

The Chalkboard

DON'T FORGET! | January 26-February 15

JANUARY 28, 2008

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
26	27	28 <i>Out-of-boundary process begins</i>	29	30	31	1 <i>Pre-K Sign-Up 8:00AM</i> <i>Report cards issued</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15

2/18 Presidents' Day holiday **2/20** Executive PTA meeting

Happy New Year, Stoddert Families!

As we near the second month in 2008, it is my pleasure to note that we are successfully moving on with our school year. I would first like to thank all the parents and friends that sent cards, telephone wishes, gifts and other gestures of kindness for the holiday season. Your kindness and generosity is appreciated. Second, I would like to extend many thanks to all the members of the PTA for their support during the first semester and their willingness to help in the many efforts to make Stoddert an even more "stellar" educational institute affiliated with DCPS.

On January 21st we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, and I hope that his message of peace and collaboration will continue to be emphasized. This is so important to a very diverse community like ours. Learning and working together is of great importance.

On the 25th school was dismissed at 12:15. This was a record-keeping day and marks the culmination of the first half of the school term. A reminder to parents of 3rd-, 4th- and 5th-graders: January 29th and 30th are the two dates for our

DBAS #2. We hope that our learners have grown in the first semester and will work toward reaching even higher goals as the year proceeds. Report card #2 will be issued on February 1st, 2008.

My message this month is about encouragement. Let's all work on encouraging our children to love and accept learning. Let's praise them when they accomplish great things. Let's show respect for one another as we role model for our young friends. Let's help them set realistic goals that will help them to grow, achieve and feel pride for their accomplishments. The language of encouragement can be as simple as, "It's so nice that you enjoy learning about this", or "You're making progress and I'm sure you will do just fine", or a simple, "I love how you did this and would really enjoy seeing more of the same in the future" (*Dinkmeyer, D., McKay, D., Dinkmeyer, D., 1997*). A few words of encouragement can transfer and blossom into positive learning experiences.

Again, thanks for all you do, and I hope that we can look forward to a happy, healthy and prosperous new year together.

Sincerely, Dr. Andriana Kalapothakos, Principal

Dear Stoddert Family,

At this month's PTA meeting, there was a long discussion about the proliferation of candy and sweets at Stoddert and the use of candy as a reward. There was a lot of concern from parents who limit the consumption of candy in their homes. While there is a lot of disagreement about the use of a reward system, there was unanimous agreement that candy should not be used as an incentive. In addition, some parents allow candy to be brought to school in backpacks, making limiting candy at Stoddert a difficult task. Dr. K agreed to speak with teachers about the use of candy as a reward for good behavior or doing work. Now it is up to us to help limit the amount of candy that your children bring to school.

We encourage parents who agree or disagree with this issue to put their thoughts on the Stoddert Blog by sending an email to stoddert-blog.stoddert@blogger.com. You may view the Stoddert Blog on the Stoddert website at www.stoddert.org. Currently there is a discussion about the quantity and quality of TV at the school. We would like to hear from parents who feel strongly about any particular issue or have a particular concern. It would be good to have healthy discussions about our concerns.

Winter is finally upon us. Please take time to ensure that your child is warmly dressed. Make sure that they bring their gloves, hat, and scarf. Children are able to be outside at recess when the temperature is above 32°F. Children need and should have outdoor activities as much as possible.

Finally, as the media remind us, the U.S. presidential election season is upon us. Please participate in whatever capacity you can. At a time where democracy is not necessarily fully available to many of the countries that our children come from, we should use this election season to provide civic lessons on how the right to vote in the U.S. works. Step up and participate!

Chantale Wong, PTA Co-President

Get Your News

Sign up to receive Stoddert updates by email. Just send a request to Wendy Sefsaf at wfelizali@aol.com and you will be added to the list.

Thank-You Corner

Ms. Bruce and the Stoddert community thank Michael Hernando for fixing the library shelves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stoddert Pre-K registration on February 1, 2008

Pre-K registration will take place at Stoddert on February 1, 2008, beginning at 8:00 A.M. This registration is only for in-bounds students. Parents will need proof that their child will be four years old by September 30, 2008, as well as proof of residency. Parents will need to re-register their child in July 2008, with the full set of required documents.

Le Big Chili is coming!

Mark your calendars for April 27, 5-8 P.M. when Stoddert Elementary will hold its biggest fundraiser of the year, Le Big Chili! This evening of dinner, drinks and a silent and live auction will be held at La Maison Française at the French Embassy. Money raised at the Big Chili helps to meet our school's critical needs. The PTA provides funding for important elements of the educational program: books for the library and classrooms; computers; and stipends for teachers to purchase supplies for their classrooms.

You do not have to have a child attending Stoddert to make a donation or attend the auction, so please bring friends and family! Please plan to take advantage of this opportunity to socialize at the French Embassy, get to know other Stoddert parents and teachers, pick up some great auction items, and help the PTA.

Contact Molly Evans with questions or for more information: (evans.cohen@gmail.com or 337-0134)

Six School Council Planned Activities

Science Night:

The date of February 12 has been reserved for the Complex schools to participate in the Smithsonian's Science Night at the Air and Space Museum. This event is open to students in grades 3 and up. It is an event for the student and parent. The museum opens at 6:45 PM for our group only. Council reps chose the interactive talk "How Big is Big" and the IMAX 3-D Film "Space Station 3-D". Katherine Latterner will prepare flyers and reservation forms for distribution at schools. Council reps will assist with collecting forms and keeping the count current. The event can only accommodate 400 attendees.