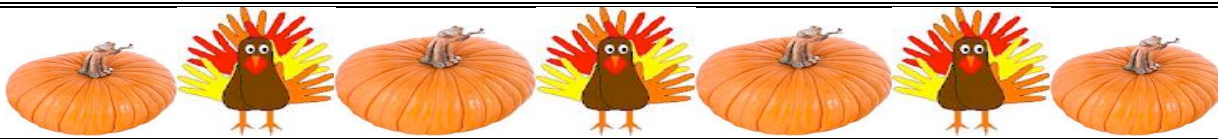




# STETSER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

*Fall 2016*



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## STETSER STUDENTS PUBLISH NEW BOOK ABOUT HEALTH TOPICS

Former Stetser Students are hosting a Book Signing at Stetser Elementary on Thursday, December 8 from 5:30-7:00 pm. Their book features research on critical health topics and is a result of their work with Widener University Education and Nursing students. They participated in a “Healthy Me Curriculum” sponsored by Main Line Health. Dr. Barry Mann, Chief Academic Officer, Main Line Health, secured funding for this project from Elsevier, a major medical publisher. Community Leveraged Learning, a non-profit organization, committed to the development of writing skills for young students, published the book. The students’ work reflects a selection of health topics generated from community surveys, interviews with health experts, student research, and conducting Student Led Health Fairs for the community and Stetser Elementary students. All Stetser families are invited to attend to support our students.



Our fifth grade students have been participating in a “Healthy Me” Program created by Lankenau hospital and Widener University and implemented by Widener education and nursing students. They are involved in a series of health related lessons twice a week and then on Fridays Widener students return to work with our 5<sup>th</sup> graders to research health related topics. Our student led health fair will be held on **Thursday, December 8 at 6:00 PM in Stetser’s All Purpose Room**. Our families and the community are invited to participate in our interactive Health Fair developed by our students.

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## PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES!

On **Tuesday, November 22**, we will be having **Parent-Teacher Conferences** from **1:00-6:00 PM**. This is an opportunity for you to learn the specifics regarding your child’s progress in school this year and **receive your child’s report card**. We are off to a great start this year at Stetser and want to encourage families to be involved in every aspect of their child’s education. We will also have pictures from our My Main Man Comes to School Week. Please make every effort to come for a parent conference on November 22. Thank you for your continued support!

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## **Philabundance Kids Bites Family Food Distribution Program**

Stetser Elementary is very excited that a new KidsBites Program sponsored by *Philabundance* will be starting on December 8. Prepackaged shelf-stable food and fresh produce will be packaged for children to bring home in their backpacks. This will happen the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Look for a flyer coming home soon.



### **After School Programs**

Our After School Programs are in full swing with opportunities for keeping our children active and learning. Our **Soccer for Success** program is aligned with First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move Initiative to keep kids active and promote good nutrition. We have 72 children enrolled with a waiting list. On **Tuesday, October 28 at 5:00** we will be having a dinner and presentation for our Soccer for Success parents. We will be using sweet potatoes from our garden for that dinner. We were able to harvest **315** sweet potatoes to use! Our **Northern Star Sports** Program has also started with 50 children participating. This is a program created by Widener students to promote cooperation, character, and teamwork through sports. **Swarthmore and Stetser Performing Arts Program** is in full swing and has 25 children involved in music and dance working toward a performance in the spring. We are hoping our **After School Tutoring** for students in grades 3-6 will be starting soon. We are grateful for the opportunities to keep our children's minds and bodies active after school and look forward to providing **Reading Olympics** and other opportunities for our students.

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### **ARRIVAL PROCEDURE – IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Our school day begins at 8:45 and children should not arrive at school before 8:30. We do not have supervision prior to 8:30. Children in Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade may enter the All Purpose Room starting at 8:30. Teachers will come and get their class at 8:45 and proceed to their Classrooms. Pre-K children must be signed in by an adult outside their classroom at 8:45 AM. Please plan to arrive at 8:45.



### **Arrival Time - Dismissal Time – Instructional Time**

Instructional time is critical for the success of your child. It is so important for your child to arrive on time. This means being at school by 8:45 so they can get their materials together, have breakfast, and be ready for the start of instruction. Once they are here it is extremely important that they be here for the full instructional day. Early dismissals should be rare and only if your child has a doctor's appointment that is unavoidable. We will expect to receive verification that your child had a doctor's appointment and you must send in a note at the beginning of the day. Our dismissal time is 3:45. We do not have staffing for supervision beyond 3:55. Please be sure you have made arrangements to pick your child up on time. Thank you.

### **Fire Safety**

Fire Safety is important to all of us and we encourage you to have a plan to keep your children safe at home. We practice Fire Safety at school by having monthly Fire Drills and talking with our children about important safety reminders.

#### **Here are the important points to review about Fire Safety:**

- **Plan and practice a fire escape route**
- **Make sure there are working batteries in your smoke detectors**
- **Get out of the house immediately**
- **Have a designated place to meet**
- **Stay low – crawl under the smoke**
- **Feel the door to see if it is warm before opening it**

- **If you can't get out, go to the nearest window and open it. Scream for help! If you can't get the window open, break the glass. You may need to jump to safety.**
- **Don't hide under the bed or in a closet**

Thank you for working with us to teach and make sure our children are safe at all times.

### **Title I Funding and Support**

Title I funding has provided a great deal of support for our children at Stetser.

- ▶ Stetser has utilized Title I funds to enhance the regular district instructional program. We use funds to:
- ▶ Add highly qualified staff,
- ▶ Support parent and community involvement efforts, Chef2School Program, etc.
- ▶ Improve staff development,
- ▶ Purchase additional instructional materials and supplies – Coach materials, Math supplies, Second Step Social Skills Curriculum
- ▶ Add technology (Accelerated Reader) and needed equipment,
- ▶ Provide **TRIPS** to enhance our educational program,
- ▶ Offer parents training in schools and in the community on ways to work with their children at home to raise student achievement

### **Parent Chaperones for Field Trips**

**Parents that are interested in helping to chaperone a Field Trip MUST apply on line for Volunteer Clearance Certificates (no cost to you). Log on to the following web site and complete the application. Bring a completed copy to us when you receive it.**

[www.compass.pa.state.cwis](http://www.compass.pa.state.cwis)



### **Sock Hop**

Children in Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited to participate in a Sock Hop on **Friday, November 18 from 2:00-3:15**. Tickets are \$1 and children should bring their socks to school. They will receive a snack and a drink. Prizes will be awarded for the fanciest socks for each grade level. We are looking forward to a great time dancing in our socks!

### **Harvest Dance**

On **Friday, November 18 from 6:00-8:00**, we will be having a Harvest Dance for our 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. This event is being sponsored by our PTO. Tickets will be \$5 and will include pizza, chips, and a drink. Permission slips and money must be brought to school by **Thursday, November 17**.



### **Stetser Attendance – Goal to be First in District!**

Once again our goal at Stetser is to have the highest attendance rate in the district each month and consistently post a 95% rate or better. In order to do this we need your support. **Please make sure your child attends school every day and arrives on time (8:45)**. Thank you for your support.

## **Dismissal Time**

**Our dismissal time for Pre-K, Kindergarten and grades 1 through 6 is 3:45.** We do not have staffing for supervision beyond 3:55. **Early dismissals will not be granted after 2:30 and only for an unavoidable doctor's appointment.** Instruction occurs until the end of the day and early dismissals disrupt instruction for the entire class. **Dismissal time on Wednesday is 1:45.** Please be sure you have made arrangements to pick your child up on time. Thank you.



## **Box Tops for Education Collection**

Please save your Box Tops for Education from various food products. Ms. Kim Robinson will be heading up this effort with the goal of supporting our needs at Stetser. We will be turning in all Box Top coupons by March 1 so continue to send them in to school. Thank you for supporting our Stetser students by collecting your Box Tops coupons!

## **PTO**

Our next PTO meeting will be **Thursday, December 15 at 5:30 PM.** We will be discussing events for children and families, programs, and fundraising opportunities. We hope you will be able to come!

## **Upcoming Events**

### **November**

- 1 **Soccer for Success Sweet Potato Dinner – 5:00 PM (new date)**
- 4 Trip to Linvilla Orchards – Francis – 9:30-1:45 PM  
Trip to Citizens Bank Park – Sciarra/lovannoni/Mahoney-10:00-2:00 PM  
Trip to Constitution Center – Murray – 9:00-2:00 PM
- 7 Widener University Theatre – Macbeth – Gr. 2-6 – 1:00 PM
- 8 Election Day – No school for children/Professional Development
- 10 First Marking Period ends
- 11 Veterans' Day – No school
- 16 Picture Make Up Day
- 17 Receiver's Meeting-6:00 PM (Students Recognized- New Book)
- 18 Sock Hop – Grades K-3 – 2:00-3:15 PM  
Harvest Dance – Grades 4-6 – 6:00-7:30 PM
- 22 Half Day for students – Report Card Conferences-1-6:00 PM
- 23 Half Day for students and teachers-11:45 AM
- 24-25 Thanksgiving Break

### **December**

- 1 **Books Like Me Literacy Event – 9:00-10:15 AM**  
*Philabundance* KidsBites Backpack Food Distribution – 3:30 PM
- 5 Art Goes to School – 9:00-1:45 PM
- 7 Art Goes to School – 9:00-12:45 PM
- 8 *Philabundance* Kids Bites Back Pack Food Distribution begins  
Book Signing (Stetser 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Talks Health) – 5:30 PM  
Student Led Health Fair – 6:00-7:30 PM
- 9 Student Led Health Fair for Stetser students – 1:30-3:30 PM
- 15 PTO Meeting – 5:30 PM
- 23-Jan. 2 Winter Break

