



Stoneleigh Elementary School

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>

*everychild.one voice.*<sup>®</sup>

## Gold and Blue Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 3

November 26, 2008

### From Your Stoneleigh PTA President

Dear Stoneleigh Families and Friends,

Well, the holidays are almost here and for us at Stoneleigh, we know that our annual Holiday Bazaar is on the way! Thanks to everyone who placed an ad in our holiday bazaar program. I am sure this will be another huge success. So with that said, it looks like the holiday bazaar is off to a great start. If you haven't already volunteered to help, we could always use extra hands before the bazaar or at the bazaar for one hour. This is a great way to help support your PTA and their many events. Please contact Alice Horan if you are able to volunteer at 410.832.2921. Hope to see you there. In addition the vendors, crafts, and food that will be available for purchase, we will be selling Stoneleigh Spirit Wear and the very popular Stoneleigh Student Directory!

Thanks for the huge amount of support that you show our school, please continue to become more involved!

Happy Holidays!

Kelly Friedman, PTA President  
[stoneleighptapresident@gmail.com](mailto:stoneleighptapresident@gmail.com)  
410.377.8998

### Addition Committee Update

The Addition Committee met on November 6, 2008 to discuss the possibility of an addition to Stoneleigh Elementary School to meet the needs of our growing population. At this time, BCPS is in the initial planning stages of the process. One of the goals of the committee is to become a part of the process and to make sure that Stoneleigh has a voice.

As you may know, we submitted a list of questions to BCPS and the Board of Education in hopes of a response; the joint response was that BCPS was not at the point to answer the questions that we submitted. It is our intention to continue to submit the questions throughout the process.

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### Stoneleigh Elementary School PTA

900 Pemberton Road ❖ Baltimore, MD 21212

410.887.3600

### Dates to Remember

#### NOVEMBER

- 26 Magnet School Applications Deadline
- 27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday, **Schools Closed**

#### DECEMBER

- 2 Board of Education Meeting, Greenwood, ESS Building, 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Stoneleigh Holiday Bazaar, 9:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- 17 Winter Concert, Stoneleigh Gymnasium at 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Assembly: Cantaré, A Celebration of Life in Latin America
- 23 Christmas/Winter Break Begins at end of school day

#### JANUARY

- 5 School Reopens
- 8 PTA Executive Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Library

### Newsletter Information

Would you like to see your information printed in the December 23 edition of the newsletter? Just send your articles/information by **December 17** to Sheri Buttarazzi at [sbuttarazzi@gmail.com](mailto:sbuttarazzi@gmail.com). Editing for space/content may occur. Thanks for contributing!

### PTA 2008-2009 OFFICERS

Please feel free to contact any member of the Executive Board with any PTA related questions or concerns you may have. Thank You!

PRESIDENT	Kelly Friedman	410-377-8998
1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Denise Supensky	410-825-6498
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	Vicki Damanti	410-583-2174
SECRETARY	Kim Deinlein	410-377-2997
TREASURER	Fred Kline	410-377-6392

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On November 20, 2008, Dan Green and Kelly Friedman attended the Central Area Education Advisory Council meeting. It was a question and answer session with the Central Area Assistant Superintendent, Lyle Patzkowsky. The committee plans to meet again on December 4, 2008. Everyone is welcome. Please feel free to call or email Dan or Kelly for additional information.

Dan Green  
410- 377-8816  
[dgreen@cooperwallace.com](mailto:dgreen@cooperwallace.com)

Kelly Friedman  
410-377-8998  
[stoneleighptapresident@gmail.com](mailto:stoneleighptapresident@gmail.com)

## Language Clubs Begin

The Stoneleigh PTA after-school clubs studying Spanish and French language and culture began the first week of November. After losing 4 out of 5 Spanish teachers last year, we have three Spanish clubs this year, two for first and second graders and one for third through fifth graders.

Christine LaBue, a second grade Stoneleigh teacher, and Meaghan Slattery, Stoneleigh's technology teacher, teach the Spanish clubs for first and second graders. Michele Cline, a Stoneleigh parent who has taught middle school Spanish, teaches the club for older students. There is one French club taught by Valerie Ford, a native French speaker and Stoneleigh parent. This year, Stoneleigh parent Alicia Fales secured several Towson High language honors students to serve as tutors who will help increase conversation in the clubs.

The Spanish club for older students meets Thursdays and the others meet on Wednesdays. We plan for the clubs to meet together 2-3 times for special events and "immersion" opportunities. Total enrollment in the clubs is 64 students. We would especially like to thank Ms. LaBue, Mrs. Eibl, Mr. Imirie and Mrs. Yingling for allowing the PTA to use their classrooms for club meetings. We also appreciate Mrs. Wingerd and Mrs. Eden's assistance with announcements directing students to the clubs after school.

~Heidi Bunes

## Volunteer Connection

### Holiday Bazaar

Volunteers are still needed to help make this another fun and successful year for our very own Holiday Bazaar.

**We need 1 hour of your time!**

Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>

From 8:30-2:30pm

Please contact your Room Parent to let them know when you can help. If you do not have a Room Parent, please e-mail: [trixietracey@verizon.net](mailto:trixietracey@verizon.net)

Thank you for supporting the Stoneleigh Family Tradition of The Annual Holiday Bazaar.

~Trixie Tracey & Alice Horan  
Holiday Bazaar Co-Chairs

### Candy Donations Needed for Holiday Bazaar

Please send in candy donations for the Gingerbread Houses at the Holiday Bazaar. Donations can be dropped off in the Candy Drop-Off Box in the Main Office, or you can send it in to your child's homeroom.

Kindergarten: Skittles / M&M's  
First Grade: Gum Drops / Sugared Candies  
Second Grade: Gummi Bears  
Third Grade: Strawberry Licorice Rope  
Fourth Grade: Peppermints  
Fifth Grade: Candy Canes

Final Collection Date: Friday, December 5

### Help Wanted!



Parents, we are in need of your help! Our kindergarten assistant position is currently open and we need to fill this position with a highly motivated, reliable person/parent, interested in being a part of the faculty and staff of Stoneleigh Elementary. This position is open effective immediately. If you are interested in what the job entails and the compensation, please contact Mrs. Warner at [cwarner@bcps.org](mailto:cwarner@bcps.org) or 410-887-3600.



# NEWS FROM THE JUNGLE

NOVEMBER 2008

Wow! Our school has already logged **1,793** walking miles.

All that walking has made us a little tired, so we're taking a rest in a town called **Paraná** in **Argentina**. It's described as a comfortable and quiet town perched on the hilly banks of the *Paraná* River. A pretty park slopes down to the *costanera*, where there are beaches, boats, and hundreds of strollers and joggers. *Paraná* is not only the head of the provincial government, but is also an important port for shipping cereals, cattle, fish, and lumber.

The current temperature is 87° F, with sunny skies and a warm breeze. Sounds terrific to us!

**Who was the captain of the first ship to sail around the world?**

**Who named the Pacific Ocean and why?**

**What does Patagonia mean and where in the world is it?**

**What kinds of animals live there?**

**Do some penguins live in burrows dug into the ground?**

**What is Yerba Mate and what do I do with it?**

*If you don't know,  
visit our [Jungle Club blog](http://sesjungleclub.blogspot.com) at  
[sesjungleclub.blogspot.com](http://sesjungleclub.blogspot.com)  
to find out!*

## Keep Walking, Stoneleigh!

**Looking for a great movie to rent on a snowy day? Check out "Eden: At the End of the World." It's in our Towson Library and rental is free since it's educational.**

"Where the Atlantic and Pacific oceans collide, at the bottom of South America, is Patagonia, one of the last great wild Eden's on Earth. Join National Geographic on a journey to this breathtaking sub-Antarctic region now facing its greatest challenge recovering from the misguided actions of man. Eden at the End of the World offers a wondrous glimpse into the pristine haven that is Patagonia."





## Stoneleigh Students Can Help, Too!

Dear Families,

Please join the efforts of our PTA's Walking Wednesday program as we work with an organization called **Heifer International** ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)) to make a difference. Heifer International seeks to end hunger in developing countries while protecting the earth through projects that educate and empower the local people of these communities. The money we collect for this program will directly benefit many of the impoverished communities that we will be walking through as our school

**Treks from the Andes to the Amazon** this year.

If you're interested, and we hope you are, clip the bottom of this page, fill it out, attach it to your check, and send it back in your child's Home/School folder. It's simple! You can donate as much or as little as you'd like, and don't forget to ask for support from family and friends, too.

For questions, contact us at [walkingwednesdays@gmail.com](mailto:walkingwednesdays@gmail.com).  
All donations are tax deductible and are **due by December 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Denise Kozikowski, Beth Miller, and Linda Wilson

**Thank you for your donation to Heifer International!**

Please make your check payable to Stoneleigh PTA and put Walking Wednesday Donation at the bottom left.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## TIDY CORNER



Okay, let's talk about binders. I'm more of a file girl myself, however, binders are an excellent way to stay organized when you are mobile (like a student!). The beauty of binders is also their problem...finite space. Maintenance (i.e. clearing out the binder) is a daily or weekly demand.

Many of my sons' teachers over the years have provided some 'binder cleaning time' but this may not start until middle school.

If your child's teachers want them to keep the whole year's worth of work you must have a container at home where work can be safely stowed. I would not put much more effort into organizing this area because the look backs are rare.

So how do you get your child to clear out the binder on a routine basis? The best way I know is to model what I call "the joy of purging". The binder is a great place to start with this because: (1) The papers are just going into a box in the house; (2) The papers are usually not the child's favorite thing, and (3) You can make it fun by crumpling up unnecessary papers and shooting them into the recycling bin!

This brings up the next question: What if my child doesn't know what to keep and what not to keep? They need to know. Please consult with their teachers and get clear guidelines from each one. You can then tape the guidelines inside the binder for reference during any purge session. If you take advantage of this great opportunity to organize with your child, you will give him or her a skill that transfers across many areas of life!

If you have a tip to share please email me at [Hartstein@comcast.net](mailto:Hartstein@comcast.net).

Chris Hartstein  
Professional Organizer/Owner  
Home Organizing Made Easy

## A Special Note of Thanks!

Thank you to all of the families that contributed to our Coats 4 Kids fundraiser! The Fund for Social Welfare/Volunteer Office of the Baltimore County Department of Social Services is very grateful for this donation. Several people asked about donating gently used coats. 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. Donated coats that are gently used will then be 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.

## STUFF WANTED

We need your un-appreciated, un-used, or un-necessary "stuff" to stock the shelves of our "NEW 2 YOU" shop – an exciting addition to the Holiday Bazaar.

### *Out With the "Old" & In With the "New 2 You"!*

Simplify your life! Save money! Support your school! Feel Great!

All this in less than an hour with our patented<sup>1</sup>  
**"NEW 2 YOU" process.**

**It's FREE and it's EASY. Try it today!**

Step 1) Prepare and Resolve: Set your mind to it! Take a deep breath and begin your mantra: "Do I really need that?" Exhale. Repeat this breathing exercise throughout Step 2. Grab a large box or basket and a garbage bag.

Step 2) Identify: Walk around and LOOK at things. Look in closets, drawers, the garage, the basement, the attic. Look at the top of your cabinets, desks, counters and shelves. Look around the rooms. (Keep breathing and continue mantra!)

Step 3) Decide: You no longer need it, use it or like it. It doesn't really fit in your new home, or match your new décor. You've outgrown it or you have a new one. Would you give it as a 'gift' to a friend or family member? Yes? Put it in your collection box. No. Toss it in the garbage bag.

Step 4) Determine: Put the donation items where you'll remember to send them in on Monday. Tape it shut if necessary to avoid reconsideration!

Step 5) Donate: Drop off your donations outside the cafeteria at school next week during our published collection times only.

**COLLECTION DATES: DECEMBER 1 – 5  
at the following times 8:15- 9:15 a.m. and  
2:45 - 3:45 p.m.**

Please: New or "like New" items only. No Books. No Clothes.

***All donations are tax deductible and proceeds will directly benefit the Stoneleigh PTA.***

<sup>1</sup>Of course, it's not really patented. But it is definitely, a generous, feel-good way to get rid of clutter! Your donations are tax deductible. ALL proceeds from the "New 2 You" shop will go directly to Stoneleigh PTA. Receipts available at collection.

## *Heads Up....*

### *What Parents and Caregivers Need to know about Brain Injury Prevention*

Brain Injury is the leading cause of death and disability among children and adolescents in the United States. The good news is there are many steps we can take to ensure our children's safety and reduce the risk of brain injury. Below are the answers to some frequently asked questions.

**Q: *I thought children could graduate to lap belts at 40 pounds but during our last visit to my child's pediatrician, she recommended using a booster seat until my child is at least 80 pounds. What should I do?***

**A:** As of June 20, 2008, Maryland law states that all children younger than eight, must ride in a booster seat or other appropriate child safety seat, unless the child is 4 feet, 9 inches or taller, or weighs more than 65 pounds. The American Academy of Pediatrics however recommends children remain in booster seats until they reach 80 pounds. This is based on recent studies have determined that children who are inappropriately placed in seat belts designed for adults are at a 3.5-fold increased risk for serious injury. Children should use a booster seat until a seat belt fits across the shoulder and low across the hips. **For most children this is when they are at least 8 years old, 4 feet 9 inches tall and weigh at least 80 pounds.** The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety released a report with new ratings of child booster seats on October 1, 2008. To find out which booster seats are considered safe and effective, go to <http://blogs.consumerreports.org/cars/2008/10/booster-seat.html>.

**Q: *When can I let my children ride safely in the front seat?***

**A:** Car manufacturers warn motorists not to place children 12 and younger in a front passenger seat with an air bag because the risk of injury should the bag inflate. According to a study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, children restrained in the back seat have a 38% lower death rate than those restrained in the front seat. A study published this spring by researchers at the Oregon Health and Science University and the University of California found that up until age 14; children were "at risk for serious preventable injury" when they rode in the front seat of a car with air bags. Children ages 15-18, however, benefit from air bags. **The researchers believe it is age not weight that determines safety in the front seat. It is the maturation brought by puberty in the muscles and bones that improve a child's ability to tolerate the deployment of an airbag.**

**Q: *How safe is my child on the school bus?***

**A:** According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), school transportation is one of the safest forms of transportation in the United States. A protective envelope consisting of strong, closely spaced seats that have energy-absorbing back seats provides crash protection.

**Q: *My children are very active in sports, how can I make sure their heads are properly protected from injury?***

**A:** Our brains do not reach their full maturity in size and complex decision making ability until we are about 25 years old. The National Athletic Trainer's Association stresses that the young maturing brain is more vulnerable to damage from repeated head injuries and urges athletes under 18 be managed more conservatively than adults. Brain injuries result in more sports-related deaths in this county than any other athletic injury. Parents, trainers and coaches can take the following steps to ensure safety on the field:

- **Always wear recommended safety gear.**
- **Keep in mind that concussions or "mild" brain injuries do not always involve a loss of consciousness. A child who has sustained a Grade I concussion will appear temporarily confused, dazed and unable to follow directions. This is due to swelling and pressure in the skull. Symptoms usually clear after 15 minutes, however, children should not return to play until they have been evaluated by a medical professional. This is critical in order to reduce the risk of reinjury and potential long-term academic, physical and emotional problems.**
- **Parents, model good safety practices by always wearing a helmet when riding your bike or playing any other sport where safety gear is recommended.**

For additional information on brain injury prevention and treatment, contact the following resources:

Brain Injury Association of Maryland, [www.biamd.org](http://www.biamd.org), 410-448-2924.

Kids in Safety Seats, [Kiss@dnhm.state.md.us](mailto:Kiss@dnhm.state.md.us), 1-800-370-SEAT. (Call for information as well as for a car seat safety check.)

The Safe Concussion Outcome Recovery and Education Program (SCORE), **Children's National Medical Center**, 202-884-2429.

**Sources:**

*Simpson M., Edith et. Al., (2002). Barriers to Booster Seat Use and Strategies to Increase Their Use. PEDIATRICS, October Vol. 110 No. 4, pp.729-736.*

*Maryland Kids in Safety Seats Website [Kiss@dnhm.state.md.us](mailto:Kiss@dnhm.state.md.us)*

*New York Times, October 19 and 24 2004 articles by Jane Brody, and June 7, 2005 article by Eric Nagourney*

*The Brain Injury Association of America Website, [www.biausa.org](http://www.biausa.org)*

*Compiled by Anastasia Edmonston, Maryland Traumatic Brain Injury Projects Director, Maryland Mental Hygiene Administration for the Stoneleigh Elementary PTA Newsletter. 2008*



## Tired of seeing cars speed down your residential street?

Join families who have made it their **mission** to unite against speeding in our community! The Community Associations of the SES school district in conjunction with Safe Routes to School are promoting **two great ways** to make it known that speeding on our streets **is not safe** and **will not be tolerated**.

- The Anneslie Community Association is working with the communities of Idlewyde, Knollwood/DonnyBrook, Loch Hill, Overbrook, Stoneleigh, and Wiltondale and has placed **several yard sign designs** on [www.anneslie.org](http://www.anneslie.org) for you to view. This idea builds on the signs created by residents in the Stoneleigh neighborhood to remind people to slow down for the safety of **all children**.

**It's simple!** Just choose the design you like best and follow the instructions on the website to place an order and send in your payment. The Association will have the signs printed in time for the first day of spring. Share this information with your neighbors and move the signs around from yard to yard. A varying streetscape catches a driver's eye more often than the "same old-same old."

- The Stoneleigh Elementary School PTA and the Community Associations are also promoting the **Maryland Community Pace Car Program** found at [www.onelesscar.org](http://www.onelesscar.org) under the "**What We Do**" menu heading.

This program encourages residents to take responsibility for their own driving while setting the "**pace**" for safer streets and neighborhoods. By setting the "pace" while driving around our neighborhood as well as others, you send the following message: "**This is the speed we drive in our community. If you don't like it, drive somewhere else.**"

Over **40 parents** with children at Stoneleigh Elementary School have already returned their pledge forms – look for stickers on cars in your neighborhood. To participate in the program and receive a sticker, simply visit the website and complete the pledge form. When you receive the sticker, put it on your vehicle and drive the posted speed limit on all streets.

**Hint: Wondering what to do with those outdated magnetic calendars on your fridge sent from realtors? Adhere the sticker to one of these and you won't**

### Thanks to the following families who have already taken the pledge!



Cline • Nunn • Pinkett • Topper • Joseph • DiPaula • Heiler • Milio • Macintire • Brinker • Till • Littleton • Deinlein • Pang • Mickens • Zieger • McGee • McKee • Logan • Heller • Russell • Brooks • Grandsire • Lucas • Bandell • Millard • Schultheis • Dayan • Nuetzel • Casale • Sage • Beatty • Mecchi • Boice • Tober • Fales • Tracey • Gold • Robinson • Darwin • Kassas • Walkins • Miller • Simon • Pinkett





# STONELEIGH HOLIDAY BAZAAR DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

STONELEIGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
HOSTS ITS HOLIDAY BAZAAR ON

 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6  
9 A.M. TO 2 P.M. 

AT THE SCHOOL - 900 PEMBERTON ROAD

*Bring the family for an affordable holiday shopping outing.  
The bazaar features a variety of quality craft vendors, face painting,  
a "Kids Only Shopping Room and a "New 2 You" Shop.  
Kids: Choose Your Own Craft Project, including Create a Bear, Make a  
Gingerbread House, Create a Fuzzy Journal and Decorate a Tile.  
Stock up on baked goods, purchase your holiday greens,  
and enjoy an inexpensive and delicious lunch from Milt's Catering.*

JOIN US ON DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>!