



# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

WEEK OF MAY 7, 2018

## We are ... MUSTANG STRONG!



### REAL HEROES DON'T WEAR CAPES ... THEY TEACH AT SSA!



This week is National Teacher Appreciation Week, a week for everyone across the country to celebrate teachers. At Stepping Stones Academy we like to celebrate our teachers throughout the year, but this week in particular we shine the spotlight on our marvelous **SUPERHERO TEACHING STAFF!**

These superheroes are not easy to recognize at first glance because they do not wear capes, red tights, or masks. They do not leap from tall buildings, drive a Batmobile, or fly through the air. Though some students claim these superheroes have supersonic hearing, x-ray vision, and invisibility, the truth is they work to save the world by



building **POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS**,  
creating **MAGICAL LEARNING**,  
and doing **WHATEVER IT TAKES!**



As administrators it is our honor and privilege to present to the Stepping Stones Academy community **SSA SUPERHERO TEACHERS!**

- |                       |                     |                         |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Mrs. Allen</i>     | <i>Ms. Fisk</i>     | <i>Mrs. Robinson</i>    |
| <i>Miss Bailey</i>    | <i>Mrs. Gardner</i> | <i>Mrs. Rom</i>         |
| <i>Ms. Branham</i>    | <i>Miss Garrett</i> | <i>Miss Rust</i>        |
| <i>Mrs. Burczyk</i>   | <i>Mrs. Geiser</i>  | <i>Mr. Shinker</i>      |
| <i>Mrs. Carpenter</i> | <i>Mrs. Johnson</i> | <i>Mrs. Venafro</i>     |
| <i>Mrs. Clements</i>  | <i>Mrs. Lee</i>     | <i>Miss Vonderscher</i> |
| <i>Miss Crommett</i>  | <i>Miss Mackey</i>  | <i>Miss Wilson</i>      |

We invite you to join in this celebration and ask you to take some time this week to thank these **SUPERHEROES** for ...

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE and CHANGING LIVES ... ONE CHILD AT A TIME!



**SSA EVERY DAY!**

*Mrs. Panagopoulos and Ms. Stewart-Alliger*

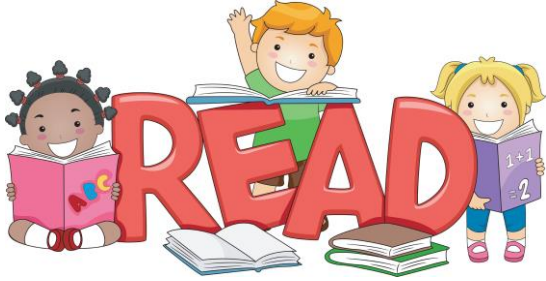
# **AVOID THE SUMMER SLIDE OF SKILLS!**

## **PRACTICE READING AND MATH**

### **SUMMER READING AND MATH CALENDARS SENT HOME NEXT WEEK**

*Research strongly supports the importance of continuing the practice of reading and math skills throughout the summer to avoid the "Summer Slide of Skills."*

Stepping Stones Academy also strongly supports the continuation of these skills during the summer as it is obvious to teachers in August which children practiced reading and math in June and July and those who did not.



Caleendars for June and July are provided to families so they may record the minutes practiced during these months. Students are encouraged to practice a minimum total of 500 minutes for June and July and turn in their calendars by the due date in August. (The due date will be announced on the first day of school in August.) Students turning in one or both calendars in August will receive a certificate and

Mrs. Panagopoulos and Ms. Stewart-Alliger will also provide a "surprise" for students turning in calendars. It remains a mystery as to what the "surprise" will be this August.

Summer calendars will be sent home with students on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> and will also be emailed to families. Calendars are available throughout the summer simply by contacting the School Office.

**E-mail!**

**PLEASE LET SSA KNOW ABOUT EMAIL CHANGES  
TO ENSURE SUMMER INFORMATION IS RECEIVED!**



**Need books for summer reading?  
Looking for a great bargain?**

**VISIT BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE  
BOOK FAIR**

**Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**

**Book Fair is ONE DAY only!**

## **NJHS SURPRISES NEW MEMBERS WITH PIZZA PARTY**

Last Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) members surprised the new inductees with a pizza party at lunchtime to celebrate their membership into the organization. The members "kidnapped" the inductees by surprising them in their classrooms and leading them to the party where they were greeted with warm welcomes and much enthusiasm.

Thanks to Mrs. Geiser, NJHS advisor, and NJHS members for organizing this event and congratulations to the new members!

Current NJHS members include Yelena Trapp, Sophia Gray, Kolten Armstrong, Peyton Sourant, Emily Bragg, Samantha Barnett, Cierra Witham, Gabrielle Rubie, Mason Joslin, Yekaterina Trapp, and Ethan Boisvert.

New members include Jennifer Wood, Gracelyn Bliss, Dakota Harvey, Kenzie Stewart, Natalee Johnson, Jessie Owens, Stephanie Vega, Aiden Macias, Sophia Hoffman, and Sydney Doe.



## **CONGRATULATIONS 2018-2019**

### **NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES**



*Jennifer Wood*

*Gracelyn Bliss*

*Sydney Doe*

*Dakota Harvey*

*Sophia Hoffman*

*Aiden Macias*

*Kenzie Stewart*

*Natalee Johnson*

*Jessie Owens*

*Stephanie Vega*



*Character ... Scholarship ... Leadership ... Service ... Citizenship!*

## **NJHS INDUCTION CEREMONY**

**TUESDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**2:00 P.M.**

# **CONGRATULATIONS!**



### **AND THE SSA SUPERHEROES SAY ...**

My favorite part of the day is reading stories to my class (first grade).

Mrs. Venafro

My favorite part of the day is when the children enter the classroom in the morning. They always come in with smiles of their faces and exciting news to share with us.

Miss Vonderscher

I love working at Stepping Stones Academy because I feel like I am part of a family. We all truly care about each other and our students and I'm proud to be a part of that.

Miss Wilson

## **SSA ROADRUNNER NIGHT TUG-OF-WAR TEAMS**

Last Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the SSA staff members, students, and families celebrated a night of fun together at the Roadrunner. One of the highlights of the night was the Tug-of-War event between the four teams of staff members. Before each turn, staff members selected two students from the audience to join them in the event. Participating students were rotated with each pull so all students were able to participate. After all four teams pulled against one another the winning team was announced. Congratulations to all tug-of-war teams and thank you to everyone who joined in on this fun night!



### ***SSA ROADRUNNER TUG-OF-WAR CHAMPION ...***

#### ***PURPLE PEOPLE EATERS!***

#### **MAVENS OF MAYHEM**

Mrs. Clements  
Mrs. Schenkel  
Miss Garrett  
Mrs. Lee

#### **PURPLE PEOPLE EATERS**

Mrs. Rom  
Miss Mackey  
Mrs. Johnson  
Mrs. Geiser

#### **IRON FISTS**

Ms. Branham  
Mr. Shinker  
Miss Vonderscher  
Mrs. Jones

#### **JUST-US**

Mrs. Carpenter  
Mrs. Robinson  
Mrs. Burczyk  
Miss Wilson

*Thank  
you*



**FOR ATTENDING SSA ROADRUNNER NIGHT!**

# **SSA APPRECIATES YOU!**

### **FRIENDLY REMINDERS WITH WARMER WEATHER**

With the warmer weather predicted for these last weeks of school, families are asked to review the following policies to help with student safety.

#### **1. Please send water bottles labeled with child's name.**

Families are encouraged to check the Lost and Found for missing water bottles. Reminder - Water bottles may contain only water.



#### **2. Please ensure lengths and styles of shirts and shorts are long enough.**

Students wearing too short of shorts or shirts will visit the Mustang Exchange to find a change of clothing. Clothing from the Mustang Exchange is free and students may keep these items. Families are encouraged to stop in and visit the Mustang Exchange to find clothing for this time of year.



**IT'S SPIRIT WEEK!**  
**CELEBRATE STEPPING STONES ACADEMY!**

**Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**

**MONDAY MARVELS**

Students dress as their favorite Super Hero. Students may wear a shirt with a favorite superhero on it or dress as the actual superhero. Students are to wear khaki short/pants.

**Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**

**TEAM TUESDAY**

Students dress in their favorite team shirts, including SSA Mustangs. Students are to wear khaki short/pants.



**Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**WACKY WEDNESDAY**

Students wear wacky socks, hats, and accessories with wacky hair. Polo shirts and khaki pants/shorts are to be worn.

**Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**

**THROWBACK THURSDAY**

Students dress in '50's, '60's, '70's, or '80's. School uniform not required.

**Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**FANCY FRIDAY**

Students wear fancy dress clothes. School uniform not required.

Stepping Stones Academy thanks Mrs. Geiser, NJHS Advisor, and NJHS members for planning Spirit Week. NJHS members include Sophie Gray, Kolten Armstrong, Yelena Trapp, Gabrielle Rubie, Peyton Sourant, Samantha Barnett, Emily Bragg, Yekaterina Trapp, Ethan Boisvert, Cierra Witham, Mason Joslin, Jennifer Wood, Gracelyn Bliss, Dakota Harvey, Stephanie Vega, Kenzie Stewart, Jessie Owens, Natalee Johnson, Aiden Macias, Sophia Hoffman, and Sydney Doe.

**THANK YOU to**

**DONNA HARVEY**

**for the new summer decorations  
in the flower bed.**



**AND THE SSA SUPERHEROES SAY ...**

I love working at Stepping Stones Academy because the people are like your family. There is so much good, hard work, and happiness here!

Miss Mackey

I love working at Stepping Stones Academy because I'm allowed to do crazy art projects with the children that involve them getting super messy.

Miss Bailey



## FIELD DAY TEAM NAMES

***Congratulations to all teams on a day of teamwork, school spirit, and fun!***

<u>Team Coach</u>	<u>Team Name</u>	<u>Team Coach</u>	<u>Team Name</u>
Ms. Branham	Outlaws	Mrs. Venafro	Tigers
Mrs. Robinson	Venomous Vibe	Mrs. Geiser	Phoenix Flames
Mrs. Rom	Charging Unicorns	Miss Garrett	Warriors
Miss Wilson	Ninja Penguins	Mrs. Lee	Toxic 15
Mrs. Carpenter	Broken Broncos	Mrs. Johnson	Cutie- Patooties
Mrs. Clements	Team Rex	Mr. Shinker	Black Panthers



### Team Coaches

Miss Mackey/ Miss Crommett

Miss Vonderscher/Miss Courtney

### Team Name

Macarenas

Lightening Limes



**THANK YOU FOR HELPING MAKE  
FIELD DAY SO SUCCESSFUL!**

***Your donations, helping with games, serving lunch,  
and cheering on the participants was all appreciated!***



# Field Day

***Congratulations to Cutie-Patooties for winning this year's Field Day Spirit Award!***

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE</u>	<u>2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE</u>	<u>3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE</u>
<b>Dunk Tank</b>	Team Rex	Warriors	Outlaws
<b>Long Jump</b>	Broken Broncos	Venomous Vibe	Cutie Patooties
<b>Leaky Pipes</b>	Lightening Limes	Team Rex	Black Panthers
<b>Basketball Shoot-Out</b>	Broken Broncos	Warriors	Outlaws
<b>Water Balloon Toss</b>	Team Rex	Phoenix Flames	Lightening Limes
<b>Top Pairs</b>	Gabrielle Wolf	Ryan Nies	Elijah McClellan
	Sophie Gray	Mrs. Geiser	Jonathan Wagner
<b>50 Yard Dash</b>	Cutie Patooties	Outlaws	Team Rex
<b>Hula Hoops</b>	Outlaws	Venomous Vibe	Ninja Penguins
<b>Bouncy Obstacle Course</b>	Broken Broncos	Warriors	Cutie Patooties
<b>Hungry Hippos</b>	Macarenas	Tigers	Charging Unicorns
<b>Sponge Blob</b>	Cutie Patooties	Lightening Limes	Outlaws
<b>Tug-of-War</b>	Lightening Limes	Broken Broncos	Team Rex

**BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS!**  
**CONGRATULATIONS TO MUSTANG BASKETBALL TEAM!**

Last Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, the Mustang Basketball team competed in the League Tournament and not only won both games against Dobson Academy and Legacy Traditional Academy, but the team also won the championship game against Legacy Traditional Academy with the score of 22-10. Team members received a gold medal for winning two games and a trophy for winning the championship game.



**William Klafter**      **Chase McCulley**      **Mikayla Holt**  
**Logan Ranck**      **Robbie Donaldson**      **Walker Walton**



**APRIL LITERACY ACHIEVEMENT  
AND FAST FACTS CALENDARS  
DUE MONDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>!**



**STEPPING STONES ACADEMY -  
MAKING MAGIC HAPPEN EVERY DAY!**



**FIFTH GRADERS TEACH CLASS LESSONS**

Stepping Stones Academy has some future teachers in the fifth grade. Students worked in pairs or groups of three and selected topics, prepared lessons, and then taught the lessons to classmates.

**Congratulations to the students on excellent jobs of teaching!  
5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TEACHERS**

**Student Name**

Reagan Kusnell and Halie Gotch  
Kaiah Janeway and Kaitlyn Womack  
Tanner Thompson and Logan Schenkel  
Jada St. Jean-Stevens and Samuel Shaw  
Jayla Yoder and Jennifer Bessinger  
Judah Flores and Brayden Carpenter  
Aaliyah Bessinger and Lylianna Moerschbaeher  
Jordan Kirk and Mason Koechig  
Allaira Larson, Madison Bigwood, Allison Briese  
Jackson Niemerg and Tristan Judd  
Jared MacLiver and William Klafter

**Teaching Topic**

Snow Leopards  
The Factor Tree  
How to Unlock Locks  
How to Care for Cockatiels  
Volleyball  
Origami  
How to Care for Chickens  
History of WWII  
How to Make Slime  
History of Mega Man  
Tying Knots and First Aid Training

**THANK YOU FOR TIE-DYING 300 T-SHIRTS FOR FIELD DAY!**



**Christa Williams      Lauryn Kusnell  
Sophie Gray  
and  
Mrs. Panagopoulos!**



**THANK YOU TO FIELD DAY VOLUNTEERS**

Jean Rust  
Annie Adams  
Tammy Tuller  
Collett Dawson  
Kelly Hinshaw  
Sharon Bykerk  
Tina MacLiver  
Debbie Bauer  
Alina Silaghi

Erica Odello  
Chad Harvey  
Jeff Tuller  
Andrea Petrucci  
Richard Ranck  
Tom Venafro  
Louise Prescott  
Karen Joslin  
Dane Robinson  
Harold Doyle  
Tim Stevens  
Lola Gray  
Jamie Newcomb – Pre-K Field Day

Brittney Cruz  
Donna Harvey  
David Morgan  
Hannah Petrucci  
Nathone Adams  
Jeremy MacLiver  
Jina Anderson  
Martha Bragg  
Kristie Peruch  
Kaisha Doyle  
Don Briese  
Chris Peruch

Tera Hensley  
Rachel Lunsford  
Steve Lee  
Tessa Petrucci  
Mary Bliss  
Sarah Van Setten  
Krystal Driscoll  
Anita Murray  
Laura Lethem



**STEPPING STONES SAYS "THANK YOU" TO SSA ALUMNI  
FOR HELPING WITH FIELD DAY ACTIVITIES**

**Madison Joslin      Christa Williams  
Alicia Evans  
Elijah Hoffman      Zachary Hoffman**



**SSA SHOUT-OUT FOR FIELD DAY SUCCESS TO**



**MRS. PANAGOPOULOS  
and  
MR. PANAGOPOULOS!**





## **STEPPING STONES ACADEMY RECEIVES CHARACTER TROPHY**

Last Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, participants from the Mustang Flag Football team received their medals and trophies from the League Tournament. Division 1 players earned bronze medals and Division 2 players earned gold medals along with championship trophies. In addition, these teams earned the **CHARACTER TROPHY** presented to one team at each tournament! The trophy is on display in the School Office for all to enjoy.

### **Division 1**

**Aiden Evans**

**Walker Walton**

**Cooper Willson**

**Hunter Henshaw**

**Bradley Miner**

**Dylan Schalk**

**Logan Ranck**

### **Division 2**

**Augustine Murray**

**Sophia Panagopoulos**

**Logan Ranck**

**Logan Schenkel**

**William Klafter**

**George Panagopoulos**



## *CHARACTER COUNTS AT SSA!*

**THANK YOU TO FAMILIES OF**

**KAELYN PERUCH**

*and*

**ADYSON and BRASEN UNDERWOOD**

*for the delicious lunch!*



### **AND THE SSA SUPERHEROES SAY ...**

My favorite part of the school day is seeing my students at Morning Assembly before it starts because I love being greeted with smiles, hugs, and pieces of exciting news from my students.

Mrs. Lee

I love working at SSA because I absolutely love our family community and am honored to be a part of it with the most amazing students and families!

Mrs. Carpenter

I love working at Stepping Stones Academy because Ms. Alliger and Mrs. Panagopoulos make us feel so appreciated. When I visit with other teachers, it is not like that most places. All the little things they do to show us their appreciation is one of my favorite things about SSA. Of course I love the children and all of their sweet smiles in the mornings also!

Ms. Branham



## **CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS WILSON**

Stepping Stones Academy congratulates Miss Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, on receiving recognition from the Teacher Appreciation Program sponsored by the Breyer Law Team, Husband and Wife Law team. Miss Wilson received a card and note in the mail along with movie tickets. The note read:

*Dear Ms. Wilson,*

*Congratulations! We received a nomination in your honor to be considered for our Teacher Appreciation Program. We began this program because we appreciate how much work teachers do for their students*

*and the community. We promised to keep the information of who nominated you confidential but we were so touched by the nomination letter that we received for you that we want to personally say "thank you." We hope you can enjoy the movie tickets and a night out on us.*

*Thank you again,*

*Mark and Alexis Breyer*



## **BLUE JEAN FRIDAY**

**\$1.00**

**Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**



# **THANK YOU SSA SUPERHEROES!**

## **SPLIT ... SPARE ... STRIKE! IT'S BOWLING TIME**

With the end of the year coming soon, it's time for Stepping Stones Academy's annual bowling field trip to AMF Union Hills Lanes. Students will invade the bowling alley on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> and enjoy bowling in the morning and then lunch at Paseo Hills Park before returning to school right in time for the National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony.

Special thanks to Ms. Fisk, Mrs. Gardner, Miss Vonderscher, Mrs. Robinson, and Miss Mackey for organizing this field trip. Thanks also to our SSA family members who joined the group on this trip: Krista Griffin, Erica Odello, and Mrs. Bailey. The SSA Bowlers include



Sam Manganelli

Gavin Skaggs

Mya Odello

Natalee Johnson

Landon Nelson

William Wilkinson

Blaine Plathe

Madyson Warner

Augustine Murray

Aaiden Rodgers

Talon Milton

Keirnan Hiner

Peyton Griffin

Tenishia Barge

Noah Warner

Joseph Scovill

Isabella Brothers

## STEPPING STONES ACADEMY WISHES

**ALL OF THE SSA FAMILIES  
A PEACEFUL AND BLESSED  
MOTHER'S DAY!**



***At Stepping Stones Academy we honor all adults on Mother's Day!***

***Though this day is set aside for mothers,  
families are defined in many different ways ...  
and all ways are just PERFECT!***

***Whether you are a mother, grandmother, aunt, sister,  
father, grandfather, uncle, brother, friend, neighbor,  
teacher, or any role involving raising a child ...***

***HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!***



### **MOTHER'S DAY PARTIES ON MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>**

Pre-K - 6<sup>th</sup> grades are honoring their mothers/grandmothers/special person with Mother's Day parties on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Pre-K	8:30-9:00 a.m.	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	9:30-10:00 a.m.
Kdgn.	9:00-9:30 a.m.	4 <sup>th</sup> grade	8:30-9:00 a.m.
1 <sup>st</sup> grade	9:00-9:30 a.m.	5 <sup>th</sup> grade	10:00-10:30 a.m.
2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	9:30-10:00 a.m.	6 <sup>th</sup> grade	10:00-10:30 a.m.

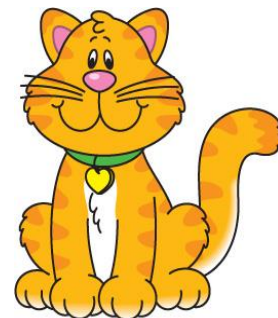


### **VOTE FOR TJ, THE CAT = EARN NO HOMEWORK PASS**

For families on Facebook who wish to vote in the Cutest Pet Contest, Stepping Stones Academy is supporting TJ, the cat. TJ belongs to Mrs. Jones and her husband, Walt. TJ, also known as Baby Kitty, is not only slightly spoiled since he is the only pet in the household, but Mrs. Jones has raised TJ since he was born.

To vote simply go to [facebook.com/85086magazine.com](https://www.facebook.com/85086magazine.com) (85086 Magazine Facebook page) and scroll to the Cutest Pet Contest. Next, scroll to the photo of TJ and click on the LIKE button under TJ's picture. Please do not just like the page because then the vote does not count. Each person may vote once. The contest ends May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**As some added fun, when a family votes each SSA child in the household receives a No Homework Pass to use sometime this year.** (Yes, students are still completing assignments.) After voting please contact the School Office via email, text, note, or in person and the Homework Pass will be delivered to the child/children. **THANK YOU!**



## SIXTH GRADERS TEACH CLASS LESSONS

Congratulations to the following students on successfully teaching a class lesson their classmates.

<u>Student Name</u>	<u>Teaching Topic</u>
Iden Prescott	How to Clean a Guinea Pig
Kassidy Byrket	How to Make a Paper Airplane
Sydney Doe	How to Wash a Car
Kenzie Stewart	How to Bat
Kaydence Barsellotti	Cheerleading 101
Madyson Warner	How to Garden
Allison Turgeon	How to Bathe a Pig
Aiden Macias	How to Play Soccer
Avery Mullins	How to Throw Cards
Landon Nelson	How to Play Football
Sophia Hoffman	How to Cook on a Griddle
Colten Jordan	How to Make a Paper Snapper
Kaden Lethem	How to Build a Log Cabin
Mason Lunsford	How to Properly Throw a Football
Ryle Lunsford	How to Play Football
Jessie Owens	How to Make Pancakes
George Panagopoulos	How to Stay in Shape
Johnnie Parry	Horseback Riding Procedures
Julia Ricker	How to Bathe a Bunny
Stephanie Vega	How to Make Slime
Jonathan Wagner	How to Solve a Rubiks Cube
William Wilkinson	How to Get in Shape



# THANK YOU FAMILIES!

### AND THE SSA SUPERHEROES SAY ...

My favorite reasons for working at Stepping Stones Academy are the daily smiles, laughs, positivity, and support from my SSA FAMILY.

Mrs. Schenkel

My goal as a teacher is to keep calm and pretend this on the lesson plan.

Mr. Shainker

My favorite part of the school day is the mornings because I get to work with my amazing students!

Ms. Fisk





## **WATER DAY NEXT THURSDAY FOR K-2<sup>ND</sup> GRADES**

On Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, water balloons, water slides, and water games will fill the playground, as the K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders participate in the annual Water Day event. A tentative schedule for the day includes:

8:00-9:00 a.m.	Morning Assembly and Attendance
9:00-11:00 a.m.	Play Water Games
11:00-11:30 a.m.	Get Ready for Lunch
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Lunch and Movie
1:30-2:30 p.m.	Play Water Games
2:30-3:00 p.m.	Clean-Up



Students need to come to school in their purple t-shirts and khaki, blue jean, or athletic style shorts. Students may wear their swimming suits under their clothes or bring =swimming suits to school and change before the activities begin. Students also need to bring a towel, sunscreen, and water bottle. For lunch students will be served a grilled hot dog lunch, which will be free to everyone.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WATER DAY**

**Please contact the School Office to sign up!**

### **WATER DAY**

8:00-11:00 A.M.  
11:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M.  
1:30-3:00 P.M.

### **THURSDAY, MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

SUPERVISE WATER GAMES  
SET-UP AND SERVE LUNCH  
SUPERVISE WATER GAMES AND CLEAN-UP



## **3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE**

**FOR COMPLETING CAMPUS COMMUNITY SERVICE IN MARCH!**

***Megan Bigwood***

***Zane Bliss***

***August Bloyer***

***Jaxon Carnley***

***Melania Cruz***

***Madison Doyle***

***Grace Driscoll***

***Purslane Flores***

***David Gjonaj***

***Gavin Hall***

***Riley Hanson***

***Sierra Hewitt***

***Charlotte Kusnell***

***Kyler Lethem***

***Jacob Lunsford***

***Joshua Lunsford***

***Lydia MacLiver***

***Talon Milton***

***Delilah Morales***

***Dylana Lee***

***Jennifer Owens***

***Logan Ranck***

***Aaiden Rodgers***

***Daniel Trevizo***

***Elizabeth Uebel***

***Adam Wagner***

***Madisyn Willson***

***Kasey Wood***

***Preston Thurman-Foote***

## **WET-N-WILD FIELD TRIP NEXT THURSDAY FOR 3<sup>RD</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS**

On Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders will spend the day at Wet-n-Wild Water Park located at 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Pinnacle Peak Road. The park opens early just for school groups.

**Students need to wear school uniform, but may wear their swimming suits under their clothing. Students may also wear flip flops to school instead of shoes adhering to the uniform policy.**

Parents are asked to review the following rules with their children to ensure everyone understands the expected guidelines:

1. Wristbands will be handed out the morning of the field trip and must be worn all day.
2. Individuals may not take food or beverage into the park except unopened, factory-sealed water bottles. Backpacks, purses, and all other bags will be searched before entering the park.
3. Students need to bring a towel and sunscreen. Students will apply sunscreen throughout the day unless they bring a note from home. Students may also bring a cap/visor and/or shirt to wear.
4. Students may wish to bring money to purchase items from the Snack Shop or rent tubes for the slides, but this is optional.
5. All other personal items, including cell phones, I-Pods, and handheld video games, are to be left in the School Office or at home.
6. Students are to check-in at the SSA camp area three times during the day: (1) upon arriving and applying sunscreen, (2) before going to lunch and reapplying sunscreen, and (3) departure time.
7. Students are to have a buddy throughout the day. The buddy may be a classmate, friend from another class, or SSA adult. Buddies may change during the day.
8. Lunch will be eaten as an SSA group. The menu is hamburger, chips, and drink.
9. All items, such as backpacks and towels, may remain at the SSA camp area, but SSA and Wet-n-Wild are not responsible for lost or missing items.



## **SSA SUMMER CAMP**

- When May 29<sup>th</sup> – July 27<sup>th</sup>  
Students may attend all days or selected days
- Time 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Extended Care Hours = 3:00-5:30 p.m.
- Cost \$25/day per child – or \$100 for the full week  
Extended Care available 3:00-5:30 p.m. \$10/day per child  
One time, non-refundable \$25 Registration Fee per child



**READING & MATH PRACTICE ... INDOOR & OUTDOOR GAMES ...  
HELP CARE FOR ANIMALS ... LOTS OF FUN AND FRIENDS!**

## **CLASS OF 2018 GRADUATES NEXT WEEK**

It's countdown time for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Class of 2018, as they prepare to become alumni of Stepping Stones Academy! The SSA Class of 2018 thanks the many families who supported its fundraisers during the year as they earned money for the class trip to Magic Mountain. The schedule for the last week of school for the Class of 2018 is:



Monday, May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Class Trip to Magic Mountain in California	
Tuesday, May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Return from Class Trip – No School for 8 <sup>th</sup> graders	
Wednesday, May 16 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Awards Assembly	9:00-10:00 a.m.
	Promotion Practice	10:00-11:00 a.m.
	Homeroom Activities	11:00-11:30 a.m.
	Early Dismissal for 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11:30 a.m. Dismissal
Thursday, May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Wet-n-Wild Field Trip	
Friday, May 18 <sup>th</sup>	No School for 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	
	Promotion Ceremony	6:00 p.m.

# **CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2018!**

## **MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2018**

Kolten Armstrong	Troy Johnson	Gabrielle Rubie
Brie Binder	Elexis Lunsford	Peyton Sourant
Aidan Brewington	Sam Manganelli	Yelena Trapp
Alec Brewington	Ian Matheson	Brady Turgeon
Bethany Camping	Elijah McClellan	Marissa Vazquez
Sophie Gray	Corbin Ripple	Gabrielle Wolf

## **CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!**

## **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AWARDS ASSEMBLY**

**Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>                      9:00 a.m.**

Members of the Class of 2018 will be honored and receive April and May awards of Perfect Attendance, Literacy Achievement, and Fast Facts; 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter awards of Perfect Attendance, Honor Roll, Academy Award, and Mustang Award; and All-Year awards of Fast Facts, Literacy Achievement, Perfect Attendance, Honor Roll, and Academy Award. All K-7<sup>th</sup> graders will attend this assembly. Families are also invited to attend this Celebration of the Class of 2018!



## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

# KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

TUESDAY, MAY 22<sup>ND</sup> 6:00 P.M.

COME CELEBRATE!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Royce Adams

Isabella Brothers

Xzavier Corral

Abraham DuBois II

Scarlette Heinrich

Rayen Major

Brody Morgan

Mackenzy Sulzer

Addison Wendtland

Isabella Anderson

Dominic Carnley

Samuel Dawson

Jace Gustafson

Cash Hensley

Avin Martens

Joseph Scovill

Liam Tuller

CaseyJohn Blau

Faith Cloos

Hallee Dempster

Brian Hathorne

Andrew Kukes

Emily Milton

Natalie Silaghi

Mason Walker

Wyatt Wiertzema

## AND THE SSA SUPERHEROES SAY ...

My favorite part of the school day is when everyone arrives. We shake hands and catch up from our time apart! Also, I love the ah-ha moments, whether they get a concept or try something hard, see something in a new way, or end up in a new place — all of the growth is my favorite!

Mrs. Geiser

I love working at Stepping Stones Academy because of the people. I adore the children, the amazing families, and the terrific teaching tribe. I feel so blessed to be part of this community and its shared values.

Mrs. Burczyk

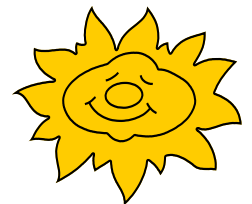
My favorite part of the day is at the end of the day when I ask the students how their day was and they respond, "GREAT! How was yours?"

Mrs. Jones



## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Though the school year will soon be officially over, the School Office does not close during the summer. Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Schenkel, Mrs. Panagopoulos, and Ms. Stewart-Alliger will be on campus all summer. School Office hours are Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Office is also open on Friday, but there are not set hours. Families are invited to call or email with questions.





## 5<sup>TH</sup>-7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AWARDS ASSEMBLY

April and May and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Awards

Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 12:45 p.m.

Awards will be given for April Literacy Achievement and Fast Facts, April and May Perfect Attendance, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter for Perfect Attendance, Honor Roll, Academy Award, and Mustang Award.



# SSA EVERY DAY!



## K-4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AWARDS ASSEMBLY

April and May and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Awards

Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1:30 p.m.

Awards will be given for April Literacy Achievement and Fast Facts, and April and May Perfect Attendance and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter for Perfect Attendance, Honor Roll, Academy Award, Mustang Award.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Best Attendance Percentage  
in APRIL



Jonathon Wood  
Kansas Janeway  
Zoe MacFarland  
Trinity Gonzales  
Makayla Johnson  
Kelcie Klinger  
Danielle Casto  
Isabele Lombardi

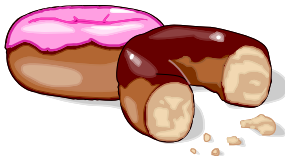
Connor Thompson  
Augustine Murray  
Chase McCulley  
Wyatt Shepherd  
Gavin Boisvert  
Hannah Hathorne  
Jaden Gustafson  
Kendra Gonzales  
Sophia Panagopoulos

Christine Silaghi  
Kaden Cannon  
William Sanchez  
Rory Bauer  
Ashtyn Macias  
Mikayla Holt  
Nathan Loucy  
Sofia Doe



## **TIME TO TURN-IN TEXTBOOKS**

By the end of next week students will return all textbooks, library books, and other school items to Stepping Stones Academy, as the end of this school year is quickly approaching. The books and school items will be checked for damages and families will then be notified about any fees due to the damages. Fees are determined by the replacement cost. **Stepping Stones Academy thanks families for taking great care of the school property throughout the year!** P.S. If families find library books belonging to SSA over the summer, please return these books to school. 😊



**FAST FACTS BREAKFAST FRIDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>  
FOR APRIL FAST FACTS AWARD WINNERS!  
7:30-7:55 A.M. IN MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING**

## **AND THE SSA SUPERHEROES SAY ...**

My goal as a teacher is to encourage my students to become effective learners. If they know how to apply lessons they have been taught and how to seek out information they need, they will succeed in many areas of life, not just the life inside our school walls.

Mrs. Rom

I love working at Stepping Stones Academy because I am part of such a loving community.

Miss Rust

My favorite part of the school day is all of the hugs I get. When the children take a moment to give me a smile and a hug it is amazing.

Mrs. Johnson

My goal as a teacher is to make sure my students know they are loved and I believe in every one of them.

I hope they know there isn't anything they can't accomplish when they put their minds to it.

Mrs. Clements



# THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR!

**thank  
You**

**PLEASE LOOK THROUGH LOST AND FOUND.  
ITEMS WILL BE DONATED TO GOODWILL  
AT THE END OF THE YEAR.**

**thank  
You**

# K-7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AWARDS ASSEMBLY

All Year Awards

Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>      **1:30 p.m.**

Students will be honored for the All-Year awards of Fast Facts, Literacy Achievement, Perfect Attendance, Honor Roll, and Academy Award. Students will receive all-year medals at this assembly. To be eligible for these awards students must have attended the full year at Stepping Stones Academy.



## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**FOR COMPLETING CAMPUS COMMUNITY SERVICE IN APRIL!**

**Iden Prescott**

**Dillon Connelley**

**Natalee Johnson**

**Mason Lunsford**

**Avery Mullins**

**George Panagopoulos**

**Blaine Plathe**

**Allison Turgeon**

**Jonathan Wagner**

**Kaydence Barsellotti**

**Sophia Hoffman**

**Kassidy Bryket**

**William Wilkinson**

**Landon Nelson**

**Johnnie Parry**

**Kenzie Stewart**

**Stephanie Vega**

**Madyson Warner**

**Colten Jordan**

**Sydney Doe**

**Kaden Lethem**

**Aiden Macias**

**Mya Odello**

**Jessie Owens**

**Julia Ricker**

**Ryle Lunsford**

**STEP UP ON THURSDAY, MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>**

### **STUDENTS VISITING NEXT GRADE CLASSROOM**



Do students use cubbies? What time is lunch? Where are papers turned-in? These questions are just some of the questions students face as they prepare for next year. To answer these questions, students are visiting their classrooms for next year on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-1:45 p.m. They will visit with teachers, learn about what to expect, and have opportunities to ask questions.

**ALL YEAR PERFECT ATTENDANCE =  
NO SCHOOL UNIFORM ON MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>-25<sup>TH</sup>**

Congratulations to students earning All Year Perfect Attendance! As a congratulations for a job well done, students achieving such a great accomplishment have No School Uniform the last three days of school, May 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. Stepping Stones Academy thanks these students for attending school **every day** this year!

**SSA EVERY DAY!**



**WHAT DOES NEW EDUCATION FUNDING  
MEAN FOR STEPPING STONES ACADEMY?**

Stepping Stones Academy sends a big **MUSTANG THANK YOU** to the many families who sent words of encouragement, dropped off food for the staff members, and shared their appreciation during the recent teacher walk-out in Arizona.

As of last Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> a new education budget was passed; however, schools are still determining how this specifically affects their budgets. Stepping Stones Academy anticipates additional funding for student attendance, but

the actual amount is not yet known. What other increased funding will be provided to schools is not yet clear, as many conflicting reports and numbers are being published. Stepping Stones Academy is waiting to hear from the AZ Department of Education and AZ State Board of Charter Schools before determining exact amounts and how this money is to be spent.



**AND THE SSA SUPERHEROES SAY ...**



I love working at Stepping Stones Academy because it is so family-oriented and is a "home away from home" for me.

Miss Garrett

My favorite part of the school day is when we gather around the flag pole in unity. I believe that what we say is true, "We are the best!"

Mrs. Robinson

I love working at Stepping Stones Academy because it is small, the staff is amazing and flexible. I feel very much at home here. Our Principal and Vice Principal say yes when I want to try out a new idea or project. The children - I love laughing with them and seeing their growth every year. In fact, there is a lot of laughing that goes on at SSA, even though we work hard.

Mrs. Gardner





## STEPPING STONES ACADEMY'S MISSION STATEMENT

We envision an environment that provides academic, social and personal skills children need to become confident and responsible citizens. We believe learning should be based on individualized, relevant activities and frequent assessment to monitor student progress and achievement. We promote high student expectations with consideration and respect for all individuals; thereby, developing life-long learners and productive members of society.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

(Items with an asterisk (\*) are items added this week.)

May 7 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK</b> Spirit Week	
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	April Literacy Achievement and Fast Facts Calendars Due	
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Bowling Field Trip *	
	NJHS Induction Ceremony	2:00 p.m.
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Book Fair – Buy One, Get One Free Mother's Day Parties Book Check-In for 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade *	
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	Trip to Magic Mountain – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade *	
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Awards Assembly for Class of 2018 (8 <sup>th</sup> Grade) Literacy Achievement Lunch for April * Book Check-In – K-7 <sup>th</sup> Grades *	9:00 a.m. Lunchtime
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Water Day for K-2 <sup>nd</sup> Grades Wet-n-Wild Field Trip for 3 <sup>rd</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grades	
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Blue Jean Day – Cost = \$1.00 * Fast Facts Breakfast for April * Promotion for Class of 2018 (8 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	7:30-7:55 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	No Uniform Day for April Perfect Attendance	
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	No Uniform Day for May Perfect Attendance Kindergarten Graduation	6:00 p.m.
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Pre-K Graduation * No School Uniform for All Year Perfect Attendance * Awards Assembly - 5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> Grades April and 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter K-4 <sup>th</sup> Grades April and 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	9:00 a.m. 12:45 p.m. 1:30 p.m.
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	No School Uniform for All Year Perfect Attendance * Step Up Visit – Students Visit Next Grade Level * Awards Assembly – K-7 <sup>th</sup> Grades All Year Awards	1:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m.
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of School	Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.