

## Yearbooks Are Going Fast

The yearbook is a wonderful way to capture the memories of your child's 2009-2010 year at Stonegate. Haven't ordered your copy yet? Hurry, supplies are limited and we've already received more than 150 orders!

Not able to find the yearbook flyer and order form sent home in your child's folder? Simply send in your payment of \$15 via cash or check (payable to the Stonegate PTA) in an envelope marked Stonegate Yearbook — write your child's name, teacher and grade on the envelope as well.

**Jim Calvo, Yearbook Chair**

*Jim.Calvo@clarkconstruction.com*

## SHARK Principal Audra Fladung Looks Back at the School Year



### INSIGHTS

*Sharkbytes: What are the three most important lessons you learned this year?*

- Audra:*
1. Teachers and parents want the same thing — the very best for their children.
  2. Developing strong citizenship skills is as important as developing strong academic skills.
  3. Respect is the key to strong communication and successful partnerships.

*Sharkbytes: What words of wisdom do you have for the new PTA?*

*Audra:* My words are simple: Always, always keep children — all children, especially those different from your own — as your focus. It is our children who should influence our decision-making and our priorities.

*continued on page 2*

## SEE INSIDE

SharkInsights: Principal	1
SharkChat: PTA President	1
SharkThanks	3
SharkView: Meet the New PTA Board	4
SharkCounsel: Get Ready for Kindergarten	5
SharkChannel: Media Center Updates	6
SharkReport: Variety Show and Science Fair	7

## SHARK PTA President Tammy Forsyth Shares Lessons Learned



### CHAT

*Sharkbytes: What are the three most important lessons you learned this year?*

- Tammy:*
1. The most important thing you can do for your child and school is to be informed. There is so much information out there it's amazing what you can find to help your child. Being an informed parent helps your child and helps you advocate effectively for your child.
  2. Volunteering is a great way to show your children you care about their education and they in turn will realize how important it is.
  3. It takes parents, teachers and school staff to all be on the same page and work together to help our children.

*continued on page 2*

## Interview with the Principal

*continued from page 1*

*Sharkbytes: What are your summer plans?*

*Audra:* I am looking forward to taking a trip to the beach for some fun and relaxation. Hopefully, there will opportunity for long weekends with friends and family, too. I am also anxious to begin planning for an exciting and rewarding 2010-2011 school year.

*Thank you Audra! Your leadership, your quest for excellence, your caring ways and positive attitude make us all proud to be part of Stonegate Elementary.*

## Interview with the PTA President

*continued from page 1*

*Sharkbytes: What words of wisdom do you have for the new PTA?*

*Tammy:* Remember the PTA is about OUR CHILDREN. PTA is parents and teachers working together for our children. When planning for next year the focus should be on what will help ALL kids. We should also remember that we come from different backgrounds and cultures — do keep this in mind as you set goals, make plans, and seek out volunteers.

*Sharkbytes: What are your summer plans?*

*Tammy:* I'm going to relax at the pool and enjoy all my free time with my kids. No planning... time for spontaneity!

*Congratulations Tammy! Your enthusiasm, energy, dedication, and relentless advocacy for the kids have made a significant difference at Stonegate.*

## Editor's Note

Hard to believe another school year is almost over! We hope the PTA's activities have improved the learning and community experience at Stonegate for you these past months.

Thank you students, parents, teachers, staff, PTA Committee members, volunteers, and all Stonegate Elementary supporters for everything you did to make the 2009-2010 school year exciting and meaningful.

Enjoy your summer. We look forward to your continued support and contributions to Sharkbytes next year. If you can think of ways to improve on this newsletter or would like to share summer memories, resources, or tips for the new school year, feel free to contact me at any time.

**Meena Dayak, Sharkbytes Editor,**  
*Meena.Dayak@gmail.com*

### PTA MEETINGS

#### June 1 PTA Board Transition Meeting

The PTA general membership meeting for June is cancelled. Instead the outgoing board will meet with the incoming board on June 1 at the school Media Center to ensure a smooth transition. Current committee chairs are invited to join us and share information that will benefit the incoming team.



## Principal Audra Fladung says thank you to

- Our children, who work hard each and every day, to achieve academically and to take care of one another. I have worked at 5 different elementary schools in my career and there are no finer students anywhere!
- Our teachers and staff, who give so much to ensure that our children's needs are met; who give beyond their professional day to meet, plan, problem solve, and inspire.
- Our parents and community, especially our PTA. We are so fortunate to have the support and the volunteerism of our families. They consistently go above and beyond to support the academic program and the outside enrichment of our children.

## PTA President Tammy Forsyth says thank you to

- Beth Janoff and Karen White for the Healthy Kids Spring Celebration.
- Shyla Shirodkar, Shabeen Jafri, Elizabeth Joseloff, and Linda Morris for the Science Fair.
- Lisa Kroop and Mollie Weikert for the Variety Show.
- Beth Janoff, Li Graham, and Catherine Stanton for the Walking Club.

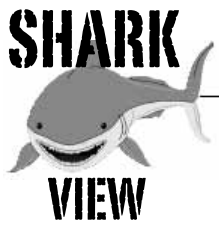
- Lisa Kroop and Marjie Dewey for coordinating Staff Appreciation Week goodies.
- Jim Calvo and team for the great looking yearbook.
- Patty Parachini for great Northeast Consortium advocacy efforts.
- Karen Metallo for counting and sorting all the boxtops, we earned the school \$1030.86!
- Wendy Enloe and Alison Crichton for turning in the ink cartridges and getting the school and PTA many Staples dollars.
- Michelle Calvo for counting and sorting all the Campbell's labels — we were able to purchase two coffee urns to help support our Breakfast with Dads program and go into next year with over 2,000 points.
- Suzanne Redman for working with Ms. Safford to bring more books to our media center with the Celebrate with Books program.
- Dawn Malloy for working with Ms. Safford to bring authors to speak to our children during the PTA-funded Literary Festival.
- Maqueda Brown for coordinating our Giant and Safeway Escrip efforts. To date Escrip has brought the PTA \$1,500 and we will continue to receive money in June and July. Giant will send the school a check in September for our efforts this year.
- Schonay Brown for coordinating the scheduling the Cultural Arts Assemblies.

- Alison Crichton, Jen Willis, and Catherine Stanton for working with our PTA sponsored after-school programs — Mad Science, Chess Club, Creative Adventure in Art, Creative Kids Drama and Language FUNDamentals.
- Michelle Bridegum for coming in every Thursday and running "The Shark Shack," the Stonegate school store.
- Meena and Jeff Dayak for putting together Sharkbytes every month.
- Shabeen Jafri and Kara Brockmeyer for maintaining the school website.
- All the parents who helped the PTA — we couldn't have done it without you!

It's certainly not an exhaustive list, sorry if I inadvertently overlooked someone.

## Second grade teacher Cindy Dantzler says thank you to

- The 58 students who participated in the Mathathon Program. Congratulations, together you raised \$3,713 to help the children at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Way to go! Thank you so much for your support.



## Meet the 2010-11 PTA Board

### **President: Wendy Hewett**

*Mom of Aaron Hewett, third grade*  
"I've been on the PTA Board as VP of Programs and Education. We moved to Silver Spring in November 2007 from Suffolk, VA. I am a stay at home mom, and the Nominating Committee seemed to think I have too much time on my hands! So here I go again. As President, I hope to get other parents involved in the PTA. What better way than the PTA to get to know all kids, parents, and members of our community!"

### **Vice President of Administration and Operations: Tamara Strickland**

*Mom of Tamia Strickland, fourth grade and Tiara Strickland, second grade*  
"I am employed as a paralegal with a personal injury law firm in Washington, DC. I am currently your Corresponding Secretary, have been a member of the PTA for 4 years, and have been involved with numerous school and classroom activities. In the coming year, I will be committed to our children and work very hard to ensure that their experience at Stonegate is a delightful and rewarding one."

### **Vice President of Education and Programs: Lisa Kroop**

*Mom of Olivia Kroop, second grade and Tyler Kroop, 2011 kindergartener*  
I work as senior manager in Deloitte Consulting's Actuarial, Risk and Analytics practice. Over the last few years, I have participated in various PTA activities and have chaired both Staff Appreciation Week and the Variety Show. My volunteering has afforded me the opportunity to not only cook for 65 in the cafeteria and learn how to work the stage lights, but more importantly to witness first-hand the true potential of both the PTA and the Stonegate community in general. I look forward to the challenge of carrying on this high level of service and results."

### **Treasurer: Lisa Caplan**

*Mom of Valerie Caplan, second grade and Victoria Caplan, kindergarten*  
I will be continuing my second year as Treasurer. Our family moved to Stonegate during the summer of 2007 to be part of a great school and community. Before I became a stay at home mom in 2002, I was an office manager and facilities administrator at a Big 5 accounting firm. I served as VP of Operations and Administration for the PTA, as well as a volunteer in Mrs. Milfort's classroom. Parental involvement is key to making our school the best place for our children to thrive, and I hope to facilitate that as much as I can while fulfilling my duties.

### **Recording Secretary: Tracy McGowan**

*Mom of Brendan Kapfer, first grade and Colin, 2010 kindergartener*  
"I am a stay-at-home mom and educational tutor. Before Brendan's birth, I was an elementary school teacher. I have enjoyed my role as secretary this past year and am excited to continue to volunteer my time and abilities. Providing families the opportunity to take part in the wonderful activities available at Stonegate Elementary is my goal."

### **Corresponding Secretary: Danielle Sodani**

*Mom of Theo Sodani, kindergarten and Luke, 2013 kindergartener*  
"As part of a new family in the school, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the Stonegate PTA. This past year I organized the arts and crafts for the Stonegate Family Night, was a room parent for Ms. Ha's class and attended other PTA events. I very much look forward to being more involved in the school through my role as corresponding secretary and working to encourage even more parents to get involved. I work at American University in the School of Education Teaching & Health as the Director of Program Development and Community Outreach."



## Get Ready for Kindergarten

Have a child entering kindergarten in the new school year? Here's how you can start preparing now — as you enjoy the summer fun — for a successful and stress-free start:

- Allow your child to become familiar with the school by driving past it as often as you can.
  - Tour the school if possible when staff and administrators are in during the summer.
  - Bring up school in conversations at home and talk about the fun things your child will get to do.
  - Make shopping for school supplies a fun experience. Get a list from the school of exactly what is allowed and expected but let your child make some choices about the color of the backpack or the type of pencil case.
  - Start the school bedtime routine a month before school. Scale back gradually, having the child go to bed just five or 10 minutes earlier each night.
  - Work with your child on healthy food choices. Kids used to having parents make all their decisions may be overwhelmed, and tempted to make the tastiest, and often unhealthiest, choices.
  - Check out books from the library that help ease jitters about starting school such as *The Night Before Kindergarten* by Natasha Wing and *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn.
- Attend every open house and meet-the-teacher event offered. Stop by the parent involvement table for information on joining the PTA—it's a great way to meet other parents with children in the same class and to keep up with what's going on at school.
  - Work with your child on academic skills such as writing her name or reading letters — but only if he or she is ready, don't force it.
  - Do arts-and-crafts projects to get your child comfortable using scissors, markers, and other he or she will see plenty of in kindergarten.
  - Find out whether the kindergarten curriculum is available online and familiarize yourself with what today's kindergartners are expected to learn.
  - Be prepared for a wide range of kids in your child's class. Don't make it a competition as development at this age varies from child to child. By third grade, most kids will be at the same level, but younger kids need to be allowed to grow at their own pace.
  - Work on problem-solving and give your child a chance to answer who, what, where, and why questions — going grocery shopping can be a great learning experience, too.

**Jaclyn Berning, School Counselor,**  
*Jaclyn\_R\_Berning@mcpsmd.org*



### Happy Birthday Stonegate Staff

Jun 1	Emily Madan Third Grade
Jun 14	Susan Zehner Paraeducator
Jun 25	Carmela Thornes Art
Jul 2	Clifton Frailey Physical Education
Jul 6	Clarice Poole Media Assistant
Jul 7	Amy Nguyen Kindergarten
Jul 8	June Sawah Building Service
Jul 11	Darryl McBride Building Service
Aug 3	Jaroslawa Francuzenko Food Service
Aug 7	Ronnie Kauffman Instructional Data
Aug 21	Jennifer Ficco Kindergarten
Aug 22	Mary Altaner Reading
Aug 31	William Neal Instrumental Music



## Stonegate Media Center Updates

### Black-Eyed Susan Club

Black-Eyed Susan voting was completed in April. Winners were announced in May. Many second graders cheered to hear that Chester, a book about a grumpy cat, won first place in the picture book category. The chapter book winner was *Swindle* by Gordon Korman, and *Savvy*, came in second. The list of nominees for next year is already out and a few fourth graders have already started reading the books! There will be a pizza party in June for the students who read six or more chapter books (number of books read indicated after name):

#### Ms. Muchnik's fifth grade class

Rourke Smith, 8  
Sam Redman, 8  
Eric Gonski, 7  
Jake Dunn, 7

#### Ms. Meadow's fifth grade class

Tanner Murdock, 8  
Waziri Ibrahim, 10  
L.J. Enloe, 6  
Amma Forkkio, 6

#### Ms. Thebaud's fourth grade class

Jordan Kalai, 10  
Adriana Triplett, 8  
Lydia Gagern, 4  
Patrick Watkins, 6

#### Mr. Burd's fourth grade class

Abbigail Willis, 10  
David Singleton, 10  
Austin Gill, 10  
Haley Fleischer, 10  
Justin Riebman, 7

### National Poetry Month – The Great Poetry Race

Many students participated in The Great Poetry Race (and many parents listened to poetry). Thanks to Mrs. Altaner for selecting and distributing the poems. The following students were winners, with a \* denoting students who won at least twice.

Aalayah Dorsey  
Abigail Pierson  
Adam Levy  
Alayna Jordan  
Alexis Jordan  
Anna Goldfogle  
Brendan Falatko  
Caroline Lamb  
Caroline Via  
**Catherine Joseph\***  
Charlie Wang  
David Hill  
Ella Gatlin  
Emma Nilsen  
Fatima Aslam  
Gabriela Alvarez  
**Hailey Chawla\***  
**Imran Ibrahim\***  
Jake Bunke  
Jake Dunn  
Jeffrey Gomes  
Jillian Kabik  
**Jonik Surprenant\***  
Joshua Chang  
**Justin Riebman\***  
Leyna O'Brien  
Lisa Yu  
**Michael Tang\***

Michelle Zelaya  
Rourke Smith  
Sarah Gao  
**Shifra Dayak\***  
Sophia Koufos  
**Talia Riebman\***  
Tobi Adodurin  
Valerie Bowles  
Victoria Caplan  
Waziri Ibrahim

#### Patricia Warnock-Safford, Media Specialist,

*Patricia\_Warnock-Safford@mcpsmd.org*

### Due Dates

All school library books are due back on June 1 and textbooks checked out of the Media Center are due on June 8. Students will be asked to pay for unreturned or damaged books. Students who have not paid for lost and/or damaged materials will have their report cards held in the office until debts are paid. A special treat awaits ALL classes that have all books returned and/or paid for by June 1.

### Summer Reading and Learning

Due to budget cuts, the public library will not visit schools this year to promote summer reading program. Mrs. Altaner and Mrs. Safford will be presenting a summer reading activity to students before the end of the school year. We encourage students to visit the public library for picture books, chapter books, novels, books on tape, books on MP3 players, books on CD, DVDs, and more. With friendly librarians to recommend books and help you find your favorites, it's a place you'll come to love!

*continued on page 7*

# SHARK REPORT

*continued from page 6*

You can continue to use Stonegate and Montgomery County Public School's online resources through the summer; BrainPop works between 7:30 and 5:30 with our passwords, other resources work 24 hours a day. Contact Ms. Safford if you need another copy of the passwords.

## PTA Support

A big thank you to the Stonegate PTA for all the support for reading and books! The PTA's Celebrate with Books Program has added 17 wonderful books to the Media Center. Our PTA also provides funds so that the media center can purchase books that students request, which may not be available through the school system. Our graphic novel collection has really benefited from the PTA's support, since many graphic novels are not available through the school system. The Black-Eyed Susan Program is also sponsored by the PTA — all second graders and 48 third, fourth, and fifth graders participated and voted for the winner of the Maryland state book award. BrainPop and BrainPop Junior are dynamic online resources that our PTA has purchased for the school.

## Watch Out American Idol, Dancing with the Stars, Jeopardy... AND Science Channel!

The Stonegate PTA's activities for the 2009-2010 school year concluded with two great May events, the Variety Show and the Science Fair.

**The Variety Show on May 14**, featuring nearly 30 acts over two foot-stomping hours, revealed the many talents of our Stonegate stars. Vocal and instrumental solos, poetry and jokes, gymnastics and dance, and even a special edition of "Celebrity Jeopardy" all played to a full, cheering house. With students stepping into every role from emcees to stage managers, it was truly an evening to remember. Special thanks to Lisa Kroop and Molly Weikert for chairing the Variety Show and to the many parents who helped out on the night of the event.

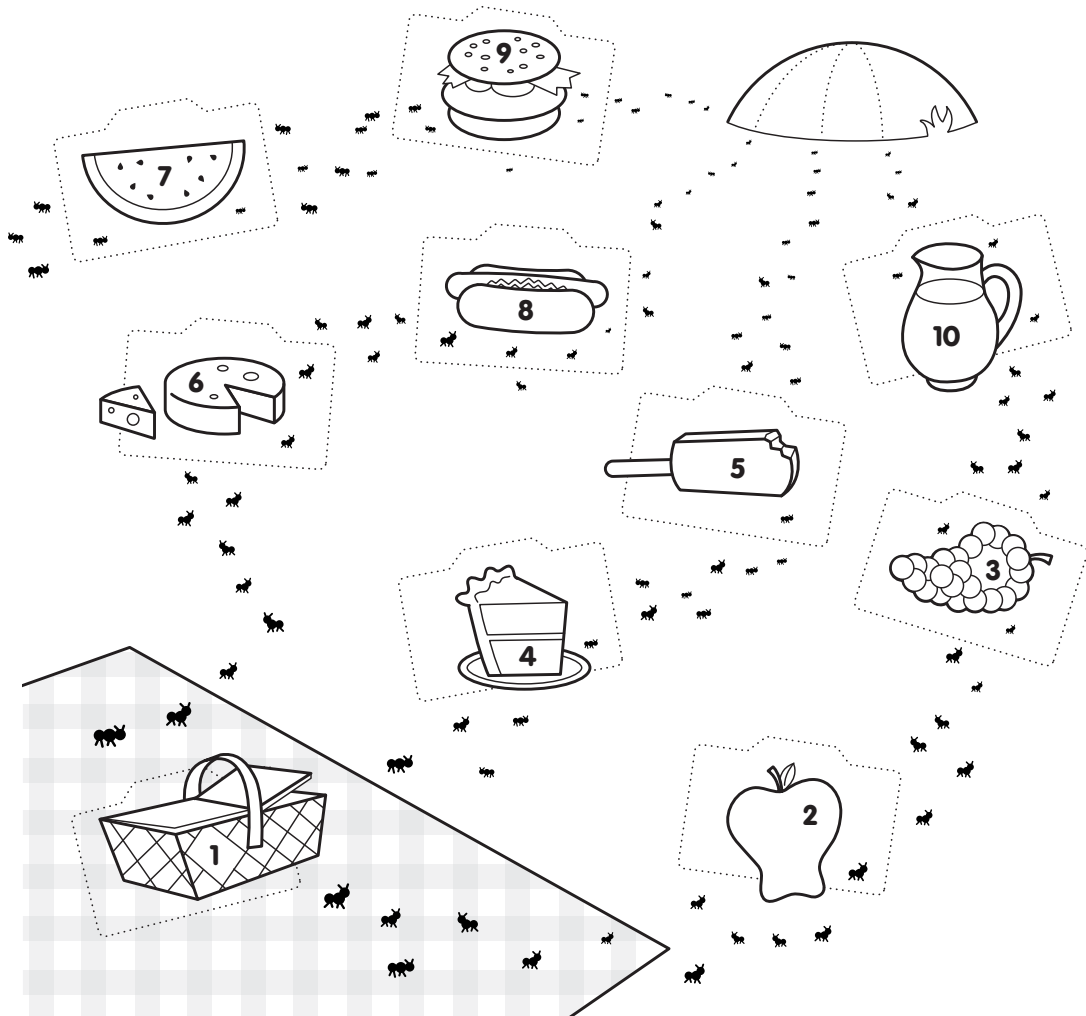
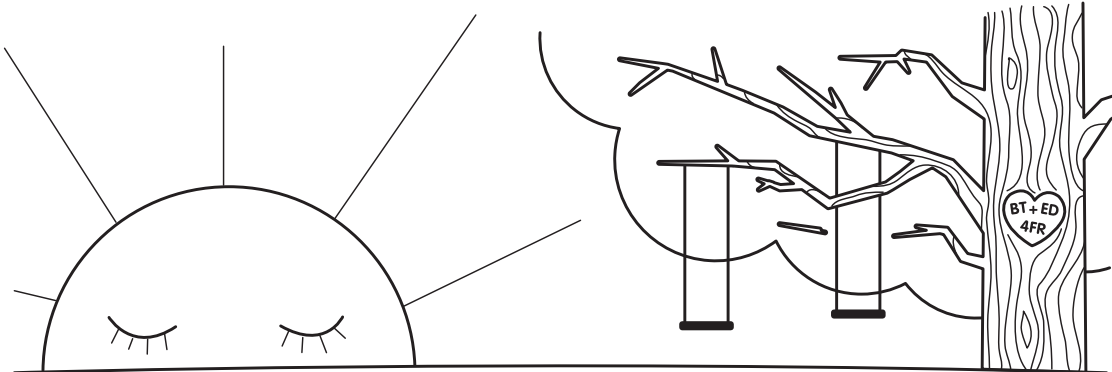
**The Science Fair on May 21** blew visitors away with the budding scientists' creativity and enthusiasm. A total of 58 projects were presented and covered a wide range. From moldy bread to bubble gum brands that make the biggest bubbles, from live volcanoes to red eye reflectors, from a study of local water to the color of fireworks, it was truly a time of discovery and deduction. Hypotheses were drawn and evidence was

presented to educate and grow interest in science. Congratulations to the winners — Drew Gatlin, first place; Natasha Kodgi and Amma Forkkio, second place; and Caroline Via, third place. Special thanks to Science Fair organizers Shyla Shirodkar, Shabeen Jafri, Elizabeth Joseloff, and Linda Morris and to the parents who volunteered as judges.

**Meena Dayak and Elizabeth Joseloff**



## Cover this picnic lunch with Box Tops before the ants can eat it up!



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for helping! Every Box Top you collect is worth 10¢ for your school.  
For more collection worksheets and projects, go to [www.boxtops4education.com/activitycenter](http://www.boxtops4education.com/activitycenter)