STONEGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

STONEGATE PTA NEWS

November 2008

Message from Principal Becker

Dear Parents:

Our partnerships with our parents and the community are so necessary and essential to the success of our students. I believe that is because it sends out a clear message to our staff and most importantly, our students, that school is important. I'd like to share a few ways that our parents and community members are working with our teachers and staff to make Stonegate a better learning environment for children.

First, you will not be able to enter our school without noticing the beautiful new landscaping in the front of the school. Lowe's donated all of the plants, shrubs, and trees as well as all of the labor to improve our landscaping. Stonegate was chosen to receive this gift as part of the Lowe's Heroes Program. Lowe's selects one school or community organization a year to landscape and we are so thankful that they chose us.

Thanks to our PTA, there is a big change in our classrooms. Just recently our PTA spent just over $20,000 to purchase LCD Projectors for our classrooms. Teachers are now able to project anything from their computers to a screen including PowerPoint presentations, instructional programs from the internet etc. Just yesterday, a teacher said, "I just love my new projector; I used it all day long." This technology has greatly enhanced the instruction for our students and will certainly benefit students. We are so appreciative of this gift because with our limited resources, it would have taken us several years to update the technology in our classrooms to this level. The next time your child comes home with another PTA fundraiser, you can be sure that all of the funds raised will go back to the school to improve teaching and learning.

Finally, it is such a joy to see the participation and involvement from so many parents at Stonegate. Last Friday, we had well over a hundred parent volunteers come to school to provide Halloween parties in our classrooms. Later that evening, so many family came out in the rain so their children could trick or treat in their costumes during the PTA Trunk or Treat event. There have been so many other events including our recent CAMP Night for third grade, First Grade Pumpkins with Dads, and field trips at all grade levels where we had tremendous parent involvement. We are right in the middle of parent conferences, and it seems as if we will get nearly 100% parent participation.

Effective schools research is clear that the one factor in every successful school is strong parent and community involvement. I am so pleased that we have that at Stonegate.

Kindest Regards,
Doug Becker

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Dates to Remember

Nov 4	Election Day & PTA meeting @ 6:30pm
Nov 5	3 hour early release PLC
Nov 15	Skating Party 4:45-6:45pm
Nov 17-21	Book Fair in Library
Nov 21	Thanksgiving Feast @ Stonegate
Nov 26	3 hour early release
Nov 27-28	NO SCHOOL

ENTER THE REFLECTIONS PROGRAM!!

The Reflections Program is a national PTA program providing opportunities for students to express themselves through the arts.

Six categories this year are as follows:

Literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography, and film/video production.

The theme this year is: "Wow!"

Parents may request participation forms in any areas student would like to enter. Students may enter their **original photographs, paintings, drawings, prints, sonnets, poems, plays, short stories, musical compositions, videos or film. Each student may enter any or all of the six art areas.**

The deadline for submissions will be **November 21.** A display will be in the front hall of Stonegate to showcase the contest and to interest students in participating.

After the Thanksgiving holiday, entries will be displayed for all to see.

Winning entries from Stonegate go to Jefferson City and then on to the National PTA in Washington D. C. if selected at the state level. Prizes are awarded at the national level and Stonegate will honor all who enter.

Any questions…..call Debbie Lerner (816) 331-2688

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Please return this bottom portion to the Stonegate Office.

My name is ____My child's classroom________________________________

I would like a copy of the following participation form (forms)

Please circle form (forms) that you would like:

Literature | Dance Choreography

Musical Composition | Film/video Production

Photography

Visual Arts

ONGOING FUNDRAISERS

There are some great ways for you to help raise money for our school all throughout the year as well.

We are **now collecting Capri Sun Juice box pouches, Chips Ahoy, Oreo and Fig Newton packages**. Just save these all month long in a zip loc bag or similar. Send these to school with your child and help your school earn money.

Box Tops— Collect Box Tops from your favorite brands and turn them in to your child's class for more money for the PTA.

Nestle Water labels— Tear these off your water bottles and bring them to school to help us raise money for our school.
Hy-Vee— Shop at Hy-Vee and turn in your receipts at school. .8% of pre-tax sales totals go back to our school!

Target— Use your Target RedCard and 1% of each purchase goes back to the school of your choice! If you don't have a RedCard, you can apply online at Target.com.

Sherwin-Williams — Use the Stonegate Elementary card you received last year to get 20% off regular prices and 5% off sale prices. A percentage of your purchase is reimbursed to the school! New students and incoming kindergarteners cards are on order and should be here soon!!

If you have any questions regarding ongoing fundraisers please contact
Lana Luebbert at 322-0117.

HOMEWORK HELPERS

Reading Strategies

1. Use your smart (pointing) finger.
2. Look at the picture.
3. Does it make sense?
4. Get your mouth ready for the first sound.
5. Go back and get a running start.
6. Look at the ending sound.
7. Does it have an ending?
8. Look for a little word in the big word.
9. Look for chunks you know.

Counselor Corner

The School Counselor classroom visits will include discussions on the topic of Success in the Classroom (listening skills, classroom behavior, work habits, work independently, study skills, test taking skills, homework completed on time, time management, organizational skills, goal setting, transitions to upper grades, and Honesty).

Grades:

K: Book—Interrupting (raise hands, listening skills, manners, social skills) and song.

1st:: Book— Listen Buddy

2nd: Book— The Rabbit Who Lost His Hop (self-control)

3rd: Book— The Koala Who Wouldn't Cooperate (classroom behavior and rules)

4th: Study/Test Taking Skills

T-MOBILE & PTA have partnered to save you money!!! All PTA members will receive the following promotions:

- 14% discount on monthly service plans
- FREE Activation (savings of $35) and FREE 2 day shipping

Custom pricing on the following devices:

FREE Nokia 6301, FREE Motorola RAZR, FREE Nokia 5310, FREE Blackberry Pear, T-Mobile Sidekick for $49.99. Prices are net of all instant/mail-in rebates. This program is NOT available in retail stores and requires a new line of activation. To take advantage of these and other special offers, please call **1-866-464-8662** and mention promo code **9788TMOFAV**. If you are already a T-Mobile customer, please call **1-877-453-8824** to receive the PTA discount! Don't forget to mention your "Local PTA Unit Number" as a reference.

STONEGATE FAMILY COOKBOOK

The Stonegate PTA Cookbook will be arriving in the next couple of weeks. As soon as it arrives, a flyer will be sent home. We anticipate these selling quickly. The cost of each cookbook will be $5. We will also be selling these at the Thanksgiving Feast on November 21st.

We want to thank everyone who participated in supplying recipes to the cookbook.

Tera Diepenbrock & Shelly Sumler,

Cookbook Chairpersons

BOX TOPS AND LABELS

Y's Kids Club @ Stonegate

Our YMCA childcare programs are designed to give your child a learning experience that includes academics, character development, social development, and an understanding of the world around them and their role in it. The YMCA staff are comprised of individuals with unique interests and talents, with the safety of your child at the core of our program. YMCA teachers take the care, security and happiness of your children very seriously. All YMCA staff are trained in First Aid, Child Abuse and Neglect and Positive Discipline and go through a two-step screening process. All YMCA childcare programs are licensed through the state.

Full Time:

Before and after……..$76.00

Before only……..$50.00

After only……...$65.00

***financial assistance is available.**

Part Time:

Before and after……..$57.00

Before only…….$37.50

After only……$48.75

***Part-time care is available on a limited basis**

Visit www.kansascityymca.org or call 913-345-9622 and we'll be happy to answer any questions.

PTA MEMBERSHIP

Friends and Family: Stonegate PTA is working hard to create a school community where everyone is welcome and involved in the success of our children. Joining the school as a member of the PTA is the 1st step towards that success. You can still join for only $5 per membership. If you have extra time on your hands you can volunteer to go on field trips, plan and participate in classroom parties, or help with other school activities. If you can't offer time during school hours because you work, you can show support by sending a dish of your favorite food to celebrate events for teachers or do extra little jobs at home like cutting, sorting or filing papers. It takes us all to pitch in our time and talents for the children of Stonegate.

We would like to thank those parents that have already signed up with the PTA and encourage those that haven't to take the time now to send in your membership form with $5 for each member.

Stonegate Elementary PTA Membership Form

Parent's Name_____

Address_____

Home Phone_____ Cell Phone_____

Email Address_____

Student's Name_____ Teacher_____

Student's Name_____ Teacher_____

Please cut out this section and return it to school with your child. The cost of membership is $5.00. Please make checks payable to STONEGATE PTA.

Be sure to check out the National PTA web site at www.pta.org for member benefits, news, and parental resources.

Trunk or Treat

We would like to thank all the families and staff that gave out candy and to those that came out in the rain to "trunk or treat". We had many families who battled the rain and enjoyed the hot dogs, hot chocolate, candy and the hay rides. We would also like to say a special thanks to Tony Mistretta with Bannister Garden Center for the trailer and straw for our hayrides at our Trunk or Treat event.

MARK THE DATE!!!!!

SECRET SANTA STORE

COMING

December 8th—12th

Kids start saving your money to go shopping at school for your low priced holiday presents. Don't forget Mom, Dad, brother, sister, Grandma and Grandpa, Aunts and Uncles, teachers, and friends too!

Kids get to buy presents without Mom & Dad and keep it a secret!

Look for more information coming in December!

PTA BOARD MEMBERS 2008-2009

THE STONEGATE PTA BOARD IS SET AND READY TO MAKE 2008-2009 A FANTASTIC YEAR. HERE IS A LIST OF ALL THE BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESIDENT:SHELLY SUMLER
1ST VICE PRESIDENT: SHAWNA LOPEZ
2ND VICE PRESIDENT: BRITNEY JOHNSON
SECRETARY: BARB REWALD
TREASURER: JENNIFER SPARKS

BOOK FAIR: BARB REWALD & AMY BROWN
BOXTOPS: STACI DOSS
BYLAWS: GEORGIANN THOMAS
CULTURAL ARTS: GEORGIANN THOMAS
DIRECTORY: AMY SPALDING
EVENT COORDINATOR: TERA DIEPENBROCK
GROUNDS IMPROVEMENT: JENEE' SCHROEDER
HOSPITALITY: SADIE DECKER & KELLY RABY
MEMBERSHIP: SONJA MITCHELL
NEWSLETTER: TERA DIEPENBROCK
ONGOING FUNDRAISER'S: LANA LUEBBERT
OUTDOOR CLASSROOM: ASHLEIGH BAUERNFEIND

SKATING PARTY

It is time again for our next skating party.

Date: November 15th 4:45-6:45pm

Place: Landmark Skating Rink

Lee's Summit

We would love to see an even better turn out for the November skating party. This is a great time to spend a fun afternoon with your children and get to meet other Stonegate parents.

Be on the lookout for a flyer coming home in the next couple of weeks.

STONEGATE STINGRAY BRACELETS

Catch the Stingray Spirit and get one of our Stonegate Stingray bracelets! They are blue and white with "Stonegate Stingrays" and our logo on them. Order one for the whole family today. The proceeds go to Stonegate PTA. Just complete the information below and send it to school with your child. Each bracelet is $2.00.

Checks should be made payable to Stonegate PTA.

Student's Name: _____

Teacher's name: _____

# of bracelets _____ X $2.00(each) = Total _____

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kindergarten

1st Elle Russell
6th Samuel Shepard
8th Evan McDaniel
11th Chase Mitchell
13th Reece Ripley
15th Keith Minshall
29th Em Blackstone
30th Ashlyn Page

1st Grade

7th Jilliian Humke
27th Jace Custardo
29th Joshua Camp

2nd Grade

2nd Megan Russell
3rd Jacob Parker
6th Drew Fulk
7th Mia Kester
8th Brooke Haling
10th Brenton Eggers
16th Hunter Hansken
20th Faithlyn High
24th Aaron Wharton
28th Christian Liggins

3rd Grade

3rd Lauren Thayne
6th Abby Emerick
13th Samantha Curphey
16th Brian Moon

4th Grade

1st Cory Barton
6th Brady Blede
8th Justin Diaz
13th Audrey Bennett
13th Jordan Gregory
13th Charles Vestal
14th Haley Wharton
20th Tanner Davis
21st Nicholas Cook
22nd Neraie Jones
27th Matthew Greble

STAFF

2nd Barb Ayers
3rd Stacy Orf

PROJECT GRAD

Ray-Pec Project Grad again offers an opportunity for family portraits. Kerry of The Associates will take the portraits from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7; from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8; and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9, at Ray-Pec Middle School. Package A, with one 5x7, two 4x5s and eight wallets, is $27. Package B, with one 8x10, one 5x7, two 4x5s and eight wallets, is $32. Package C, with one 8x10, two 5x7s, four 4x5s and eight wallets, is $37. You may make an appointment by calling Tammy at 318-1293. The sittings are open to anyone, and proceeds benefit Project

Check out the Ray-Pec website for the lunch menu this year.

http://raypec-childnutrition.us/html/elementary.html

CLASSIFIED ADS

Would you like to have more energy, feel better, and at the same time, save money? Melaleuca's patent-pending vitamins have a 90 day money back guarantee, all products have a 60 day guarantee, and most products are less expensive than WalMart! Go to www.melaleuca.com and read about our products! Let me help you get those toxic personal care products and cosmetics away from you and your family. Just switch stores, like I did. It's that easy! Call me anytime for information. If you are interested in the business side, check out my website at www.workathomeunited.com/shelley.

Shelley Crane, Director 816.804.2749

Help with all your medical bill paperwork is here.

Medical Bill Specialist can assist you with claim forms (including Medicare), coordination of benefits, evaluation of EOBs (explanation of benefits), appeals, and audits for overcharges.

Call Darlene Rexroad RN, Claims Assistance Prof.

at 816-500-3727 for a free consultation.

Celebrating your memories has never been so easy! I offer scrapbooking, "slip in", pocket albums, quick kits, digital storybooks and custom framing. I am here to help you! I offer three opportunities: 1-turn your new love for celebrating memories into a profitable home business by joining my team 2- pick the products that can turn your pictures and memories into daily celebrations 3-save on the products of your choice by hosting a Get Together for your friends and family.
Let's get together soon. Contact me to get started. You can also visit my Web site to find out more. www.mycmsite.com/agraber
Your Life | Your Story | Your Way
April Graber ,Creative Memories Consultant
cmcapril@sbcglobal.net ~ Home: 816-318-9613 ~ Mobile: 816-804-7704

Classified ads will be limited to ads related to home based businesses offering a specific product or service, specific items for sale, home based garage sales, etc. No ads of any political nature, religious related service or service organizations. Stonegate PTA reserves the right to edit, modify or refuse any classified ads. Classified ads are not PTA endorsements. If you are interested in submitting an ad for consideration you may email Tera Diepenbrock at dt2429@msn.com or drop off your ad at the Stonegate Front Office, attention PTA Newsletter.

Trek to our Book Fair--Go on a safari for fun books!
November 17th-21st

Themed Days:

Monday—"Don't Sweat It"—wear sweat pants/shirts
Tuesday—Celebrate Mickey Mouse's Birthday—wear Mickey apparel
Wednesday—"Read on the Wild Side"—wear safari gear or animal print
Thursday—Beware of "wild" animals—bring a stuffed animal
Friday—Spirit Day—wear Stonegate shirt or colors (blue and gray)

Activities:

We will play "Guess the Safari Title"—classes will be given hints to the title of a book found in the book fair. The class that calls first with the right answer wins raffle tickets for the whole class!

We will play "Book Find". There will be several books on the shelves that have been "marked" in some way (not visible to students). If a student happens to check out one of these books, they will get a raffle ticket.

"I Can, you Can, we all Can with Reading"—We will be collecting canned goods all week that will be given to Fishes and Loaves (A local food pantry). Students will receive one raffle ticket for every can brought in.

Raffle prizes will be given on Friday. One ticket will be drawn for each prize available and the winners will be announced on the intercom.