



Stoneleigh Elementary School



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President's Message

Dear Stoneleigh Families and Friends,

After our wonderful winter break, everyone should be rejuvenated and ready to be back at school to begin the new 2010 year. Today marks the end of the 2nd marking period; the school year is officially at the halfway mark! An upcoming PTA event to make note of is the **Scholastic Book Fair** next week with new after-school hours for SES families. Stoneleigh will also be celebrating our next **Spirit Day** on February 5th, the first Friday of the month. Don't forget to dress your family in our favorite colors, blue and gold!

I encourage our Stoneleigh families and friends to be informed and to be involved. Recently, there has been much discussion regarding the Articulated Instruction Module (AIM). AIM is a new tool to report the academic progress for curriculum objectives. On December 17, 2009, Dr. Hairston sent a directive that AIM will be fully implemented in our schools.

According to TABCO President, Cheryl Bost, "The displeasure that teachers have is the mixed messages they've been getting. When AIM first came around, it was mostly the resource part of the program -- providing teachers with lesson plans, putting curriculum all in one place, making sure everything was aligned -- and we support that goal." However, the reporting piece of AIM has received much criticism. Arguments have been made that AIM will require hundreds of hours for teachers to enter data and that parents could receive over 20 pages of assessed skills for each student.

On January 7, 2010, a motion was adopted by the PTA Council of Baltimore County Board of Directors "to express our disappointment and frustration that parents were not included in the discussion regarding the development and implementation of AIM, since parents are to be the final recipient of the information resulting from the implementation of AIM." To be more informed,

Continued on Page 2

Dates to Remember

JANUARY

- 28 Second Marking Period Ends
- Special PTA Executive Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (Topic: AIM)
- 29 **Schools Closed**, Assessment Day

FEBRUARY

- 1-5 PTA Book Fair (during library time for students; from 3:30-7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday for SES families)
- 2 STEM Fair Parent Information Meeting, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
- 5 Spirit Day!
- 9 Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Greenwood ESS Building
- 9 Math Olympics Night, Stoneleigh Elementary, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- 11 Distribution of Report Cards
- PTA Executive Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 **Schools Closed**, President's Day
- 25 Blue and Gold Newsletter Distributed

MARCH

- 2 Art Night, Stoneleigh Elementary School
- 19 Family Game Night, Stoneleigh Elementary School (Note: new date)

Newsletter Information

Would you like to see your information printed in the February 25th issue of the PTA newsletter? Just send your articles/information by **February 19, 2010** to Susan Schoenfeld at sschoenfeld@blr.com Editing for space and/or content may occur. Thanks for contributing!

[Stoneleigh Elementary School PTA](http://www.stoneleighpta.org)

900 Pemberton Road ❖ Baltimore, MD 21212

<http://www.stoneleighpta.org>

PTA 2009-2010 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	Sheri Buttarazzi	stoneleighptapresident@gmail.com
1st VP, Programs	Colleen Mahony	stoneleighpta1stvp@gmail.com
2nd VP, Volunteers	Denise Supensky	stoneleighpta2ndvp@gmail.com
Secretary	Kim Deinlein	stoneleighptasecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Fred Kline	stoneleighptatreasurer@gmail.com
Membership	Sarah Morris	stoneleighptamembership@gmail.com

please take the time to visit www.bcps.org to view the Articulated Instruction Module for yourself.

Pay closer attention to the news coverage, especially regarding the recent Board of Education meeting on January 26, 2010 -- during which a special review group of one Baltimore County parent and three Baltimore County teacher members are on the agenda to make a presentation. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact me.

In closing, it is a new year and it's not too late to join the PTA and share any great ideas you may have. Don't be shy!

Sheri Buttarazzi, PTA President

Yearbooks on Sale Now

The Stoneleigh 2009/2010 yearbook is on sale now! Yearbooks need to be preordered by March 1, 2010, so please preorder yours now.

Yearbooks will be sold for \$16.00 per copy (40 full color pages) Please see the yearbook flyer for more details and note that all checks should be made payable to Strawbridge Studios. If you have any questions regarding the yearbook, please contact Ms. Slattery at mslattery@bcps.org.

Scholastic Book Fair Coming in February

Coming February 1 through February 5, 2010 in the Stoneleigh Elementary School Library!

The Scholastic Book Fair is a great fundraiser for our school -- generating both money and books. Students will have an opportunity to purchase books from the Book Fair on their regular library day during school time.

Please put your child's money in an envelope with THEIR NAME and "BOOK FAIR" printed on the outside of the envelope. Volunteers will be available to help students find their preselected orders and give guidance to those picking out their own books.

Parents and grandparents will also be able to shop and purchase books on Tuesday February 2nd, Wednesday February 3rd, and Thursday February 4th from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you and making this a successful event for our students at Stoneleigh Elementary!

Volunteer Connection

Scholastic Book Fair Volunteers

Volunteers are still needed for the Scholastic Book Fair (February 1 through February 5, 2010). If you are interested in volunteering please contact Kristin Gooding at twinmamaplusone@gmail.com.

Gold and Blue and Creative, Too!

This year, we will work with our students to publish our fourteenth edition of *Gold and Blue and Creative, Too!* **We have an immediate need for a Publicity Coordinator.** This person will coordinate posters and announcements for two or three weeks at the end of January and the beginning of February. Then they will coordinate the judging for the cover contest in March or April and organize the GBCT assembly in June.

If you are interested in volunteering to help in the creation of the 2010 edition of *Gold and Blue and Creative, Too!*, please contact Sheri Buttarazzi at 410-377-0646 or stoneleighptapresident@gmail.com.

Stoneleigh PTA 2010-2011 – Nominating Committee

This Spring, the Stoneleigh PTA will need to elect several new PTA officers. According to our bylaws, the Stoneleigh PTA must establish a nominating committee of five PTA members to nominate an eligible person for each office to be filled.

The nominating committee must be identified and voted upon at a PTA Board of Directors meeting and must be elected at least two months prior to the election of officers (which occurs at the end of May.) The PTA is now recruiting PTA members to serve on the committee.

If you are interested in serving or have any questions, please let Colleen Mahony know by February 19th at stoneleighpta1stvp@gmail.com or call her at 410-377-8429.

“Dress A Bear” Volunteer(s)

Needed: a person or team of people to take over the "dress a bear" craft for the Holiday Celebration for December, 2010. Volunteer(s) will need to find a "deal" on purchasing 250 bears, designing a few different bear outfits, getting a team together to cut the material, and being available for set-up, and all day on the day of the event. Please email Trixie Tracey (trixietracey@verizon.net) or Kathleen Nuetzel (knuetzel@verizon.net) if you are interested.

Many thanks to the many parents who volunteer each day! You make Stoneleigh Elementary School a better place for all of our children.

Gifted and Talented Program Update: Twice Exceptional (2E)

Ellen Galvez
Parent Liaison, Gifted and Talented Program

On January 11th, 2010, the BCPS Special Education Citizens Advisory Council hosted guest speaker Kathy Rupard from Prince George's County Public Schools. Kathy is a Special Education Instructional Specialist for GT/LD students. The children Kathy supports are frequently referred to as Twice Exceptional or 2E; gifted students who also have special learning needs. Kathy spoke to the group about the services that have been provided jointly by the PGCPs Special Education and Talented and Gifted Offices for over a decade.

A national conference for educators, parents, students and all who appreciate the unique strengths and needs of bright kids who learn differently titled "Diamonds in the Rough: Smart Kids who Learn Differently" will be hosted in Rockville, MD on March 11th through the 13th, 2010.

For more information on this conference and/or supporting the needs of Twice Exceptional Students visit the following websites:

www.SENGifted.org
www.aegus.org



**Math Olympics
Coming In
February**

You are invited to a very important evening of mathematics for students in grades K-5 at Stoneleigh Elementary School!

**Tuesday, February 9, 2010
6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Math will be highlighted throughout the school with hands-on activities, math literature, math web sites, and more!

Please let the school know that you are planning to attend by completing the Family Math Night RSVP, distributed with the January issue of the *Stoneleigh Gazette*. The RSVP form is also available for download on the Stoneleigh Elementary School website at:
<http://schools.bcps.org/schools/ces/stoneleigh/pdf/Flyer-GradesK-2.pdf>

Please return your RSVP form to school **by Monday, February 1, 2010**. We hope your family will be able to join us for an evening of math fun and learning!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Donelan and Mrs. Mansfield,
Stoneleigh Elementary's Math Committee

STEM Fair Parent Information Night

On **February 2, 2010** there will be a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fair Parent Information Night from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Stoneleigh Elementary School cafeteria.

At the meeting, STEM Fair leaders will provide a lot of information, terrific ideas, present demonstrations and examples of projects, plus answer questions to help parents assist their students with the projects.

Fourth and fifth grade students are strongly encouraged to participate in the STEM Fair, but students in all grades are welcome.

The STEM Fair is April 20, 2010, so please come to the STEM Fair Parent Night to get all the information needed to assist your child with their project!

See the STEM Fair Information Night and RSVP form at the end of this newsletter for more information.

Hospitality News: Snacks Needed for Math Olympics

The Hospitality Committee is in need of the following donations to make the Math Olympics night on February 9, 2010 happen:

- small water bottles
- juice boxes
- sugar cookies with white frosting (store purchased)
- icings tubes-blue, yellow, black, red, and green
- pretzels or snack bars

Please contact Amy Kline amykline@att.net or 410-377-6392 if you are able to help donate and/or set up the goodies.

Thanks so much!!

Collection for Those in Need in Our Community

The Assistance Center of Towson (ACTC) is seeking nonperishable food and also toiletry items. Please bring cereal, canned fruit, tuna, Saltines, peanut butter, jelly, canned meat, spaghetti and sauce, canned vegetables, pork and beans, soup, rice, macaroni and cheese, shampoo, and soap.

ACTC, located at 120 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, opened in 1985 when 14 churches met to explore ways to help to the poor and needy families in our community. ACTC is now supported by 43 churches and provides numerous emergency services including food, shelter, clothing, medicine, transportation, transient help, toiletries and referrals.

Any donations of food/toiletries can be dropped off on the LAST SUNDAY of each month at the following addresses:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 606 Hatherleigh | Bissett Schwanke |
| 800 Ridgeleigh | Susie Jun |
| 715 Stoneleigh | Mary Wynne Eisenberg |
| 705 Stoneleigh | Annie Biser |
| 821 Wellington | Maria Wetherington |

Please tell your neighbors about this community project. **We want to make a difference for our neighbors who are struggling!**

Stoneleigh's Shining Stars



Do you have a Stoneleigh teacher, staff member, volunteer or parent that you think is doing an amazing job and deserves countywide recognition for their efforts at Stoneleigh? Is there a Stoneleigh PTA program that you think is worthy of "Top Program" recognition by the Baltimore County PTA Council? Is there a Stoneleigh teacher you believe should be nominated as "Outstanding Educator of the Year?" Then we need you!

The Stoneleigh PTA needs Stoneleigh School community members to nominate people and programs for countywide honors. We need volunteers to read the nominations and serve on the review committee. We also need a chairperson to work with the 1st Vice President to handle the application and submission process.

The 2009-2010 application is available NOW and the application deadline for all nominations is March 25, 2010. If you are interested in helping to identify Stoneleigh's Shining Stars, please contact Colleen Mahony at stoneleighpta1stvp@gmail.com or call Colleen at 410-377-8429 with any questions.



News from the Art Department

SAVE the DATE – Stoneleigh Elementary's Arts Night is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2nd, 2010. Mark your calendar and remember that this is an evening that you must register for in order to participate. Look out for upcoming information in February.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Stoneleigh Elementary is now collecting juice/drink pouches (not juice boxes) to be reused and made into crafts. This will help our school stay green and will earn funding for the school! The program will also help our students to learn about reusing, rather than creating waste.

So please send your empty, clean, and flattened Capri Sun, Minute Maid, etc. pouches in to the school cafeteria. Thank you! Stay green, Stoneleigh!! (For any questions/concerns about this program, please contact Meaghan Slattery msslattery@bcps.org or Jackie Cordasco jcordasco@bcps.org.)

We're sorry to say that Stoneleigh Elementary will no longer be collecting dry cell (regular, non-rechargeable) batteries. Due to MD State Hazardous Waste Laws, it is no longer legal to recycle dry cell batteries, so Staples and IKEA are not taking our donations. Please do not send used dry cell batteries into school.

CREATIVE MINDS CLUB

CREATIVE MINDS CLUB is an after school activity for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders involving team work, problem solving, experimentation, construction, language play and performance. The goal of this club is to encourage children to see themselves as CREATORS, to see their peers as collaborators, and to develop skills to think outside the box and to use common materials in unusual ways.

C.M.C. activities at Stoneleigh are based on material associated with 2 well known national programs: Destination ImagiNation (more heavily emphasizing performance and team communication) and Odyssey of the Mind (more heavily emphasizing construction). Unlike these programs, the Stoneleigh program will not be involved in inter school competitions.

C.M.C. members get together in Ms. Link's art room after school and build things out of odd materials, figure out ways to communicate while maintaining silence, and solve mental puzzles. In the fall, we experimented with spaghetti, mini marshmallows, drinking straws, and toothpicks and made towers that can hold weights and withstand wind. By doing that, we learned that a structure doesn't have to be pretty to be stable and that anything that looks like a sail acts like one too. We've also developed ways for one student to tell another how to create a specific design out of jelly beans without saying anything, writing anything or touching the jelly beans. By doing that, we earned that some of us are really good at listening with our eyes.

This spring we will build some things that move, work on our ability to communicate with someone who can't see us, act out some ideas and figure out how to build a tower that can hold an egg (yes, a raw one).

This after school activity is funded by the PTA, there is no cost for participation.

The program is led by Amanda Konradi (parent of a Stoneleigh 3rd grader and 7th grader).

**The spring cycle will run 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.,
in Ms. Link's Art Room on alternating Wednesdays:**

2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/7, 4/21, 5/15 and 5/14

***The first 24 registration forms for the spring cycle received will be accepted.
See the following page for the registration form.***

CREATIVE MINDS REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and send to Amanda Konradi, 514 Sussex Rd., Towson, MD 21286.

Child _____ Grade _____

Homeroom Teacher _____

Parents' Names _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Tel. (Day) _____ (Eve) _____

(Cell/Emergency for contact between 3:30 and 4:30) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ (required)

After club meetings, my child will (circle one):

1. Go to Play Centers
2. Be picked up by _____
3. Be released to walk home.

I understand that my participation in Creative Minds requires that I comply with standard classroom behaviors and I may be asked to leave, if I do not do so.

Student Signature

I understand that after arriving more than 10 minutes after dismissal time for pick-up may jeopardize my child's participation in Creative Minds.

Parent Signature



Walking Wednesday Update

Number of Walking Wednesday calendars returned by Stoneleigh Elementary students in December: **55**

Number of miles walked by Stoneleigh elementary students in December: **550**

Average number of miles walked per student in December: **10**

Gallons of gas that were saved by walking (based on 21 mpg) in December: **26**

Total pounds of carbon dioxide emissions saved in December (based on 21 mpg): **510**

Places in the United States "visited" in December in our "Hike across the United States":

- Colorado Springs
- Continental Divide
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park in Colorado; and
- Arches National Park in Utah

Please have your children complete and return their Walking Wednesday calendars after each month so we can continue our "Hike across the United States"!

If your child's Walking Wednesday calendar is misplaced, you can download additional copies from the PTA website at <http://www.stoneleighpta.org/news-and-events/walking-wednesday/>

By walking or riding a bike to school, we can lower the amount of vehicle miles traveled, which helps reduce toxic air pollutants.

So, keep walking Stoneleigh!

Hope for Haiti Project

Families of Stoneleigh Elementary,

As a way to provide HOPE for the Haitian people, we are asking for your family to consider sending monetary support to the people in need, if you can. All money donations must be in the form of a check or money order made payable to:

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS



We will accept donations turned in to homeroom teachers by
Friday, February 5, 2010.

Thank you for your support for Hope for Haiti!

Stoneleigh STEM Fair Parent Night

Dear Families,

You are invited to a fun, informative night to assist your student with their STEM Fair Project on **February 2, 2010 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** in the cafeteria! All grades are welcome.

We will answer questions, show examples of good projects, and have Towson High School AP Science students give demonstrations, provide project ideas/topics, and review the scientific method.

Students are welcome, but must be accompanied by parents and supervised at all times. Drop offs are not permitted. We look forward to you joining us for a fun, informative night of science!

Please RSVP by Monday, February 1, 2010, to your homeroom teacher.

___ Yes! We will attend Stoneleigh STEM Fair Parent Night.

___ Number of adults ___ Number of children

What we need the most help with:

___ answers to questions ___ project ideas/topics

___ demonstrations ___ board set up

___ other: _____

Family Name: _____