

SHARKBYTES

The PTA Newsletter for the Families of Stonegate Elementary School SEPTEMBER 2009

Dear Stonegate Families:

It's a privilege to take over from Kim Perikles as editor of Sharkbytes. Like the Stonegate PTA itself, our newsletter, too is "By the parents, of the parents, and for the parents."

Recognizing that we all live in an information overload age, we've tried to tell you everything you need to know in quick, easy-to-process bytes. Now, we really want to hear from you. Please use Sharkbytes as a forum to share your questions, resources, and accomplishments. Remember, as a parent community, there's much we can learn from each other as we grapple with similar challenges and share the pride of seeing our children grow and excel.

Throughout the newsletter, you'll find notes about specific ways you can contribute and connect through Sharkbytes. We hope to see your name in print in the next issue!

Best Regards,

Meena Dayak
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Design and Layout: Jeff Dayak

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SHARK INSIGHTS Interview with the Principal



The PTA's monthly interview with Principal Audra Fladung is intended to help parents better understand life at Stonegate Elementary. If you have a question for Ms. Fladung to answer next month, contact Sharkbytes Editor, Meena Dayak, at Meena.Dayak@gmail.com or 301.602.8474

What were Stonegate's most memorable achievements in 2008-2009?

We have a great deal to be proud of at Stonegate. Our children made wonderful academic gains last year. For example, 93.9% of our students in grades 3, 4, and 5 were proficient or advanced on the 2009 Reading Maryland State Assessment. And 91.6% of our students in grades 3, 4, and 5 were proficient or advanced on the 2009 Math MSA. All of our sub-groups — Asian, Special Education, FARMS, and ESOL — increased reading and math proficiency. African American students increased from 79.7% to 91.3% in math proficiency and White students from 90.9% to 96.7% in reading proficiency. Only our Hispanic student population did not make gains.

What's new in your plans for student achievement in 2009-2010?

While we continue our gains in other areas, we want to improve the levels of success for our Hispanic students. We will work to generate greater levels of

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SHARK CHAT Interview with the PTA President



Wondering what the PTA really does for you? Stonegate PTA President Tammy Forsyth shares a few bytes. If you have something you'd like Ms. Forsyth to comment on next month, contact Sharkbytes Editor, Meena Dayak, at Meena.Dayak@gmail.com or 301.602.8474.

What is the Stonegate PTA's big goal for 2009-2010?

Parent involvement — it's the only way we can do everything we do! We need parents to be involved and responsive so the PTA can better advocate for our school and children, communicate to our families, and provide low-cost family events.

Our advocacy focus this year is help get Stonegate on the list of Montgomery County public schools needing renovation through the Facilities Assessment with Criteria and Testing process.

Is the PTA involved in decision-making on school policies and programs?

Principal Fladung works closely with the PTA Board on decisions involving our school and children. All parents are invited to attend School Improvement Plan meetings to see this process in action. The next meeting is

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Hear these acronyms and terms all the time at school but not quite sure what they mean? Sharkbytes will feature a glossary every month. If you can't find what you're looking for, don't be afraid to ask! Email stonegatepta@gmail.com.

Thanks to Audra Fladung, Tammy Forsyth, and Kim Perikles (and second grader Shifra Dayak who looked over mom's shoulder) for serving as our jargon busters!



APR	All Purpose Room
AYP	Adequate Yearly Progress; measured goal as determined by the No Child Left Behind legislation
BCR	Brief Constructed Response; a succinct paragraph
BIP	Behavioral Intervention Plan
BOE	Board of Education
BTSN	Back to School Night
Core Values	4 values emphasized at Stonegate; respect, responsibility, collaboration, and commitment
Data Notebooks	Sent home with your child periodically as part of the school's Baldrige National Quality Program (see www.mcps.k12.md.us/info/baldrige); summarizes the results of the statewide assessments your child will undergo on a quarterly basis in both reading and math. (Note: Reports Cards are different and go home twice a year for kindergardeners and four times a year for other grades)
DEAR	Drop Everything and Read time, quiet time for reading/looking at books after recess
ECR	Extended Constructed Response; a writing exercise with multiple paragraphs
FARMS	Free and Reduced-price Meals System
GT	Gifted and Talented
IEP	Individualized Education Plan; plan of goals, services, and accommodations for students identified with special needs
LD	Learning Disabled/Disability
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
LFI	Learning for Independence
MAP-R	Measures of Academic Progress; a computerized reading test taken in grades 3-5 three times during the year
mClass	Reading assessments, where teachers use "palm pilots" to spot test students throughout the year
Media Center	Used to be called the library; still has books, and computers, too.
MSA	The Maryland School Assessment—provides national benchmarks for math and reading proficiency
NCLB	No Child Left Behind
PE	Physical Education
PCR	Parent-Child Reunification
Peace Day Program	Schoolwide incentive program to promote positive behavior and the four core values; peace days are days when there are no office referrals
SGA	Student Government Association
Silver Spork	Lunchroom incentive program to promote positive cafeteria behavior; flag that students get to take back to class from lunch
SIP	School Improvement Plan
SLP	Speech Language Pathologist
SNAP	School Nutritional Accountability Program; PIN number used to purchase lunch
SPED	Special Education
Sharky	Sharky is our unofficial mascot — he's a stuffed animal that hangs out in the PE teacher's office and sometimes goes home with well-behaving students.
Shark Tank	Incentives for good behavior; students earn "sharks" from teachers and put them in the class shark tank; tanks are sent to the office every quarter and students with the most sharks are selected to receive prizes
TN2	TerraNova, Second Edition—Standardized test given to all second grade students in MCPS
Wee Deliver	In-school postal service run by third, fourth and fifth graders. Mail is picked up from the classroom boxes and delivered on Wednesday mornings. You can send a letter to your child through this system by addressing your letter in care of his or her homeroom (note that the "street numbers" are their real room numbers) and dropping the note off in the blue mailbox just outside the main office. Don't forget to "stamp" the letter with a sticker or drawing or it'll be returned to sender! See the school website for room addresses.

Interview with the Principal

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achievement through targeted intervention programs, community outreach, strong instructional programming, and after-school programs.

You can review all our academic goals in the School Improvement Plan on our website (www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/stonegatees). We've added a new writing goal this year to improve the writing skills and coherency of our students. Teachers will collect baseline writing samples and assess student writing throughout the year. We will integrate writing into the content area and provide uninterrupted writing blocks. As we focus on the writing process through the 6+1 Traits® (ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation), we will go beyond the "brief constructed response" to develop critical thinkers and writers.

How best can parents communicate with the school and who is the first point of contact?

If parents have questions about instructional routines, programming, or classroom expectations, they should contact their child's classroom teacher directly. Teachers are happy to discuss student progress and classroom specifics. They can be reached by email, phone, or notes sent to school. If parents have questions about schoolwide initiatives, a call to the main office can help direct them to the appropriate staff.

We strive to keep the communication lines open and update families regularly through grade level newsletters, the Principal's newsletter, the PTA newsletter, and our website. So READ everything and remember to return important forms (Parent Reunification forms, Yellow Emergency forms, and the FluMist consent form, etc.) that come home in your child's backpack.

What is Stonegate doing to prepare for the swine flu?

All schools are developing plans to continue teaching and learning in case they have to close for some period of time. In the event of a closure, Stonegate will utilize the website to communicate assignments and will assign pick up locations for those who do not have computer access. Staff will be responsive to student questions and concerns via email and notes. Once approved, our H1N1 crisis plan will be posted on our website. I highly recommend that parents check out www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/h1n1/ for timely, practical information.



- Stay up to date with Stonegate Elementary School and Stonegate PTA news at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/stonegatees/
- To join the Stonegate Elementary School listserv, send an email with your child's name and grade to StonegateWeb-subscribe@yahoo.com
- Email the Stonegate PTA at stonegatepta@gmail.com
- To join the greater Stonegate neighborhood listserv, send an email to stonegate-subscribe@yahoo.com
- To join the listserv of families with small children in the greater Stonegate community, email StonegateMoms-subscribe@yahoo.com.
- Sign up for school closing information via free emails from Montgomery County Public Schools at www.schools-out.com
- Sign up for emergency weather and traffic messages (in English or Spanish) via emails and text messages from the Montgomery County government at www.alert.montgomerycountymd.gov
- Visit the Montgomery County Public Schools at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org
- Visit the National PTA at www.pta.org
- Visit the Maryland PTA at www.mdpta.org
- Visit the Montgomery County PTA at www.mcccpta.com

THANK YOU

To all the families who have generously donated additional wish list items for our classroom! They will definitely come in handy throughout the school year.

From Ms. Ha, Kindergarten Teacher

To Lisa Kroop, Marjie Dewey, Jane Smith, and Aurora Murdock for the staff appreciation lunch on Stonegate Orientation Day, August 28.

From the Stonegate Staff and the Stonegate PTA

To Li Graham, Karen White, Tamara Strickland, Tracey Linck, Kim Perikles, and Wendy Hewett for working hard on a successful PTA membership drive.

From Patty Parachini, PTA Membership Chair

To Tamara Strickland and Charon Wallace for a great Back to School Picnic and Bake Sale.

From Stonegate Families and the Stonegate PTA



Happy Birthday Stonegate Staff

Oct 2	Jeanette Thebaud Fourth Grade
Oct 5	Connie Akpan Paraeducator
Oct 18	Constance Ayechemi Special Paraeducator
Oct 19	Laurie Muchnik Fifth Grade
Oct 20	Robert Michelli Second Grade
Oct 30	Sujeela Rana Lunch and Recess Aide
Oct 31	Diane Tegethoff Principal's Secretary
Oct 31	Katherine Vancavage Learning for Independence

Interview with the PTA President

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on October 26 at 3:15 pm.

What types of help can parents turn to the PTA for?

The PTA works to find appropriate help and resources for parents in need, whatever that need may be. We also have a student assistance program that helps families in financial need, this could be in the form of money for field trips or school supplies. If you know of a need, email stonegatepta@gmail.com or call Tammy Forsyth at 301.879.6511.

How can parents get involved in kids' education?

Talk to your children every day about what they do in school. Volunteer with the PTA, attend our many family events, and try to volunteer at school or in your child's classroom.

How can working parents with a full schedule find time to support the school and PTA?

Parents can volunteer to do things at home during times that fit their schedules. A lot can be accomplished via phone and email. You can also support the PTA by becoming a member. Most PTA events/meetings are in the evening and you can bring your kids along.

What new activities is the Stonegate PTA planning this year?

There's a ton of stuff and you can learn more about many activities in this issue of Sharkbytes. We've brought back the popular Adopt-a-Staff program. For the first time, we are holding parent curricular workshops, in partnership with the principal and staff, to help parents better understand and navigate the mysteries of math, reading, scoring and assessments, and even college prep! We're also planning a Silent Auction and Family fun Night on November 14. All our old favorites like the Back to School Picnic, Walking Club, International Night, Celebrate with Books, Spelling Bee, and more are back as well.

School Store

Shark Shack, the Stonegate school store, opens Sept 24. Come with a dollar or two and shop for pens, pencils, erasers, notebooks, paper, novelties. We're open Thursday mornings from 8:25 to 8:50 am and located at the bottom of the stairs on the way to the 2nd grade cluster.

Questions? Contact Michelle Bridgegum at bmbriagegum@aol.com or 301.774.2594



Tips & Resources... Anything & Everything

Getting More Out of How Was Your Day

How was school today?
Fine.

Anything special happen?
No.

What did you do?
I forgot.

Sounds familiar? Makes you want to give up on the “Talk to your kids about school every day?” Here’s something that worked for me.

My second grader’s passion to play pretend started before kindergarten and still rules. At least once a week, I suggest that we “play school.” She of course wants to be the teacher and has specific instructions for me on how to behave as a student. Amazing how she then replays so much of what goes on in the classroom with the minutest detail (including lessons and flipped cards)!

Playing pretend also helps with the daily reading. We take parts and both get to read, expressively. It’s fun, engaging, and imaginative, and keeps us alert!

“I promise not to embarrass my second grader” anonymous mom

Extra-Curricular and After-School Options

Before- and after-school activities at Stonegate include Mad Science, chess club, Creative Kids, Language Fundamentals (conversational Spanish), art, computers, soccer, and more. These programs are offered through

the PTA or outside organizations and are often coordinated by volunteers. Not all activities are offered at every grade level. Watch “backpack mail” for fliers from program coordinators with details, dates, and fees.

Afternoon programs offered by the Stonegate staff begin in October. Last year, students enjoyed meeting for the Homework Club, Data Club, Math Olympiads, Black Saga, Newspaper Club, Intramural Sports teams, and more. Class sizes are limited, and classes meet until 4:15 pm. An activity bus will be available for the school’s afternoon programs. Watch “backpack mail” for more information.

The neighborhood organizer for the Girl Scouts of America is Kim Perikles, kperikles@verizon.net or 301.879.7856. The levels at Stonegate are Daisies (Kindergarten and first graders), Brownies (second and third graders), and Juniors (fourth and fifth graders).

Cub Scouts is for boys in first through fifth grades. Contact Peter Liiva, peterliiva@gmail.com or 301.717.9313 for more information.

Kim Perikles, mom of third grader and recent Stonegate graduate, volunteer queen, former Sharkbytes editor, etc.

Calling all Stonegate moms and dads: Share YOUR tips and resources — anything from helping kids with homework to birthday hot spots to fun places to eat at — with other parents through Sharkbytes. Email Meena.Dayak@gmail.com or call 301.602.8474. Afraid you’ll embarrass your kids? We can keep it anonymous.

PTA MEETINGS

Meetings are open to all Stonegate PTA Members and are held on the first Tuesday of the month and start at 7 pm. Bring your kids — activities are set up for them in the back of the All-Purpose Room.

- Oct 6 • Nov 3 • Dec 1
- Feb 2 • Mar 2 • Apr 7
- May 4 • Jun 1

“No program or policy can substitute for a mother or father who will attend those parent/teacher conferences, or help with homework after dinner, or turn off the TV, put away the video games, and read to their child.”

President Barack Obama

(Thanks to Ms. Safford in the Media Center for finding this very appropriate quote)



Get all these exciting events on your calendar NOW — there's plenty of fun and learning in store for you.

Walking Club is On

The PTA Recess Walking Club for Stonegate students started on Sept 22 and runs for six weeks during recess on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, weather permitting.

The children are encouraged to walk in sneakers, don't have to commit to walk all three days each week, and can walk for as little or as long as they feel comfortable. Each lap is 1/5 of a mile. After each mile completed, they receive plastic foot tokens the next Monday. Encourage your kids to walk with us, it's a great way to get exercise during recess, make new friends, set and achieve goals, and earn a sense of accomplishment.

PTA Curricular Workshops Start Oct 6

Understand and better support your child's progress at school. Delve into the mysteries of math, reading, data notebooks, instructional assessments, and much more with PTA-sponsored workshops presented by Stonegate staff. Submit your questions on each topic for answers onsite or subsequently through the principal's and PTA newsletters.

- Oct 6 Data Notebooks and Homework
- Nov 3 Keys to College Readiness
- Dec 1 Reading Programs at Stonegate
- Feb 2 Math Programming at Stonegate

Mar 2 Assessments Informing Instruction: MAPR, MClass, TN2, and MSA

Apr 7 Accelerating and Enriching

May 4 Positive Behavior Interventions

Don't Miss Math Night on Oct 22 — plenty of brain benders and exciting prizes for you and your kids!

Breakfast With Dads, Oct 12 – 13

Calling all dads, grandfathers, godfathers, uncles, mentors, and other father figures to join us from 7:30 to 8:30 am on October 12 (grades 3-5) or October 13 (grades K-2). Bring your kids and enjoy light breakfast refreshments while you enjoy table activities, meet other dads and students, and learn about Stonegate and the PTA. Any store bought food donations would be appreciated.

Questions? Contact Jeannie Franklin at jeanniemana@aol.com or 301.384.1180.

International Night, Oct 13

Join the PTA from 6 to 7:30 pm to celebrate the diversity of the Stonegate Elementary School family. Share your heritage and learn about other lands and cultures. Plan to simply stop by or to participate in one or more ways.

Country Displays: Reserve a table to display special items from your country or region — traditional clothing, maps, photos, cultural information, etc.

Dance and Music: Share your performing art talents — dance troupes, music ensembles, and other shows are welcome.

Family Potluck: Bring your favorite dish to share and sample cuisines from around the world.

If you'd like to co-chair the event or can help with planning and organization, or just want to participate, let us know!

Contact Allison Soussi-Tanani at allisoussi@gmail.com or 301.768.3631 or Marta Steliac at steliac@yahoo.com or 301.384.9192.

Scholastic Book Fair, Oct 12 – 15

Take a spin across the globe, browse our fascinating collection, and pick up unmatched bargains when you visit this year's "Destination: Book Fair." Proceeds support PTA activities. The Book Fair is open extended hours so you can stop by when you come to Breakfast with Dads and International Night.

Available to help? Contact Pam Troutman at dptroutman@verizon.net or 301.388.0778 OR Kim Perikles at kperikles@verizon.net or 301.879.7856.

Family Fun Night and Silent Auction, Nov 14

Mark your calendars for an evening of Stonegate-style fun with your family at Blake High School. Look for details in the next issue of Sharkbytes.

We need volunteers to help sell tickets, order pizzas & drinks, help with craft making, announce Bingo, set up tables for Bingo, help organize fun sports games, etc.

Contact Wendy Enloe at enloe@comcast.net or 240.242.4635.



The school could really use **YOUR** help. Here are some ways you can consider getting involved and contributing.

Become A PTA Member

Show your children, and your community that you care. Join the Stonegate PTA — your involvement can be as little or as much as you have time for. Your membership supports educational activities for your kids and fun family events through the year.

Single Membership: \$20

Includes one copy of the PTA Directory (contains class lists, family addresses, other important school information), and a subscription to eWAVE, our new monthly e-newsletter sent only to PTA members.

Family Membership: \$30

Includes two memberships, two PTA Directories, two subscriptions to eWAVE, and a Stonegate grocery tote bag.

When you sign up, remember to add Stonegate PTA to your charitable giving this year.

PTA membership forms are available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/stonegatees (Go To Stonegate PTA and look under PTA News). Complete and send your form and check to school in your child's backpack.

Questions? Contact PTA Membership Chair Patty Parachini at pattyparachini@verizon.net or 301.879.0646.

Adopt A Staff

The Adopt a Staff Member program is back and better than ever! Stonegate Elementary has a staff of 60 and each member puts in so much time and effort with your kids every day. Here's a chance to show them your appreciation.

Choose any staff member you'd like to adopt (give us three choices and we'll try to match you up with your first choice). Surprise the staff we connect you with by bringing treats and goodies — no fewer than three and no more than six times through the school year. Keeping your identity a secret and we'll have the Big Reveal during Teacher Appreciation Week in May.

To sign up, contact parent volunteer Aurora Murdock at tatzmurdock@yahoo.com or 240.252.5820

Mentor To Make A Difference

Become a mentor and change the life of a child at Stonegate Elementary. You'll need to commit for at least one semester and visit your child for an hour a week. There are children in every classroom who need extra support to get to or to stay on grade level. You'll work closely with the teacher on the student's fundamental skills, daily classroom work, and homework reviews. Just showing up can mean a lot to a student who may not have support at home. You can help improve the child's academic progress and increase his or her feelings of self-worth. You're sure to learn something, too!

To sign up, contact School Counselor Jaclyn Berning at Jaclyn_R_Berning@mcpsmd.org or 301.989.5668.

Donate Supplies

- The Learning for Independence classes would like to have:
 - Prizes for our prize boxes
 - White card stock
 - Whole sheet Avery labels
 - Astrobrights card stock
 - Dry erase markers
 - Lysol wipes
 - Paper towels
 - Lysol disinfectant spray
 - Hand soap
 - Kleenex
- Reading Initiative Teacher Ms. Bailey needs Clorox wipes.
- School Counselor Ms. Berning could use Kleenex.

Please drop off your donations in the school office in the box marked EXTRA SUPPLIES.

Recycle Used Printer Cartridges And Cell Phones

Drop your used inkjet cartridges and cell phones in the designated container in the school office. Last year, thanks to your generous support, we raised more than \$300 that helped us buy school essentials and a needy student's supplies. Help us do more this year by remembering to recycle.

Questions? Contact Wendy Enloe at enloe@comcast.net or 240.242.4635.



School Counselor Jaclyn Berning shares seven tips to help your kids cope with fear and anxiety

- **Encourage children to ask questions.** Listen to what they say. Provide comfort and assurance that address their specific fears. It's okay to admit you can't answer all of their questions.
- **Talk on their level.** Communicate with your children in a way they can understand. Don't get too technical or complicated.
- **Be honest.** Tell them exactly what has happened. For example, don't say that someone who has died has "gone to sleep;" children may become afraid of going to bed.
- **Find out what frightens them.** Encourage your children to talk about fears they may have. They may worry that someone will harm them at school or that someone will try to hurt you.
- **Focus on the positive.** Reinforce the fact that most people are kind and caring. Remind your child of the heroic actions taken by ordinary people to help victims of tragedy.
- **Pay attention.** Your children's play and drawings may give you a glimpse into their questions or concerns. Ask them to tell you what is going on in the game or the picture. It's an opportunity to clarify any misconceptions, answer questions, and give reassurance.
- **Develop a plan.** Establish a family emergency plan for the future, such as a meeting place where everyone should gather if something unexpected happens in your family or neighborhood. It can help you and your child feel safer.

(Reference: SAMHSA)



Congratulations to these **summer readers** who did a summer reading program AND remembered to bring in proof of it to Mrs. Altaner and Ms. Safford. Their names were announced and they were invited to a "Beach Party" at the Media Center. They were also allowed to check out books early.

Aaron Stanton, Abigail Willis, Adam Levy, Alayna Jordan, Alex Willis
Alexis Jordan, Amiya Franklin, Austin Gill, Austin Hunt
Brandon Adams, Brendan Falatko, Brian Falatko, Bronwyn Weikert
David Hill, David Holt, David Singleton, Drew Ardizzone
Emily Smith, Emily Troutman, Emma Nilsen, Erin Brunson
Felix Yau
Joel Samuel, Jonathan Holt, Jonathan Roux
Katie Brockmeyer, Katie Mettam, Kennedy Love
Kevin Bartley, Khalel Robinson
Max Troutman
Nabeela Idris, Noah Ferguson
Olivia Oh, Olivia Stanton
Reynold Bascal, Ryan Ardizzone
Sam Redman, Samie Broer, Sean Tan, Selena Jordan
Tiffany Nettleford, Tiffany Su
Valerie Bowles, Valerie Caplan

Thank you Ms. Safford for helping us identify September's CoolSharks! To learn more about summer reading programs, contact Stonegate Media Specialist Ms. Safford at Patricia_Warnock-Safford@mcpsmd.org or 301.989.5668.

Let your kids know you're proud of them. Share their accomplishments through Sharkbytes. Contact Meena Dayak at Meena.Dayak@gmail.com or 301.602.8474. AND, if you want to send in their art, sketches, poetry, musings, jokes, quips, quizzes, etc. for publication, just put them in an envelope for second grader Shifra Dayak, in Ms. Dantzler's class, to bring home to mom.



Stonegate Media Specialist Patricia Warnock-Safford has compiled resources purchased by MCPS and the Stonegate PTA to help kids with homework and educational explorations.

	Login Password
Amazing Animals http://auth.grolier.com/cgi-bin/go_up_login?formu=1dsa1g6m0t&formp=aa&site=kids	mcps school
Bookflix – films of books; words at the bottom; activities after (expires in Jan) http://auth.grolier.com/login/bookflix/login.php	sgate bookflix
BrainPop and BrainPopJr – short cartoons with quizzes and activities (Thank you PTA) www.brainpop.com or www.brainpopjr.com turns off at 5:30	sharks1 shark
Culture Grams – country information http://portal.bigchalk.com/portalweb/home.do	mcps mcps
Enchanted Learning – picture dictionary; simple encyclopedia (Thank You PTA) www.enchantedlearning.com	sharks1 shark
Enciclopedia Universal en Espanol – Spanish http://school.eb.com/all/databases	mcps search
Encyclopaedia Britannica –3 levels http://school.eb.com/all/databases	mcps search
Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia with visuals http://www.go.grolier.com	sgates remote
SIRS Decades – 20th Century by decade; primary sources http://decades.sirs.com/decadesweb/decades/do/frontpage	mcps mcps
SIRS Discoverer – elementary magazine articles, references, websites http://discoverer.prod.sirs.com/discoweb/disco/do/frontpage	mcps mcps
Student Newsnet – news articles for students http://school.eb.com/all/databases	mcps search
Webster’s Third New International Dictionary (Unabridged) http://school.eb.com/all/databases	mcps search
World Data Analyst – data about countries http://school.eb.com/all/databases	mcps search

More next month!



Families shop, kids win! Earn money for the Stonegate PTA while you shop and eat! All monies from

these really painless fundraising efforts support activities and assistance for kids.

Safeway eScrip Program

Simply register your Safeway Club Card and the Stonegate PTA earns every time you shop. Sign up or renew at www.eScrip.com and designate Stonegate Elementary School PTA (ID 6574349) as your beneficiary. You may designate up to three schools as beneficiaries. Families that registered Safeway cards last year must renew this year. Sign up or renew by Nov 1.

Giant A+ Bonusbucks Program

Register your Giant Bonus Card and the school earns every time you shop. Purchasing Extra Credit items (which change every two weeks) helps the schools earn more points. The A+ BonusBucks Program runs October 3 through April 2, 2010. Families that registered Giant Cards last year must renew this year. You can sign up at www.giantfood.com/aplus/ (designate Stonegate Elementary School using code 00883). You may designate up to three schools as beneficiaries.

Take Charge Of Education With Target

Target donates 1 percent of Target Visa and Target Card purchases at Target stores and Target.com, and 1/2 percent of Target Visa purchases made elsewhere, to Stonegate. Designate Stonegate (ID 58196) at

www.Target.com (look for the Take Charge of Education area of the site).

Box Tops — Keep ‘Em Coming!

Earn cash that the PTA can use to help the school every time you shop for groceries. Clip Box Tops from hundreds of your favorite products in every aisle. Each Box Tops coupon is worth 10¢ to the PTA — and that adds up fast! Visit www.boxtops4education.com for a complete listing of the more than 300 participating products (you can also sign up for coupons by email).

Clip all the Box Tops you can and attach them to the fun collection sheet in this issue of Sharkbytes or simply place Box Tops in an envelope and send in to school via “backpack mail.”

Campbell’s Labels For Education

Labels for Education awards free educational equipment to schools in exchange for proof of purchase from more than 150 qualifying Campbell products. Last year, Stonegate got free recess equipment through this program. Simply save the UPC code or beverage caps when you use Campbell products and send them in to school in an envelope marked with your child’s name and class. Take a look at the list below to see which of your favorite products are worth 5 points:

- Campbell’s Soups (microwaveable bowls)
- Campbell’s Condensed 10 to 11 oz. Soups (specially marked packages only)
- Campbell’s Chunky Soups (microwaveable bowls)
- Campbell’s Chunky Chili (microwaveable bowls)
- All Campbell’s Soup At Hand

- SpaghettiO’s Original Pasta (15 oz.)
- SpaghettiO’s Meatball Pasta (14.75 oz.)
- SpaghettiO’s Princess Meatball Pasta (14.75 oz. specially marked packages only)
- All Campbell’s Supper Bakes Meal Kits
- All Campbell’s Select Harvest Soups
- All V8 Splash Juice Drinks
- All V8 Soups

For a complete list of products please visit www.labelsforeducation.com/ participating-products.

Contact the following PTA Committee members with your fundraising questions

- *Ways and Means Committee Chair: Kim Perikles at kperikles@verizon.net or 301.879.7856*
- *Safeway, Giant, Target eScrip Coordinator: Maqueda Brown at maquedabrown@verizon.net or 301.384.1809*
- *Box Tops and Labels for Education Coordinator: Michelle Calvo at calvo@comcast.net or 301.598.6191*



Special Ice Cream Party for class that earns the most Box Tops and Labels for Education this year!



WITH BOOKS.....

Have a child’s birthday or other special event coming up? Mark the occasion by donating a hardcover book to the Stonegate Media Center in his or her honor.

Send in this form with a check for \$15.00 (payable to the Stonegate PTA) to the school office in an envelope marked “PTA – Celebrate With Books.” The Media Specialist will buy a book on the Media Center’s wishlist and put a personalized bookplate on the front cover to acknowledge your donation.

BOOK BEING DONATED IN HONOR OF: _____

DONATED BY: _____

CHILD’S TEACHER: _____

OCCASION/REASON: _____

BIRTHDAY (if that is the occasion): _____

CHILD’S FAVORITE BOOK AND AUTHOR: _____

TYPE OF BOOK DONATED:

FICTON

- ADVENTURE _____
- HISTORICAL _____
- REALISTIC _____
- ANIMAL _____
- FANTASY _____
- SCIENCE FICTION _____
- MYSTERY _____
- OTHER _____

NON-FICTION

- NATURE _____
- SCIENCE _____
- ARTS/CRAFTS _____
- BIOGRAPHY _____
- SPORTS _____
- POETRY _____
- FOLKTALE _____
- OTHER _____

Questions: Contact Suzanne Redman at suzanne.redman@verizon.net or 301.570.9092.