Greetings!

A note from Tishia Wilson

I have just finished my first nine weeks as your child’s school principal! It has been a wonderful experience thus far. Years ago, when I was a special education teacher at Stony Point; I never imagined that one day I would return as the principal. But, thinking back over the last quarter, I feel that Stony Point is the absolutely best fit for me. I hope that you feel that I am a good fit for Stony Point, as well.

I have enjoyed getting to know you, the students, and the staff. Stony Point Elementary is a special place full of special people. The teachers and staff care about the students and treat each day as a new opportunity to make a positive difference in their lives. The PTO is supportive of the school and works to enhance the experience for every child. And I know that you, the families, care about your children and the education they receive at Stony Point Elementary.

I am especially excited about our free after school club opportunities, largely supported by our PTO. With their support we are able to offer free clubs for all students and transportation for those who have that need. In our first session, we have kickball, art, gymnastics, cooking, and 3D-printing available. We will have more to offer in the future. I am also interested in hearing from parents who have an interest in leading an after school club.

Creating opportunities for all students is something about which I am passionate. I appreciate your support in helping to make this happen.

As we move into the second quarter, we can look forward to more school events and holiday breaks. This time of year can be challenging for some students and families. Please let us know if there is any way that we can assist in ensuring that your child’s needs are met throughout this busy season.

I feel fortunate to be a part of this community and look forward to the rest of the school year.

— Tishia
News from the Library

We enjoyed a successful Scholastic Book Fair this fall — thanks to all the parents, children and families who came out and supported our library! Student library work this past quarter has included practicing digital citizenship and research skills and using our online resources. For example, fifth graders researched how much sleep the average 11-year old needs; second graders discovered how the telephone has changed over time. All students also enjoyed circuit work by using Makey Makey boards and wires to turn bananas into bongos. They also turned celery and carrots into piano keyboards. Staff enjoyed this activity as well!

Thank you!

Music Notes

Music is off to a great start this year! Fourth and fifth grades are working so hard preparing for their winter concert on December 12 at 6:30 p.m. We are so excited about all of our winter themed music. You won’t want to miss this enchanting night of singing!

Drama club will be starting on November 14. Your fourth- and fifth-grade student should have received an email and Friday folder flyer about this exciting opportunity to put on a musical!

Second and third graders have been learning about rhythm! We have explored pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments like drums, xylophones, and mettallaphones.

This month we have enjoyed fall and Halloween-themed music such as “I hear an Owl,” “Skin and Bones,” and the school favorite “Pass the Pumpkin.” Ask your child which one was their favorite!

Kindergarten and first grade have also enjoyed playing percussion instruments. We have played hand drums, triangles, sand blocks, jingle bells, jingle taps, and many more!
During our first quarter, all students Pre-K to fifth grade participated in classroom guidance lessons twice monthly. Our lessons focused on the role of the school counselor and the many ways each student can be supported in our school community. Students in K-2 learned about the many ways they can work to fill one another’s “buckets” by demonstrating acts of kindness and appreciation towards others. The third, fourth and fifth grades worked in teams to problem solve ways to manage and control the power of their words throughout relationships with peers and adults. Our school-wide character traits for September and October were kindness and perseverance. All classes have been brainstorming what kindness and perseverance are and how each of these character traits can be developed in all of us.

**Art News**

Our theme this year is “art around the world.” In the Art Studio, we will take an imaginary trip around the world to learn about different people, their cultures and art. Students will learn and apply the elements of art as they experience many cultures, media, art styles and techniques.

So far, Stony Point artists have learned about prehistoric art such as the cave paintings in Lascaux, France, and have created art inspired by these ancient art works. Currently, in honor of Hispanic Awareness month, we have explored some amazing Hispanic cultures and created art inspired by our travels.

Please be on the look-out for the Square One Art Fundraiser brochure that will be sent home soon. Thank-you for your support!
Class Updates

Pre-K
The preschool class has been very busy since school started in August. We took time to learn about our school, routines, and new friends. We have learned about apples, pumpkins, the farm, circus, zoo and Halloween. We have gone on field trips to Carter’s Mountain Apple Orchard and Greenfield Farm to help us learn. We look forward to learning about bears, various holidays, and winter in the upcoming months.

Kindergarten
Kindergarten has been busy learning about the Fall season which includes discussing seasonal changes, the life cycle of an apple and a pumpkin, and why the leaves are currently changing. We had a great time on our field trip to Round Hill Farm on Oct. 25 where we went on a hayride, picked a pumpkin, interacted with farm animals, played on the playground, went through hay bale and corn mazes, and had a picnic lunch. We want to thank the PTO for helping to lessen the cost of this trip for our families and for all of our parent chaperones that accompanied us on our trip.

First Grade
First grade has been hard at work this quarter. We have learned about seasonal changes, natural resources, Virginia symbols and the American Flag. We visited the Northside Library and got library cards. We hope to run into you at the Library. We enjoyed our trip to Carter’s Mountain and making Stone Soup. First grade has been working on becoming mathematicians by learning how to solve word problems and subtraction and addition equations. We continue to become stronger readers, writers and spellers by building our stamina daily.

Second Grade
Second grade has researched the Powhatan, Lakota and Pueblo Indians and sketched their homes, how they communicate, and the transportation they use. Students will create dioramas representing one of the tribes. Dioramas will include a native animal that does and does not go through metamorphosis and a native plant.

Students increased their reading stamina by reading good fit books during our “Daily Five” literacy time. They learned to “back up and reread” to check for comprehension. Students enjoyed having time to practice their writing skills during “work on writing” and word study skills during “word work.” We are excited to add “listening to reading” to our “Daily Five” time.

During math, students are becoming flexible problem solvers by learning to use different strategies to solve addition and subtraction story problems. We are ending our first quarter by identifying, describing,
comparing, and contrasting plane and solid figures such as circles/spheres, squares/cubes, and rectangles/rectangular prisms. We will also name and write fractions for halves, fourths, eighths, thirds and sixths.

Third Grade

Third grade is off to a great start! Our classes started the year constructing relationships with team building activities, learned how to communicate effectively in accountable conversations, and grew their reading and writing stamina during Daily 5.

In math, we completed our first two units of study: multiplication and division and graphing. In reading and writing, our classes examined what makes a good narrative by reading and discussing narrative fiction and writing our own personal narratives. In social studies, we created our classroom rules and set up daily expectations. Finally, in science, we learned about the states of matter and conducted experiments on how matter changes.

It has been a great start to the school year and third grade is excited to continue our learning journey.

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade is off to a fantastic start! We spent our first weeks together developing community, goal setting, and establishing routines. Students have had many opportunities for hands on learning through weekly design challenges including designing and building pirate ships, homes for fuzzy friends, maps of Virginia, and circuits. The past couple of weeks students have begun coding through Scratch and Minecraft. We visited Camp Albemarle to explore our watershed and to test the health of the Mormon River. In fourth grade, we are excited to see what the rest of the year brings!

Fifth Grade

Fifth graders began the year designing t-shirts that represented their feelings about fifth grade at Stony Point. We traveled to Triple C Camp where students were asked to complete teamwork challenges, and all students were encouraged to set goals for the day. The climbing tower with a zip-line was one of many challenges offered to the students. We also went on field trips to visit Monticello and see a performance by the Charlottesville Symphony. Thank you to our wonderful PTO for help with funding these exciting opportunities. Fifth graders have been very hard at work during academic time. In Science we’ve been studying Geology and Oceans. In Virginia Studies we are learning about the Revolutionary War era.
English As a Second Language Groups

We have started off the year well in our ESOL groups! Most of our sessions are dedicated to reinforcing the lessons that students are learning in their classrooms so that they have a better understanding during the academic day. We also focus on academic language in math, science and social studies so it is familiar and comfortable. All of our students are involved in reading “good fit” books independently every day in their classrooms and in our small group. Please take advantage of the tools that your child can use at home on a computer, tablet or even a phone. RAZKIDS and ST Math accounts, and all of the story websites, can be found on the Stony Point Elementary Website by clicking Library on the dashboard:

https://www.k12albemarle.org/school/spes/library/Pages/default.aspx

The more our students read books that fit, the more they enjoy books and reading on their own.

Thank you for attending parent/teacher conferences during the month of October. Please let us know how I can support your child and family more as we move through the school year!

Spanish Translation:

¡Hemos empezado bien el año en nuestros grupos de ESOL! La mayoría de nuestras sesiones están dedicadas a reforzar las lecciones que los estudiantes están aprendiendo en sus aulas para que tengan una mejor comprensión durante el día académico. También nos enfocamos en el lenguaje académico en matemáticas, ciencias y estudios sociales para hacerlo familiar y cómodo. Todos nuestros estudiantes participan en la lectura de libros “good fit” de forma independiente todos los días en sus aulas y en nuestro pequeño grupo. Aproveche las herramientas que su hijo puede usar en el hogar en una computadora, tableta o incluso un teléfono. RAZKIDS and ST Math cuentas y todos los sitios web de historias en el sitio web de Stony Point Elementary debajo de la biblioteca en la pizarra:

https://www.k12albemarle.org/school/spes/library/Pages/default.aspx

Cuanto más leen nuestros estudiantes, más disfrutan los libros y la lectura por sí mismos.

Gracias por asistir a las reuniones de padres / maestros durante el mes de octubre. ¡Por favor, háganos saber cómo puedo apoyar mejor a su hijo y a su familia a medida que avanzamos en el año escolar!

It is that time of year again — Flu Season is upon us. Protect your family and others by getting vaccinated. As of October 6, 2018, a total of 183 pediatric deaths had been reported to the CDC during the 2017-2018 season. Approximately 80% of these deaths occurred in children who had not received a flu vaccination this season. (CDC.gov)

Schedule an appointment with your pediatrician or visit any one of the several locations offering the vaccine — CVS is offering the best price at $28 without insurance and has a walk-in clinic. The Health Department is $30 without insurance; however, if you take in proof of income, your price will be reduced. The health department has scheduled clinics for flu vaccines — Mondays from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 until 3:00 p.m.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me or your pediatrician.

— Nurse Christine