



April 2018

Set In Stone!

Principal's Message

Barbara Onofrio



Spring is a wonderful time of renewal and hopefully the whole Stone family had a chance to recharge over the Spring Break.

Our third quarter comes to an end on April 12th and the faculty is looking forward to discussing student growth with parents on April 18th from 11:00 -6:00pm (2:00-2:45pm teacher lunch break). As in past years, this is a non-attendance day for students and hopefully all parents will make it to this important event, to review student progress and discuss future goals.

In addition to the conferences, parents can complete the My Voice/My School surveys, vote in the LSC election, shop at the PTA Scholastic Books sale, and visit the used uniform sale. Please also contact one of the parent groups if you are interested in helping out.

This month 3rd-8th grade students completed the PARCC exam. Students who participated in the exam reported that the work was very challenging. The PARCC assessment will not be used for promotional or selective enrollment purposes, but will be used to measure school progress by the state.

I am proud that Stone students took advantage of this opportunity to demonstrate how much they've learned in language arts and math. Student results from the PARCC exam will be available next fall. This is the final year for the PARCC assessment in its current form. ISBE has announced that a new state test is in development and will be used next year. This letter ([click here](#)) from State Superintendent of Education Tony Smith has more information about where the state is moving in terms of assessment.



Peace Walk

On Wednesday, March 14th at 10:00am, 7th and 8th grade students participated in a peace event which was held on the playground. Students were given the option to join the walk or stay in the auditorium if they didn't want to participate. At precisely 10:00am, students and faculty walked silently from the auditorium to the playground, they formed a tight circle, and held signs of peace they made the preceding week. Ms. Onofrio shared opening words about the gathering, and Mr. Faille introduced the song "One Day" by Matisyahu. Sadie K., Ange E., and Matilda J. led the students in singing along with the recording. The song was followed by a moment of silence and then a reading of the poem "Could Have" by Wislawa Szymborska. Mr. Faille introduced the song "Glory" by John Legend. Amaka A., Claudine B., and Abby Y. led the singing of this song. Finally, Mr. Brandon thanked the students for their respectful attention and expressions of hope, with everyone returning to the school silently. The student created artwork, along with their wishes now line the interior of the school.

3rd-4th Grade Art Encounter

Students in grades 3 and 4 have been participating in the Art Encounter program through a generous grant provided by the FOSA grants committee. During this program, a piece of art is brought into the school and students interact with the work through discussion, writing and even creating their own art.

Dance

During the month of March our 5th grade students started ballroom dance instruction and Kindergarten began ballet. Both programs help students develop coordination and learn to move their bodies gracefully. The ballroom program culminates with the Dance-off Event on Thursday May 31st. This event will take place at the Chicago Cultural Center and Stone will send 10 boys and 10 girls to the competition.



Blackhawks Visit

Our 6th grade students had an opportunity to learn floor hockey skills from Blackhawk organization representatives on March 19th. Through these hands-on activities they covered the importance of physical activity, hockey basics, and the importance of developing good habits. Students will be able to put their new skills to work as they will soon be starting a floor hockey unit in Physical Education. We are very thankful for the Blackhawks' continued partnership and look forward to seeing them again next year. We also are appreciative of the new equipment they provided the students for future use.

LSC Candidate Forum

A forum was held Monday, March 19th at 6:30 pm at school for parent and community candidates to the LSC which will begin serving July 1st. If you weren't able to attend, all candidate statements are posted in the office for public review. The election will take place during report card pick up on April 18th. Be sure to cast your vote and congratulations to the candidates for the 2018-2020 LSC!

Internet Safety Presentation

On March 21st, a representative from the Chicago Police department came to Stone and conducted two presentations about internet safety, one to the 7th and 8th grade students and a second to the 5th and 6th grade students. Each presentation was tailored to be appropriate for the age of the audience, addressing the importance of using the internet and social media carefully. The officer gave real world examples from incidents right here in Chicago to illustrate his points. Parents are encouraged to continue this dialogue at home because, while it doesn't happen frequently, every year there are reports made to the school about student issues on social media.

CIWP Committee

The CIWP committee has been meeting weekly and has completed the initial steps for drafting the new, two year plan for focused improvement strategies at Stone. The first step was to review and score the school on the School Excellence Framework in order to help the team determine priorities. Next, the team is drafting strategies and action steps to address areas of need.

Raz Kids

All Stone students in Kindergarten through Third grade have RazKids accounts and can use the system to improve reading skills. RazKids is available on all computer platforms and there is an app available for download on phones and tablets. Students enjoy this online reading program because they can select from a wide range of topics, record themselves reading, have the book read to them, and take quizzes on what they've read. In order to encourage more practice, the administration has been visiting rooms to give small prizes to students who have earned over 1000 star points during specific periods. .

My Voice, My School

The Parent Survey will be open from April 1 to April 30. Parents and guardians of CPS students are invited to complete a survey about their child's school. The survey takes about 10-15 minutes to complete and is available in several languages. It is completely anonymous.

Parents should only complete one copy of the survey for the school, even if they have multiple children attending Stone. Visit <http://www.cps.edu/Pages/surveys.aspx> to find links to the survey. Students in 6th through 8th grade, as well as the faculty, have already completed surveys for this year.

Spring Pictures

Spring picture day is April 10th which is also the date for graduation picture re-takes. During the spring picture day, only students who have pre-ordered, or have brought orders with them will have their picture taken. Spring pictures are unlike fall where every child in the school is photographed, so place those orders. To order pictures online, simply visit <https://inter-state.com/shop> and enter order code: 26469DB.

MEMA Social Justice Showcase

On Thursday, April 12th, 8th Grade students will present social justice projects on important issues in our society that they have been developing during MEMA-Music's arts-integrated global education program. During the program, students examined the impact of popular music in social and political movements throughout history and today, and watched related videos-including clips chronicling the Vietnam War protests, the Civil Rights movement, and current protests / marches. Students analyzed and reflected on messages presented in song lyrics about morals, politics, injustice and social change, to investigate different perspectives and express their own views about the world today.

9th Annual Stone Jog-a-thon
2018 May 4th

The Jog-a-thon is coming up on May 4th, 2018 and is one of our largest fundraisers of the year. The Jog A Thon committee is always looking for help getting donations for the day of the event, (cups for water, water coolers, coffee for volunteers and more). If you are interested please contact Virginia Falkner virginia@falkner.com or Aimee Flaks waterbabyfeb@hotmail.com.

MAY THE JOG BE WITH YOU

9th Annual Stone Jog-A-Thon
MAY 4, 2018



Upcoming Events

Monday, April 2

3:15pm CIWP Meeting
6:30pm LSC Meeting

Monday, April 9

3:15pm CIWP Meeting

Tuesday, April 10

Spring Picture Day and Graduation Retakes
7:00pm FOSA Meeting

Wednesday, April 11

7:00pm FOSA Grants Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 12

End of Quarter 3
9:00am MeMA Showcase
6:30pm Spring Family Dance

Friday, April 13

School Improvement Day- No School for Students

Monday, April 16-April 20

Spring Book Fair

Monday, April 16

3:15pm CIWP Meeting

Wednesday, April 18

11:00am-2:00pm and 2:45-6:00pm Parent
Teacher Conference Day -
No School for Students
1:00-8:00pm George's Ice Cream and Sweets
Fundraiser
4:30 - 7:30pm Potbelly's Restaurant Fund-
raiser

Monday, April 23

6:30pm LSC Meeting

Tuesday, April 24

4:15pm PTA Meeting
Friday, May 4
9th Annual Stone Jog-a-thon

Monday, May 7-May 11

Teacher Appreciation Week

Wednesday, May 9

7:00pm FOSA Meeting

Tuesday, May 15

8:15am Parent Forum