November 11, and Friday, November 12**. Parent conferences will provide an opportunity for you to learn more about your child's successes and areas of need, both academically and behaviorally. Therefore, it is important that you attend. If you have not scheduled an appointment, please contact your child's teacher in order to find a mutually convenient time to meet. Conferences are scheduled for approximately **15-20 minutes**; therefore, please plan to *arrive on time* and to be considerate of the parent following your appointment time. As the conference date draws near, remember the meeting is an opportunity for you and the teacher to collaborate. You are the expert about your child, while the teacher is the expert on teaching and supporting children at his/her grade level. You'll both come to the table with ideas and opinions. Remember, too, that collaboration sometimes requires compromise; striking a balance of ideas is often in the best interest of your child.

Here are some general hints on how to have a successful conference:

- Ask your child if there is anything that he would like you to discuss with the teacher.
- **Arrive promptly or a few minutes early.**
- Avoid lengthy discussions of topics that are not related to the purpose of the conference.
- Be open-minded to suggestions from the teacher.
- Keep your emotions under control.
- **Take notes about what has been discussed to share with your child.**
- Express appreciation for the conference.





## Math Night Was Marvelous!

We hosted our school-sponsored Math Night on Thursday, October 21st. We welcomed over 148 students and their families—a fabulous turnout! Our Math Committee planned for a night of exciting math games and hands-on activities! Students explored shapes to create holiday wreathes, used their measurement skills to make their own trail mix, and practiced place

value skills using a variety of readily available home items—just to name a few! Valuable information on at-home math activities, math literature, and websites was also available. In addition, there were MCPS Curriculum connections and practice activities for the Maryland School Assessment (MSA). All resources are currently available in the rounder, located in the

main hallway. Finally, students won wonderful prizes throughout the evening during the ongoing raffle! We thank everyone for attending and send out a special thanks to our many parent volunteers who assisted throughout the evening!



## Grading and Reporting Workshop Scheduled

Standards-based grading and reporting helps to improve student achievement by focusing on what students need to know and be able to do, how we will know they have learned it, what we will do when they haven't learned it, and what we will do when they already know it.

Grades based on curriculum standards become triggers for action. Standards-based grades help teach-

ers plan their instruction so they can challenge and support all students. They help parents know the academic areas in which a student meets or exceeds expectations, needs challenge, or needs support.

Ms. Elaraj, Staff Development Teacher, and Mrs. Langford-Brown, Director of Elementary School Instruction and Achievement will be

presenting a workshop on grading and reporting at the November 9th PTA Meeting. By the end of the session, participants will have gained a great understanding of standards-based grading, MCPS grading policies, and how those policies are being implemented at Stonegate. We hope you will join us for this informative session!

## Town Hall Meeting

Students attended our end of quarter Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, October 27th. During this time, we celebrated our successes, reviewed important rules and responsibilities, and set goals for the upcoming quarter. We were excited to recognize our 1st quarter Blue Shark winners, as well as those who earned the Core Value certificates for demonstrating respect, responsi-

bility, collaboration, and commitment. Students reviewed the rules for the lunchroom and the playground. As we look to create and maintain a safe and welcoming environment, we ask that you reinforce with your children “restaurant behavior” for our cafeteria and safe play for our playground. We also reviewed our dismissal procedures, including the importance of going

straight home following dismissal and not loitering on school property or visiting friends homes without permission. We are looking forward to continued success in the second quarter as we seek to increase our Silver Spork winners, reduce our office referrals, and earn our next Peace Day goal of 50!





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SCHOOL HOURS: 8:50 A.M - 3:05 P.M

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**Core Values**

Respect

Responsibility

Collaboration

Commitment

**Mission Statement**

Stonegate's mission as a caring community is to foster the growth of life-long learners by communicating high expectations and standards through respect, flexibility, and collaboration.

**Vision Statement**

The Stonegate Community will be committed to a multicultural learning environment that motivates and supports all learners to achieve their greatest potential. We will collaborate respectfully to develop a standard of excellence that promotes high expectations for all learners.

# Thank You Adoptive Families!

On behalf of the very grateful staff, we thank our adoptive families for their generosity and thoughtfulness! We feel blessed!



## Progress Inquiries

Staff recognize the importance of providing ongoing information to families regarding student progress. Therefore, end of unit math assessments are announced and administered to children with ample time for review and study. Following the assessment, teachers are committed to scoring unit assessments and providing feedback to students in a timely fashion. Please allow for teachers to take the necessary time to thoroughly assess student understand-

ing on such unit assessments. Requesting immediate feedback or information about a student grade on the day of or after an assessment does not provide such time. Likewise, please do not request a conference to review the assessment until adequate time has been given for its scoring. In addition, as we come to the close of the first quarter, we have received numerous inquiries regarding current levels of student progress and missed assignments.

Should you have questions regarding your child's progress, please review returned assignments, check out the data notebook, and talk to your child's teacher throughout the quarter; please do not wait until the final days of grading. Finally, take advantage of the November conferences to meet with your child's teacher to review progress and to identify areas of strength, as well as areas for growth.

