



CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26, 2018

We are ... MUSTANG STRONG!

Greetings SSA Community,

We welcome you this week to another edition of Campus Highlights celebrating our school and children's achievements; however, we first want to take time to address the tragic situation at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida along with the numerous school threats occurring in the Phoenix area and across the United States.

Our thoughts remain with everyone affected by this most recent event, as the students and teachers prepare to return to school this week. We acknowledge and appreciate the bravery and quick thinking of students, teachers, first responders, and everyone else assisting that day to protect the children. As educators and parents, it is difficult to comprehend such tragic events and we continue to try and make sense out of such acts. We are also trying to find ways to help our children feel safe and resilient in a world that sometimes feels unpredictable and scary.

At Stepping Stones Academy your children are more than "students" to us – **they are our children, also!** We spend countless hours with them, often spending more hours with our SSA children than our own children and families. We do so much more than simply "teach" the children – we care for them, we celebrate with them, we are sad with them, we worry about them, and most of all, **we love them!** As educators, we take the children home with us in our thoughts, dreams, and conversations. We think about them after school, while working in the evening, when lying in bed at night, and when we wake up in the morning. We think about them every night of the week, as well as Saturday, Sunday, break time, and all summer. **For when staff members sign on at Stepping Stones Academy it is more than a job – it is a lifestyle!**



As we all work through our thoughts and feelings about this most recent event, we encourage you to do as we are doing at Stepping Stones Academy – continuing with our schedule and activities to provide normalcy and routine, reassuring our children they are in a safe and secure place, and loving our children fiercely! For the people who assign homework, insist on children follow the rules, and hold children accountable for completing assignments are the same people who will do whatever it takes to keep our children safe!

As always, **SSA EVERY DAY!**

Mrs. Panagopoulos and Ms. Stewart-Alliger



SAVE THE DATE ...

SSA MICRO NIGHT!

Thursday, March 15th 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Mustang Village in Action ... Shop, Shop, Shop!

All K-8th grade students needed to work at their Micro businesses!



SSA - DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES!



COMING SPRING BREAK ...

SSA SPRING BREAK CAMP

March 26th – 30th

7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

\$25.00 per child

\$20.00 for siblings



WORDS FROM THE STUDENTS

In Micro I work in Purple Assistants in the Office. I have learned how to help people in the office, pass out papers to teachers' mailboxes, and how to make ice packs.

Christine Silaghi, 4th grade

This year I have learned how to solve different equations.

Corbin Ripple, 8th grade

My Micro job is arts-n-crafts. I like that we get to go shopping.

Jacob Lunsford, 3rd grade

What I like most about SSA are the animals. I love Micro and Micro Marketplace. I also like how we go on fun field trips. My favorite field trip was going to the movie theater to see, *Wonder*.

Jada St. Jean-Stevens, 5th grade

In Micro I learned the value of my business and to choose who I work with wisely.

Stephanie Vega, 6th grade





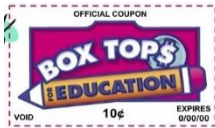
SOCK HOP

Friday, March 9th 9:00-10:30 a.m.
K-4th Grades Cost = \$3.00

Sponsored by 8th Grade Class

Tickets on sale next week!

Students may dress in Sock Hop attire or wear school uniform.



REMEMBER BOX TOPS!

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION = MONEY FOR SSA!



THANK YOU FAMILIES!



TUESDAY, AUGUST 7TH
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
FOR 2018-2019



WORDS FROM THE STUDENTS

My Micro job is a sheriff and I like that we get to be on the playground while we watch everyone.

Elizabeth Uebel, 3rd grade

At SSA I like that the teachers are nice and caring. I like that there are no bullies. I also like that we have P.E. and Spanish and 45 minute recesses.

Tanner Thompson, 5th grade

My Micro job is in the bank and I have learned how to deal with loans.

Isabele Lombardi, 4th grade

Something I have learned this year is the periodic table.

Brie Binder, 8th grade

In Micro this year I have learned that taxes are not fun.

Dillon Connelley, 6th grade

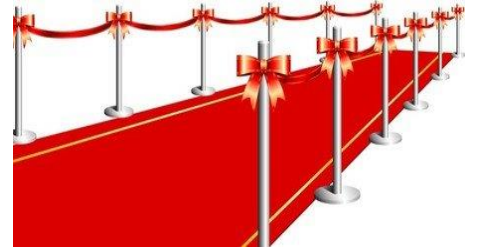


RED CARPET DANCE

Friday, March 16th 1:00-2:30 p.m.

5th-8th Grades Cost = \$5.00

Sponsored by 8th Grade Class



SSA EVERY DAY!



**FEBRUARY LITERACY ACHIEVEMENT
AND FAST FACTS CALENDARS
DUE NEXT MONDAY, MARCH 5TH!**

WORDS FROM THE STUDENTS

In Micro I have learned that personal taxes are harder than they seem and that work can get stressful.

Kaden Lethem, 6th grade

I like a lot of things about SSA. I like the goats, horses, and pigs. I like Micro, but most of all I like P.E.

Jared MacLiver, 5th grade

My Micro job is the Government and I like that my Micro teacher is nice.

Grace Driscoll, 3rd grade

In 8th grade I have learned about all different diseases and where they come from.

Aidan Brewington, 8th grade

My Micro job is in the newspaper. I have learned how to use the computer more.

Kaden Cannon, 4th grade



END OF 3RD QUARTER = 10 days and counting!

END OF 3RD QUARTER IS FRIDAY, MARCH 9TH!

Green Eggs and Ham ... One Fish, Two Fish ... Cat in the Hat ...



HAPPY BIRTHDAY DR. SEUSS!

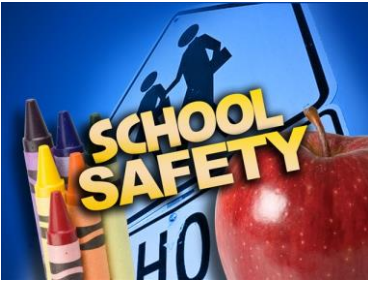
Friday, March 2nd

Dr. Seuss celebrations planned in each classroom



SAFETY PLANS IN PLACE AT STEPPING STONES ACADEMY

As always, at Stepping Stones Academy the safety and well-being of our children is of utmost importance. After the recent events in Florida followed by the continuous school threats around the U.S., we wish to reassure our families plans and procedures remain in place for emergency situations, including evacuations and lock-downs.



Each summer we review the plans with Homeland Security and the local authorities. We also complete this process during the school year to ensure the most current and safe plans are in place. Staff members are trained on these procedures and we frequently review the process with staff members to update information, address new issues, and answer questions.

Currently the awareness and emphasis on school safety remains concerning for all stakeholders. With this in mind, we recently reviewed with all staff members the safety plans and procedures, as well as how to best address children's questions. We will continue to practice both evacuation and lock-down procedures just as we do each year. Be assured, each and every day, we continually remain vigilant and proactive when our children's safety is involved and all of us at Stepping Stones Academy take this responsibility very seriously.

SSA EVERY DAY!

Mrs. Panagopoulos and Ms. Stewart-Alliger

THANK YOU, PARENTS!



SSA SCIENCE FAIR

5TH-8TH GRADES

TUESDAY, APRIL 24TH



HELPING OUR CHILDREN – WHAT TO SAY? WHAT TO DO?

With the recent events occurring in our schools, many of us are once again stopping and reflecting on “what ifs?” As adults we work to process the information about what occurred and many times struggle with making sense of such events.

Our children also work to understand such news; however, their abilities to vocalize thoughts and feelings are much different than ours. Some children have little to no understanding about what occurred and other children have so much information they are unsure what to do with it all.

To assist families in helping children make sense out of such events, we are including five tips suggested by school psychologists and social workers. These tips are not designed to provide all of the answers, but hopefully will serve useful when addressing children’s questions.



- 1. Reassure children they are safe** - Recognize children may become concerned something bad will happen to themselves, family, or friends. Validate their feelings and explain safety measures are in place. Reassure them adults will take care of them.
- 2. Make time to talk but do not dwell on the event** – Let the children’s questions be the guide as to how much information to provide. Avoid having adult conversations regarding the event in front of children; however, be available to answer questions to the best of your ability. Young children may not be able to express themselves verbally. Pay attention to changes in their behavior.
- 3. Limit exposure to media coverage** - Images of a disaster or crisis can become overwhelming, especially if watched repetitively. Young children in particular may not be able to distinguish between images on television and their personal reality. Older children may choose to watch the news, so be available to discuss what they see and to help put it into perspective.
- 4. Review safety procedures** – This includes safety procedures at both school and home. Help children identify at least one adult in the school and community to whom they should go if they feel threatened or unsafe.
- 5. Maintain normal family routines** - Routine family activities, classes and friends help children feel more secure. Ensure children get plenty of sleep, regular meals, and exercise.

WORDS FROM THE STUDENTS

My Micro job is Amazing Scientists. I like we get to do science, because Science is my favorite subject.
Melania Cruz, 3rd grade

I have learned this year that not everyone is your friend.
Troy Johnson, 8th grade

My Micro job is Purple People Lotions and Potions. I have learned how to make lip and hand scrubs.
William Sanchez, 4th grade



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1 st	HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MISS MAHRT	
March 2 nd	Read Across America Day Blue Jean Friday – Cost = \$1.00	
March 3 rd	HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MRS. ALLEN Mustang Flag Football Team Tournament	
March 5 th	Literacy Achievement and Fast Facts Calendars Due	
March 6 th	Renaissance Festival Field Trip – 5 th -8 th grades	
March 7 th	HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MRS. MORGAN	
March 9 th	End of 3 rd Quarter – ½ Day Sock Hop – K-4 th grades Class Awards Assemblies Teacher In-Service	11:30 a.m. Dismissal 9:00-10:30 a.m. 7 th -8 th grades – 10:00 a.m. 5 th -6 th grades – 10:15 a.m. 2 nd -4 th grades – 10:30 a.m. K-1 st grades – 10:45 a.m. 12:00-3:00 p.m.
March 12 th	Will Lars Return to Stepping Stones Academy????	
March 14 th	Literacy Achievement Lunch for February Award Winners	Lunchtime
March 15 th	Fast Facts Breakfast for February Award Winners Spring Festival – Micro Night	7:30-7:55 a.m. 4:00-6:00 p.m.
March 16 th	No School Uniform for February Perfect Attendance Red Carpet Dance – 5 th -8 th grades	1:00-2:30 p.m.
March 19 th	Report Cards Sent Home	
March 22 nd	Overnight Field Trip to Desert Outdoor Center – 4 th grade	
March 23 rd	½ Day	11:30 a.m. Dismissal
March 26 th -30 th	Spring Break - SSA Camp	7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.