THE PIONEERS POST January/February 2017

ETHEL WINTERNHEIMER STATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO

Dear Staton Families,

Happiest of New Years to you all! I hope you enjoyed your winter break and the time spent celebrating with family and friends. Prior to the break, we had outstanding turnouts for our year-end events including; Donuts for Dad, Kindness Week, Barnes and Noble Night, our Winter Choir Performances and Parent/Teacher Conferences. Thank you all for your continued support and a special thank you to all those who worked hard to make these events the great successes that they were!

Here at Staton, we have returned with renewed enthusiasm and we are looking forward to finishing out the rest of the 2016-17 school year strong! Here are some things to keep in mind as we move forward.

Our first School Organization Team (SOT) meeting took place on January 4. The function of the SOT is to provide input on our school's performance plan and budget, to provide input to the principal on carrying out that plan and to assist with the selection of the next principal when there is a vacancy. The SOT is comprised of parents, teacher and support staff representatives. Below are this year's team members:

Parent Representatives: Kristy Froehlich, Nicole Hamilton, Kristina Havill, Leigh-Anne Mateyka, Gina Retke, and Carrie Robine
Teacher Representatives: Patti Haire, Robert Hollowood, Carrie Kern, Teri Mann
Support Staff Representatives: Michael Harger, Dawn Mae

The SOT agendas and minutes will be posted on the Staton website. Please review and stay informed. Our next SOT meeting will be January 18 from 4 to 5 PM in the library. Parents are welcome to attend these monthly meetings.

It's that time of year…the APEX Fun Run will be January 26! It is such a special event where the whole school is running laps to earn money for Staton. Students, teachers and parents alike have a blast! Come join us on that fun day!

In February, we will be celebrating cultural diversity at our International Fair days! Each grade level is studying a particular region and will be displaying what they learned. On Feb. 2, Pre K – 2nd grade students will visit each region (great room) and get their passport stamped! On Feb. 3, grades 3-5 will take their passports and tour the world regions! Be sure to have your child share what they learned from their world-wide visit!

And lastly, safety, as always, is a top priority here at Staton. I would like to remind you all to review and adhere to the following rules and guidelines designed to keep our students safe:

PLEASE DO NOT:

·Allow your students to exit from the left side of your vehicle. Whether it appears to you that traffic is present or not, this is an unsafe practice that is extremely hazardous to students.
·Make a U-turn on the road in front of the school or anywhere there are No U-Turn signs posted.
·Stop in the middle of any road or the parking lot thoroughfare areas where traffic is flowing to allow your children to exit your vehicle.
·Park in any areas where cones are present or any area that staff is directing vehicles away from.
·Park in the bus lane areas or any clearly marked No-Parking or Fire Lane zones - even if you remain in your vehicle.
·Park and leave your vehicle unattended in any area that impedes traffic flow and/or obstructs bus lanes or any other prohibited area that would require staff to attempt to locate you to return and remove your vehicle.

Thank you all for everything you do to help support your students both at home and at school. We appreciate our wonderful parents and families – you make it all work! Looking forward to seeing you in the New Year here at school.

Sincerely,
Joan Lombard, Principal

SAVE the DATE

Jan 26 – APEX run day
Jan 27 – report cards distributed
Feb 1-7 – Smencil sales
Feb 2 – K-2 International Day
Feb 3 – 3-5 International Day
Feb 3 – Cookbook submittals due
Feb 8 – Islands Pioneer Night
Feb 16 – Family Game Night

Staton's Annual APEX Fun Run

We raised over $30k last year and our goal is $40k this year

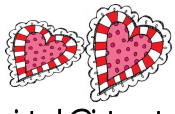
this is our ONLY major fundraiser this quarter

Thursday, January 26th

PLEDGES BEING COLLECTED TUESDAY, JAN. 17TH TO WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25TH.
THE THEME THIS YEAR IS "APEX LEGENDS" ❄ COACHES WILL BE IN CLASSROOMS DURING THIS TIME TEACHING KIDS LEADERSHIP SKILLS.
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! CONTACT SHANNANOHLSON@GMAIL.COM TO HELP

Coming soon!!

Staton COOKBOOK to benefit our school garden



Multiple submissions welcome & **to submit your recipes, go to http://www.simplycookbooks.com or any questions, email mpristash@interact.ccsd.net**

Yummy submissions needed! Recipes from grandma, cousins, friends – anyone that will share something yummy.

Deadline to submit recipes is Friday, February 3rd

Counselor's corner

In keeping with our growth mindset focus for the year, I wanted to share another resource that I included in the growth mindset parent workshops which may assist you in helping your children develop a growth mindset. The website www.mindsetkit.org has a series of lessons & activities that give some ideas on how you can promote a growth mindset in your child. A couple of key concepts related to growth mindset that are mentioned on the website include recognizing mistakes as learning opportunities and teaching kids about neuroplasticity, the science that supports growth mindset. Your Fantastic Elastic Brain is a great book for primary students to teach them about their brains. Also, Sentis has a brain video series you can view on YouTube with your children to teach them about their brains. You can find the videos by typing Sentis into the search menu. As always, if I can be of any assistance [illegible] e contact me.

Thank you,
Brian Davis

BE KIND...

Kindness is spreading at Staton as 200 genuine acts of kindness have been "caught" and celebrated this school year! We also spread some holiday cheer by providing gifts for 92 students at Katz Elementary and McMillan Elementary through our Be Kind Angel Tree. We'd like to express a heartfelt thank you to everyone who was able to get gifts for those children.

We are going to be participating in the Josh Stevens Foundation's "Owl" Share My Change program. We adopt an owl from the Josh Stevens Foundation and feed it change to help raise money for the Foundation so they can sponsor other schools to make it possible for them to implement the Be Kind program. We are adopting "Thelma", who will live in the front office. Anyone can feed Thelma their spare change to participate in fundraising for the Josh Stevens Foundation and their mission in spreading kindness. As the Josh Stevens Foundation says, "Spare change for Kindness, a little goes far, you're part of the team, you are a KIND STAR! Every bit helps, no matter the amount, when it comes to Kindness, WE ALL COUNT!" Thank you for your continuous support of our Be Kind program and the countless acts of kindness you share with our school and local community.

SMENCIL V-DAY CARDS

February 1 – 7

PTO will be selling Smencil valentine's for $1/each before & after school.
Smencils are scented pencils that are always a hit!

Tell the students in your child's class they are SCENT-SATIONAL!

International Culture Day

feb 2nd k-2 and feb 3rd 3-5.

Kids will learn from displays created by students and will "travel" around the world learning new cultures.

READING WEEK

FEB 27TH – MAR 3RD

Ice cream dance social for the kids who donate books.
MARCH 2ND K-2, MARCH 3RD 3-5.

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