



September 2017

# Set In Stone!

## Principal's Message

*Barbara Onofrio*



Welcome back! I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer vacation. At Stone, we have been quite busy and are geared up for an exciting new year. I hope your time

away has been filled with enjoyable family time and pleasurable experiences that have rejuvenated your spirit. The Stone faculty looks forward to welcoming you back for another successful year!

This summer has brought a few changes. Here are some highlights:

It took some time, but the State finally passed a balanced budget! I hope this milestone results in a smooth school year for students, parents and staff alike. In relation to Stone, our budget was approved by the LSC in July. This year's allocation will be a bit tighter due to some teacher contractual changes which eliminates the role of case manager from the counselor's responsibilities. The good news is Ms. Brotman will be better able to devote more time to the social/emotional needs of our students, as well as provide guidance around high school and career choices. Since the duties of our case management will need to be carried out by other qualified staff, Stone needed

to employ one additional special education teacher to meet student needs; therefore more dollars were allocated for this purpose than in the past.

Although our staff remains stable, you will see some new faces among the faculty. You can meet them after school starts September 5th, as well as later, on curriculum night later - September 20. Here is information on the new members:

\* Ms. Maria Giorgi graduated from Northeastern University with a Master of Arts in Special Education. We welcome her to our Special Education Department.

\* Mrs. Brenna D'Ambrosio will continue as a Teacher Aide, working with our primary students. She continues to support us as a dedicated parent and active FOSA mom.

\* Welcome back to Mrs. Caryn Silcock who will be with us until Ms. Esme returns from a leave of absence. Mrs. Silcock will assist with Multi-Tier System of Support Services (MTSS) for now. Library classes will be temporarily suspended and we hope they will resume soon. For now, students will receive an additional art, music, Spanish or Advisory class. Assignments will vary, so please consult your child's homeroom teacher for specifics.

\* Welcome also Ms. Elizabeth Gant who joins our After Care program with Ms. Pam. Elizabeth is a graduate of Indiana

University and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education.

The first day of school started very smoothly. We began the day by introducing the staff to our student and parent community. Thank you to all the parents who were on hand and got their child(ren) to school on time! I know it may have been a bit difficult to get back into an early routine after summer vacation, but it is much appreciated and helps to establish healthy habits for the school year.

As a reminder, students may be dropped off as early as 7:30 a.m. in the playground. Due to limited staffing, we are unable to provide supervision any earlier. During inclement weather (rain, snow, temperature 25 degrees or below), children will be admitted inside and supervised in the auditorium. Dismissal is at 3:00 pm. Breakfast and lunch are provided daily to all students at no cost. School supplies may be brought directly to the classroom or dropped off in the office. Please write the child's name and room number on all bags.

If you are meeting your child after school, please utilize the large play lot for this purpose. Any child receiving an early dismissal must be signed out from the office. The school clerk will call the child down to meet you. *Continued on other side*

## Important Dates

**Wednesday, September 13**  
6:00pm FOSA/PTA Meeting -  
Parent Volunteer Open House

**Friday, September 15**  
PTA Back to School Picnic

**Sunday, September 17**  
Candlelite Restaurant Fund-  
raiser

**Wednesday, September 20**  
6:00pm Curriculum Night

**Thursday, September 21**  
Picture Day

**Wednesday, October 4**  
7:00pm FOSA Grants Com-  
mittee Meeting

**Sunday, October 8**  
2:00pm Marty's Martini Bar  
Fundraiser

**Monday, October 9**  
Columbus Day

## Principal's Message Continued

In both the morning and afternoon, please do not park in front of school on Leavitt because we need this space to load buses I also request that you never block crosswalks. This helps us ensure student safety.

Your child will receive a packet of important forms early this week. Please complete, sign, and return these forms: Emergency Contact, CPS Family Income and Information, Media Consent, and the Student Code of Conduct. Completion of the CPS Family Income and Information form is mandatory, as this information is used to determine appropriate discretionary funding for Stone. It is important that all of these forms are returned with a parent/guardian signature. If you do not wish to supply your income information, please mark, DNA on the form, then sign and return it to school. We must have one form per child or family on file. Unfortunately, this year, you will not be receiving the CPS Calendar, as they have not been printed, sorry.

All students are assessed a \$100.00 student fee which helps offset the cost of consumable material, printing and subscriptions/periodicals. This fee does not include field trips or special overnight grade-specific experiences (White Pines and 8th grade graduation). We do appreciate your prompt attention to satisfying this request. Please stop in the office or send your remittance with your child. Ms. Olga will issue a receipt for money received. If writing a check, please make it payable to Stone Academy and kindly write your child's name and room number in the memo section.

Thanks to our wonderful PTA for their hard work in sponsoring the New Family Orientation on September 1st. It was great meeting our newcomers, and ask you to 'Save the Date' for the next two PTA events: Volunteer Recruitment on Sept. 13 and the Welcome Back Picnic on Friday the 15th.

The Friends of Stone Academy (FOSA) and the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) offer a wide variety of events to involve parents. Please consult our school website at: [stoneacademy.net](http://stoneacademy.net) for a more complete listing. The Stone administration and faculty always look forward to welcoming you.

Here's to a great school year!

