DECEMBER STEWART SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Dec. 4 – 7 – Holiday Workshop
Friday, Dec. 8 – Last day to donate to Toys for Tots
Friday, Dec. 8 – Fun for Funds Ugly Christmas Sweater
Friday, Dec. 8 – Burrell Lights the Season Night
Thursday, Dec. 14 – 5th Grade Choir Concert
Monday, Dec. 18 – 4th Grade Choir Concert
Thursday, Dec. 21 – Classroom Holiday Parties
Thursday, Dec. 21 – 2 hr. Early Dismissal
Friday, Dec. 22 – Monday, Jan. 1 – No School

JANUARY STEWART SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Monday, Jan. 1 – No School
Friday, Jan. 12 – 2 hr. Early Dismissal
Monday, Jan. 15 – No School
Monday, Jan. 22 – Report Cards

STEWART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2880 Leechburg Road
(724) 334 – 1483
Mr. Jim Croushore
Principal

STEWART PTA OFFICERS

Laura Fisher
President
Renee Sallach
Vice President
Christina Bowman
Treasurer
Bonnie Yockey
Secretary

ON THE WEB

Burrell School District
www.burrell.k12.pa.us

Pennsylvania PTA
www.papta.org

National PTA
www.pta.org

Newsletter submissions can be emailed to Jill Szish at szishes@verizon.net
Dear Parents,

As the holidays approach and our schedules become busier by what seems like the minute, please remember your children will continue to have homework and academic expectations to fulfill here at Stewart Elementary. During this busy time, please encourage your children to remain diligent in their studies and reinforce the value in finishing strong before the holiday break.

Some events and activities upcoming here at Stewart Elementary:

- Toys for Tots toy drive ends December 8
- Burrell Lights the Season December 8 from 6 to 8:30 PM
- Fifth grade choir concert December 14 at 7 PM
- Fourth grade choir concert December 18 at 7 PM
- Last day of school before holiday break is December 21, 1:30 PM dismissal
- School resumes from the holiday break January 2, 2018

Thank you again for your support of our students and the support you provide the faculty and staff of Stewart Elementary. Have a great holiday season!!

Jim Croushore
Principal
Fitness Fun: For the month of December, the Stewart School 4th -5th graders have been working on Fitness stations. The Dance Dance Revolution boards are up & running, so our students are working up a sweat as they test their dance skills on the Xbox DDR game. Other stations include stationary bike, abdominal exercise workout machine, push-up bars, bosu balls for core workout, and our new elliptical machine donated to our school by the Babl Family (much thanks, our students love it). In the gym we are climbing the rock wall and keeping those feet moving with a variety of creative movement and agility games. As a wise man once said, a rolling stone gathers no moss, and our hopes are the Stewart Students won’t either. 😊

Health Tip for the Month: It’s okay to say no – Remember this holiday season you don’t always have to eat everything that’s offered to you. Just because Grandma made her “special chocolate pie” just for you doesn’t mean you HAVE to have seconds. Be polite, but assertive when you’re full or don’t really want to eat something. Holidays can be a real fitness challenge. Remember moderation is a dish best served.

Healthy Recipe: Slimmed Green Bean Casserole

Ingredients: 3 to 4 medium shallots, in their skins. Kosher salt, plus 1 1/2 teaspoons, 1 pound fresh green beans, stemmed, and halved crosswise. 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil. 8 ounces cremini mushrooms, sliced (about 4 cups). 2 tablespoons unsalted butter. 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour. 1 1/2 cups mushroom, vegetable, or chicken broth. 3 teaspoons fresh thyme leaves. Freshly ground black pepper. Vegetable cooking spray. 1 cup fresh bread crumbs.

Directions: Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Put the shallots (in their skins) on a small baking dish, roast until soft, about 30 minutes. When cool enough to handle, skin and coarsely chop the shallots. Set aside.

Bring a medium-large saucepan of water to a boil over high heat. Add kosher salt, to taste. Add the green beans, and cook, uncovered, until crisp-tender and bright green, about 3 minutes. Drain the beans in a colander and rinse with cold water. Transfer the beans to a large bowl.

Melt the butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. Add the flour and cook, stirring with a wooden spoon, until golden, about 2 minutes. Slowly whisk in the broth, increase the heat to high, and bring to a boil. Add the shallots, 1 teaspoon of the thyme, and remaining 1/2 teaspoon of salt. Reduce the heat to maintain a simmer and cook until thickened, stirring occasionally, about 5 minutes. Pour the sauce over the vegetables and stir to combine evenly.

Spray a 2-quart baking dish with vegetable cooking spray. Transfer the vegetable mixture to the pan. Add the remaining 2 teaspoons of thyme to bread crumbs and scatter over the vegetables. Bake uncovered until the sauce bubbles and the crumbs brown, about 20 minutes.
Motivated to read

Hide a special book for your youngster to find. Hold an indoor reading campout. Encourage family members to “like” each other’s book reviews. With these creative ideas, you can inspire your child to use more of his spare time for reading!

Leave hidden gems

At the library, secretly look for a book you think your youngster would like, such as one you read at his age or a story about the sport he plays. At home, leave the book where he can find it, along with a note about why you chose it for him. Idea: Suggest that your child hide a book for you or a younger sibling to discover.

Hold special events

Ask your youngster to organize a family reading event once a month or so. Perhaps he’ll plan an indoor campout or a New Year’s Eve read-a-thon. He could find books with a related theme—maybe an outdoor adventure tale for the campout or a book about New Year traditions around the world for the read-a-thon.

Post reviews

Have your child find a spot on a wall where he and other family members can display reviews of books they’ve read. You could “like” each other’s reviews by adding star stickers and comments. Let your youngster ask relatives to mail or email reviews that he could post, too. He may be inspired to read a book that his cousin or a favorite uncle enjoyed.

Storytelling time

Encourage your child to make a “story pole” and use it to tell a tale. She’ll practice story planning, a skill that can help with creative writing assignments in school.

First, have her think of something funny or interesting that happened to your family, perhaps getting caught in a downpour during a hike. Then, she can cut a sheet of construction paper into four horizontal strips and, on each, draw a picture of a story event (seeing the first big drops, laughing and holding backpacks over your heads, hurrying to the car, getting cozy at home in pajamas). Let your youngster tape the pictures around a paper towel tube in the order the events happened. Now it’s time to tell her story! She could point to the pictures on her pole and add details as she talks.
Research and write

Your youngster may think of research as something she does for a report. But writers do research for stories, too! Share these tips to help your child bring real-life elements into her fiction.

Go on location. Authors often visit the places they write about. If the characters in your youngster's story work at a bike shop, she could go to one herself. Encourage her to notice details she might mention in her story, like bikes hanging from the ceiling or an employee fixing a tire.

Consult an expert. Writers get help from people with firsthand knowledge of their story topics. Say your child is writing about cheerleading. She could talk to a neighbor or a classmate who cheers. The interviewee may describe what it feels like to be tossed in the air or to lead a stadium full of fans rooting for their team.

Read nonfiction. Your youngster may not be able to observe crocodiles or kangaroos in real life—but she can read about them in nonfiction library books or online. Encourage her to dig for facts that will bring animal characters to life, such as the way they communicate with each other or the habitat they live in.

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