

Stone Creek School News

June 15, 2007

Betsy Hill, Principal
Katherine Lange, Assistant to the Principal



STONE CREEK
SCHOOL
GO BOLDLY

Upcoming Events

- ◆ June 15 - TODAY is the last day to order next year's school supplies and have our school get credit.
www.EZSchoolSupplies.com
- ◆ June 27 - Board Meeting 5pm
- ◆ August 29 - Spirit Day
- ◆ August 30-31 - Assessment Days
- ◆ September 4 - First Day of School

PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS
ON OUR WEBSITE:

- 2007-2008 School Calendar
- Summer Office Hours
- Proposed Budget for next year
- REVISED Uniform Policy
- Enrollment Packets
- Family Financial Commitment Forms

Principal's News

"To fly we have to have resistance"
- Maya Lin

Dear Parents and Students,

What a year! But we are flying...

This past school year was different than any other I have ever experienced. In my 40-years in education, never have I faced the challenges that we have faced at Stone Creek School.

And yet, never have I experienced the rally and determination from parents, students and teachers. We have come together as a school and organization in a very short time. Your energy has been contagious and your participation spectacular.

We've come a long way...

From our start in hotels to the hard work we've done to keep our doors open, we have all dealt with challenges, worn many hats and continue to overcome.

Along the way, we developed many wonderful Stone Creek traditions and events - from the Valentine's Dinner Dance and Disco Funk Night to the Kentucky Derby, Principal for a Day and our finale with today's Talent Show!



The Staff

Kudos to the staff for remaining focused on the curriculum and student learning all year. Despite times when we didn't know if we would be paid or even be teaching on Monday morning, the staff continued to trust and believe in the possibilities for this school. They are an inspiration to me and each other.

The Students

Students are happy and learning - what more could we want? Many students shared with me, unsolicited, that they felt safe at Stone Creek. In some cases they were upset, because they felt unprepared for the challenging curriculum.

They worked hard and ended the year with a strong sense of pride over their accomplishments as learners. New friendships were formed, new bonds created. We are also proud of our CSAP third grade scores...and hope and pray the other scores are just as high!

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GO BOLDLY

Stone Creek School

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www.stonecreekpto.org

**Go Stone Creek MUSTANGS!**

The following students nominated our winning mascot, describing the mustang as bold, graceful, strong, fast, free and brave.

- Sarah Bakken
- Haley Frischoltz
- McKella Walsh
- Morgan Kromer
- Jordan Perry
- Emily Duncan
- Lauren Vagts
- Jena Woods
- Christian Apps

President's Update

A Letter from Kevin Kromer

BOARD NEWS

What an amazing achievement Stone Creek School has become over the past two years. Starting with inspired, determined and giving parents, a new Charter School was granted permission to open in the fall of 2006. A national search for a principal found us lucky to have Ms. Betsy Hill take charge of our school. With staff hired, and parent commitment at the helm, the school opened.

You all gave a lot to make the school work this year -- time, services, money, ideas and support. From an ice cream social, gathering classroom materials from all over the state, getting kids to class throughout the valley, moving into a school in one weekend, starting a PTO, raising funds and supporting teachers through the end of the school year, it has been busy.

The Board of Directors has been busy as well. The members of the board have changed completely in the last year, yet the concept of the school as founded and run by parents, still exist. As per our Mission Statement, **Parental Involvement** is a key to our school's success. The board and administration rely on information from the school survey as just one of the information sources from parents. From this survey, a new lunch time was instituted this year; the need for increased technology, security and Spanish are being worked on for next year.

Most of the items requested have a budgetary implication. Cash donations from parents and fundraising this year have helped tremendously. The Fund-a-Need at the Kentucky Derby will allow us to have a technology program and institute *Power School* next year. Still, we have a long way to go to pay off the approximately \$300,000 in money owed to vendors.

The budget for next year relies on fundraising and donations to make ends meet. **To that end, the board has instituted a Mandatory Materials Fee and an Discretionary Operations Donation.** Please see the "Family Financial Commitment Form" that is part of this package. We trust the value of the education your child is receiving will guide your giving at the start of the school year so that we may pay off vendors quickly, order materials and start the 07-08 school year with a solid financial outlook.

This fall will be the first election for the Board of Directors. If you have thought about getting involved, come to a board meeting, join a committee and see what it's all about. Aside from financial challenges, we are also working on issues such as future school expansion, instituting all academic curriculums, creating policies and putting student assessment tools in place as outlined in the Charter application. See brief updates from each Committee in the following pages.

We all can and should be proud of the work and accomplishments this year. Next year will no doubt bring new opportunities and challenges to our school community.

We will Go Boldly!
Kevin

Enrollment

Maintaining full enrollment is critical to the stability of our school. Our goal is to have class size be in balance with the learning environment and the financial realities of the school.

Currently we have space in the 3rd and 7th grades. We also want to have a strong waiting list for all grades.

Parents and students are our best recruiters. Please share your story with a family who might be interested in our school. Make the connection clear for them on why you choose to send your children here. Give them your honest and clear picture of what the school is like.

Our Enrollment Package is available online.

Technology

We raised over 30K for Fund-a-Need at the Kentucky Derby event! These monies will be used to purchase:

- Power School
- Mobile computer carts
- And more!

Facilities

We have two major objectives:

- Repairs at Yoder Avenue
- Finding a permanent school site!

We are meeting with land owners, other schools and local government to begin dialogue.

Please consider a donation the **Capital Campaign Fund**. Monies raised for this campaign will cover expenses associated with moving buildings to a new location or finding another option.

The Votes are In!

PTO elections were held at the last meeting and here are the results:

President
Sandy Apps

Vice President
Karen Eyrich

Secretary
Jill Bossow

Treasurer
Stephanie Novasad

The position of President Elect was left vacant. But we will continue to search to fill that position.

PTO chair terms are one year per our bylaws.



SCS Yearbooks

You can still get one!
All payments must be received by June 30th.

If you have pictures for the yearbook please contact April ASAP.

April Nottingham
PO Box 3333
Eagle, CO 81631
970/376-0654
amnottgott@msn.com

PTO Year-End Wrap-up

We heard a new family was coming to our school because - *'Our parents are a force to be reckoned with!'* What a perfect way to describe the amazing efforts of PTO parents.

First year's accomplishments

We've raised nearly \$30K through efforts such as: Jog-a-thon, City Market Cares program, Original Works of Art, Holiday Fair and Santa's Workshop, Ski Swap, Year Books, Dining at Moe's and straight-out donations.

These funds, along with a lot of sweat equity from volunteers sponsored initiatives, such as:

- Spirit Day and Field Day
- Ribbon cutting ceremony
- PTO web site
- A new playground
- A library and shelving
- A PTO computer for parent use
- Designer hats for the Kentucky Derby
- Teacher Appreciation Programs
- A Teacher Scholarship Program
- Ski Club Vail/Ski School
- Sunshine Math w/ ice cream party
- The Chess Program
- Hot Lunch Program
- School Yearbook and Student Newspaper
- Talent Show
- Trip to Water World for our Pride Patrol

Other Monies to Report

- Over \$6,000 went directly to teachers room needs;
- Over \$4,800 went to purchase reading lab and classroom books through book fairs;
- Over \$1,000 went to our art department.



Thank you for the incredible efforts the home room parents in assisting our teachers in the classroom and organized volunteers for so many things including the lunch and playground.

Thank you to the amazing teachers who assisted the PTO and all their efforts.
- Sandy

Welcome to Middle School

At Stone Creek School, we will provide opportunities for early adolescents that:

*Develop the mind
Excite the Spirit
...and will change the world.*

With our student teacher ratio, highly trained staff, and parent involvement we are able to provide a program that gives students a glimpse of the possibilities that exist for themselves.

They will see the power they have to create a future of accomplishment and satisfaction. They will be inspired to make choices that support their dreams.

They will learn to persevere through rigorous intellectual challenges and feel a sense of accomplishment that inspires them to do more. They will participate in thoughtful discourse about real life issues as they participate in our challenging curriculum.

Opportunities for leadership are abundant...They will learn to feel pride in their accomplishments and be inspired to make a difference in the world.....

Stone Creek School offers:

- A partnership for sports programs with The Vail Academy.
- An Outdoor Education Program partnership with Meet the Wilderness.
- Spanish classes (by level) for 45 minutes at least two days per week.
- A teacher specializing in literacy and history and a teacher specializing in math and science.
- Opportunities for students to work at their level in math and literacy.
- Support for Special Needs students (Special Education, Gifted and Talented).
- An elective program.
- A technology lab and technology instruction.
- Support in character development, personal accountability, interpersonal relationships, and leadership.

Go Middle School!

Communications

We have laid the foundation for the revolutionary Stone Creek School story - Go Boldly! Watch how we continue to use this platform for our communications and outreach efforts.

Here's what to look for next:

- A redesign of our website
- Ads for Middle School
- A Board Bulletin Board
- A story about the Ortiz Family in the Vail Daily



Outreach

Attracting a diverse school community takes a grass roots effort. We are forming an Outreach Committee to focus on this important work.

Please contact Julie Norberg if you can help this Committee at: jnorberg@onesourceglobalmfg.com

Spanish-speaking parents with ties to the local Hispanic community are encouraged to sign on.

Fundraising

In our inaugural year, we had great fundraising success through events like the Valentine's Dance, the Kentucky Derby and the 70's Disco. For the coming year, we are looking into new opportunities including a golf tournament.

We will be working closely with the PTO, creating an overall fundraising and events calendar, to ensure we don't conflict efforts and achieve better planning with the community.

Our current proposed budget counts on over \$300K in fundraising and grants so there is a lot of work to do! Get involved!

Finance

The proposed 2007-2008 school budget is posted on the Stone Creek School website at www.stonecreekschool.org.

To date, we have paid off 13 vendors. Once the budget is approved, we will endeavor to set-up a payment plan with the remaining vendors.

Student Fees

To meet operating costs, we have instituted a **Mandatory \$300 / per student Books and Materials fee, and are suggesting a \$995 / per student Operational Donation.** Please find a copy of the Family Financial Commitment attached to this newsletter.

You can opt to pay in full or establish a payment plan. Families with financial hardships - please contact Betsy for a waiver of fees.

Human Resources

All of our wonderful teachers have renewed their contracts for the 2007-2008 school year!

Two new teachers have been hired:

- Brittani Lutterman - 3rd grade
- Donna Baskins - Middle School

The HR Committee is forming and will meet over the summer. Interested parents, contact Toni McCabe: tmccabe@stonecreekschool.org.

HIRING! Full-time Office Manager
Interested individuals should contact Betsy at bhill@stonecreekschool.org.

Thank you to our great parents for volunteering in the school office over the past year!

Uniforms

Based on the results from our School Survey, we have more clearly defined our uniform policy and guidelines, including:

- more shirt color options
- a spirit wear uniform

See our website for details and changes to the uniform. We receive credit for uniforms purchased through Land's End:

- 1-800-469-2222
- www.landsend.com
- Our number is 9001-1584-1.

Principal's News (continued)

The Parents

The way parents came together during the January Crisis was heart warming and humbling. Parents have gone boldly to shape the future of their children's education under extraordinary circumstances. All the numerous hours and dedicated people have kept this place alive.

We GO BOLDLY . . .

As we look into the future, our focus is clear and direction purposeful.

- We will develop a 3-year Strategic Plan that more clearly defines action items and time lines around our goals to: **Develop the mind, Excite the spirit and Change the world.**
- Staff will continue with curriculum training, critical thinking skills, and clearly define writing expectations K-7.
- I will spend more time in the classroom with more focus on rigor and critical thinking.
- We will create accountability for behavior, uniforms, and virtues.
- We will enhance communications with parents and get more response to surveys.
- We will develop a complete security / emergency plan and be more proactive in community outreach.
- We will kick-off and refine our Middle School Program.

I welcome your feedback and suggestions as we continue to move our revolutionary school forward.

Happy Summer,
Betsy

