

# STENWOOD BUZZ

May 19, 2010

## Kelly's Comments

Dear Stenwood Families,

It is with a heavy heart that I write my last newsletter column to you. These past six years being on the Stenwood PTA Board have been some of the most rewarding work of my life.

Through laughter, pride, joy and sadness we have seen many changes at our wonderful school and now we see the actual physical changes occurring. Changes that will challenge our patience, pull us together, possibly cause some derision, but ultimately will bring us a fantastic new facility, worthy to house this scholastic community.

It never ceases to amaze me when I see the resilience on the faces of our children, regardless of whether is it bouncing back from a disagreement at recess, a less than stellar grade or the loss of a friend or teacher. Their optimism and fortitude to keep going remind us all that our challenges today are our victories tomorrow. The sound of their laughter, the whispered voices of best friends, the strength of conviction to defend an underdog, all so familiar to us, yet so quickly forgotten as we grow older.

*by Kelly Grizzel*

At this time of great challenges, daily changes to our routines, and stressors that bring us to exhaustion, let's all take a deep breath and a moment to look upon our neighbors and remember some of the things we learned way back in kindergarten. From the great poet, Robert Fulghum;

*"...play fair, clean up your own mess, say you are sorry when you hurt someone, wash your hands before you eat, live a balanced life. Learn some, think some, draw, paint, sing and dance, play and work some every day. Watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together, and be aware of all the wonder."*

Simple idea, magically full of wisdom and truth.

I wish each and every one of you no less than the greatest potential life has to offer; our children, especially, deserve no less. Thank you again for the honor and privilege to serve.

With best wishes for a bright tomorrow,

*Kelly Grizzel  
PTA President  
(kellygrizzel@cox.net)*



**Join us in June**  
*to brainstorm a new year  
with a new PTA Board*

New leadership brings new ideas, and we want your input.

When: June 8, 7pm

Where: Cafeteria

Who: Everyone, whether new to Stenwood or a seasoned "pro"

**Dates to Remember**

September 2 – Stenwood  
Open House

## Prepare for Paperless Next Year

We've talked about it for a year, and now it's finally time. For the 2010/2011 school year, all PTA communications will be paperless. You'll receive Wednesday e-mails instead of Wednesday paper folders. To prepare, we've been posting "virtual Wednesday mail folders" on the PTA website all of this year as promised.

**Make Sure You're Signed Up.** There are two ways to ensure you receive regular communications from school and PTA:

- 1) *FCPS Keep in Touch (KIT)*: If you have a FCPS 24-7 Learning Parent View account, you can enter your email address through a link called [weCare@school](mailto:weCare@school) after you log into your account. To log in to your Parent View Account, go to [fcps.blackboard.com](http://fcps.blackboard.com). No Parent View account? Just update the Emergency Care Card ([fcps.edu/DIT/forms/se3.pdf](http://fcps.edu/DIT/forms/se3.pdf)) form and send it to school.
- 2) *Just Between Friends*: Go to [justbetweenfriends.com](http://justbetweenfriends.com) and use token "14160TOK" to enter your household information.

**Don't Have Internet Access?** No worries. We'll be producing a limited number of paper Wednesday mail packets. Just contact your child's room parent or teacher and alert them that you'll require paper packets.

## Spring Book Fair a Great Event

The Spring Book Fair and Literacy Night were a big hit! Thank you to everyone who came and cheered our talented Kindergarten performers and directors, participated in the Literacy Night events, and supported our school library through purchases made at the book fair.

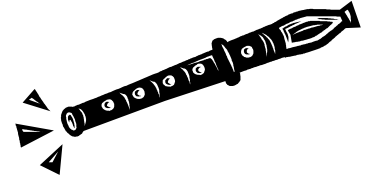
A big thank you to the wonderful volunteers who staffed the book fair all week.

We all helped raise more than \$2,000 for our children's library!

See you all at the Fall Book Fair!

Valerie Murphy,  
Book Fair Chair

## Daniel J. Fissell Music Foundation Seeks Recorders



The Music Foundation established to honor Stenwood's strings teacher, Daniel Fissell, after his tragic death is seeking donations of gently used recorders. The mission of the foundation is to further music education in the Philippines through introducing music into elementary schools and funding college studies for aspiring music teachers.

If you have recorders that you're no longer using, please bring them to school and place them in the donation box in Ms. Fucile's music room. The foundation will arrange to have them cleaned and transported.

This is just such a wonderful way to honor Mr. Fissell and share his love of music with the world.

## School Supplies On Sale Soon

If you're looking for the easiest way to make sure your child has all the required school supplies for next year, this is it.

Order forms, from SchoolKidz, will be coming home soon, and this is the only time they'll be offered this year. Don't miss your chance to make September a little less crazy!

Please fill out the form coming home—that way your child's kit will be waiting in the classroom on the first day of school.

But, if you *do* miss the form's deadline, you can still order through [www.schoolkidz.com](http://www.schoolkidz.com). Find the supply list for Stenwood, place your order, and have the supplies shipped to your home.

Questions? Contact *Kelly Grizzell* at [kellygrizzel@cox.net](mailto:kellygrizzel@cox.net)



## Gift Card Bingo— BRAVO!

*Jenny Gunderman and Sharon Burns* send a big thanks to all the parents who sent in gift cards for the Gift Card Bingo during Teachers' Appreciation Week.

*Stenwood's wonderful families sent in more than \$1,600 in gift cards!*

We had a great time playing the game, and the teachers always appreciate the variety of stores they can shop in for free!

## Dine Out with Us Once More

Join the Stenwood families in all their *glory* as we enjoy one more Dine Out, with a portion of the night's proceeds going to our PTA.

When: Thursday, May 27,  
5:30-7:30pm

Where: Glory Days restaurant  
(Pan Am Shopping Center,  
Nutley St. & Rt. 29)

Who: Everyone!

Why: It's fun, it's food, and it earns money for your PTA

*Details coming in Wednesday mail.*



*Is it summer yet?*

## Welcome and Thank You New Volunteers



The entire PTA community is thankful that the following member have stepped up to take on a new role in helping Stenwood's students, teachers, and staff. THANK YOU!!

Wednesday Mail Chair—Diane Moreno (Jenny Guyton's mom) will ensure those who need to receive paper copies are kept in the loop.

Cultural Arts Programming—Natasha Bullotta will bring in some fun assembly speakers for the kids—some of the favorites, plus some new ideas

School Supplies Chair—Wendy Taylor is taking on the role of ensuring all those supply kits make it to your kid's room the first day of school.

Sixth Grade Celebration—Alice Ferguson is taking on this fundraising and planning role to make sure our rising sixth graders have a memory-making end of year party.

\*\*\*\*\* A BIG THANKS is due to *Lorenne Schlaffer*, who has kept a smile on her face each Wednesday morning as she managed the Wednesday mail packets for all of us. \*\*\*\*\*

## A Re-Cap of Just How You've Helped the School

As we end one year and prepare for another, your PTA Board wants to let you know just how important your support is to the school. You see all the flyers and e-mails about fundraisers and activities – but many of you might not fully understand how much our school depends on the funds that come from the PTA.



Here's just a high level re-cap of how you have made a difference in the past year.

### FUN & SOCIAL STUFF

Flip Flop Hop  
Ice Cream Social  
New Parent Coffee  
Office Staff Appreciation  
Staff Retirement Celebrations  
Teacher Appreciation  
Teacher Luncheons

### PROGRAMS & SUPPORT

Art Supplies (via *Original Works* proceeds)  
Buildings & Grounds  
Character Education  
Chess Club  
Cultural Arts Assemblies  
Field Day  
Field Trips  
GRACE Arts  
Heritage Festival  
Library Purchases (via *Book Fair* proceeds)  
Literacy Night  
Patrols (*student training*)  
Physical Fitness  
Recorders  
Student Council Association  
Science Fair  
SHAW - Red Ribbon Week  
Spelling Bee  
Teacher Vouchers (one for each teacher, to allow them to decorate classrooms in September)

*Go ahead, lean back right now,  
look at this list, and pat yourself  
on the back. The fundraisers you  
take part in, and the money and  
time you donate really DO make a  
big difference in your  
child's school.*



*Oh, please hurry...*

**Your Stenwood PTA  
Executive Board**

**President:** Kelly Grizzel,  
kellygrizzel@cox.net

**First Vice President:**  
Teresa Buckley,  
lotuswisdom@ymail.com

**Second Vice President**  
Lisa Youngers  
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**Secretary:** Jennifer Guyton  
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**Treasurer:** Scott Cadle  
stenwoodptatreasurer@  
gmail.com

**Asst. Treasurer:** Gity Porjosh  
gityn@hotmail.com

**Your NEW Stenwood PTA  
Executive Board  
(for the 2010/11 school year)**

**President:**  
Teresa Buckley

**First Vice President:**  
Scott Cadle

**Second Vice President:**  
Tracy Ortolano

**Secretary:**  
Jennifer Guyton

**Treasurer:**  
Karen Meadows-Hills

**Assistant Treasurer:**  
Gity Porjosh

**Input for the newsletter:**

Sheila Blaine, editor  
sheila.blaine@saidwell.com

**BE A BIG HELP NEXT YEAR  
Grab a friend or two and make a difference**

We still need help filling positions for next year...a couple of them are absolutely key to our fundraising efforts.

*There will be NO FUN FAIR next year due to renovations — that's a loss of at least \$7,000 for our PTA. So our other fundraising efforts are more important than ever.*

Critical  
Need  
Here!!

**Gift Wrap Fundraiser**—Our biggest annual fundraiser!! With no Fun Fair next year, we really need this one to succeed.

*Duties include:* prepare packets for all students, collect and tally orders, work with the company before and after delivery, distribute orders. Coordinate returns and exchanges.

*Time estimate:* 25-30 hours in Aug. through Nov. with most of the work occurring during Sept. and Oct.

**Dine Outs**—Meet the managers of local restaurants and see firsthand the fruits of your labor when Stenwood families come out in hordes to eat dinner.

*Duties include:* work with popular restaurants to organize specific nights when Stenwood PTA gets a portion of the proceeds; send home ad flyers.

*Time estimate:* 5-7 hours per dine out event

**Welcome Teacher/Staff Back to School Week**—You were new to Stenwood once, and now you can help others just coming in.

*Duties include:* send out information packet to new Stenwood families, match new families with “seasoned” Stenwood families, invite them to upcoming Stenwood events, answer questions, organize teacher luncheon.

*Time estimate:* 20-30 hours Aug./Sept.

**Box Tops Co-Chair**—Join our current chair to help things stay on track.

*Duties include:* work with Daina Wickham to help organize recognition activities for top coupon/box top savers.

*Time estimate:* 5-10 hours near end of year

**Hospitality**—You're sure to be popular with teachers and staff—so why not?!

*Duties include:* organize monthly grade-level-sponsored teacher luncheons with volunteer parents, assist other chairs with back-to-school week and teacher appreciation week, coordinate teacher gift wrap day in December.

*Time estimate:* 5 hours per month, depending on events

**Teacher Appreciation Week**—Help the entire Stenwood community show our teachers how thankful we are for being a part of your child's education.

*Duties include:* organizing fun and creative activities for each day of this one week (e.g., gift card bingo, flowers/cards, luncheon, lottery tickets, breakfast, etc.)

*Time estimate:* 20 hours in April/May

**Communications Chair**—A new position to help ensure info is getting out there.

*Duties include:* assure the effective, accurate, and timely delivery of PTA communications by working with chairs (newsletter, webmaster, Wednesday mail, directory, liaisons) and the President.

*Time estimate:* 5 hours per month at most.

If you can help with any of these important roles, please contact :

Teresa Buckley—703-560-7370 or lotuswisdom@ymail.com