



October 2017

Set In Stone!

Principal's Message

Barbara Onofrio



The beginning of the school year has been both successful and busy! September was packed with activity as

we started before the official start of school with the New Family Orientation. This event gives new and kindergarten families a chance to become familiar with both the school and new community prior the first day. Thanks to the many parent volunteers who came to welcome these new families the Stone Eagle way! On September 13th, parents came out to meet the LSC, FOSA, PTA, Parent Patrol, Room Parents, and Garden Club. They had a chance to speak with representatives from each of the organizations and learn about opportunities to become more involved in the Stone community. If you were unable to attend, remember there's always room for more volunteers, so please reach out to any of our parent organizations if you're interested in helping out.

Later in the week, the PTA held its "Back to School" picnic on the playground where old friends had a chance to catch up, while also making some new ones.

It was great seeing so many actively involved parents at the Curriculum Night on September 20th. Stone students are lucky to have such devoted parents who are focused on education. Teachers rely on your support: we know a strong teacher/parent partnership strengthens the educational process. Hopefully, parents found the evening informative. In past years the State of the School was presented at this meeting, however this made the evening quite long, especially when students attended the event as well. I will therefore, make the State of the School presentation at an upcoming LSC meeting. If you are looking for another opportunity to learn about the school, share concerns, or have an idea you'd like to share with administration, come to the Parent Forum on Tuesday October 10th. Parents are encouraged to attend this open exchange of ideas throughout the year.

After School

Stone will be sponsoring our own afterschool program this year. By now, you should have received an application outlining the course offerings. The program, along with some fee-based programs will run Monday through Thursday beginning Tuesday, October 10th through Thursday, December 22nd, just before the holiday break. All students in grades 2-8 are eligible to participate. Sessions run from 3:00-4:15, at which time children are released. Sorry, but we are unable to offer bus service to those students who normally receive it during the day. We do hope your child is able to participate in these wonderful sessions which are a mixture of both academics and non-academics.

Just in case the fliers didn't make it home, they can be access from the school website.

Outdoor Classroom

On September 15th at our Back to School picnic, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony to open Stone's New Outdoor Classroom. The classroom was built by Stone's Girl Scout Troop 23070 with girls (and friends) from the Class of 2017 and 2018. Materials were donated by Friends of Stone Academy through a grant from Lowe's Toolbox for Education. The Girl Scout Troop worked through the Spring of 2017 to pour the concrete footers and build the benches so we could have a new, durable, outdoor classroom. The girls in the troop are: Katerina F, Morrigan B, Charlotte C, Abigail Y, Amaka A, Sarah W, Matilda J, Jenna G, Lucy Z. Also, the troop wants to thank Michael for his help.



White Pines and Springfield

Sixth graders are looking forward to their trip to White Pines Ranch on October 18-20. Soon, parents will receive additional information related to the necessary gear for the trip. The full \$165.00 payment is due by Tuesday, October 2nd to the school office. Please contact Ms. Estrada in the office if you have any concerns. Non-participating students will be provided alternative educational activities and are expected report to school as usual.

A survey was sent home to all parents of students in 8th grade related to an over-night trip to Springfield. The trip will be provided by Bright spark travel, which we have used in the past. More information will be forthcoming related to this 2 day event which is scheduled for May 24 and 25th.



Important Dates

Wednesday, October 4

7:00pm FOSA Grants Committee Meeting

Sunday, October 8

2:00pm Marty's Martini Bar Fundraiser

Monday, October 9

Columbus Day

Tuesday, October 10

8:15am Parent Forum

7:00pm FOSA Meeting

Monday, October 16

6:30pm LSC Meeting

Tuesday, October 24

4:15pm PTA Meeting

Thursday, October 26

Fall Picture Retakes

Thursday, November 2

End of 1st Quarter

Friday, November 3

School Improvement Day- No School for Students

Saturday, November 4

7:00pm Improv Tonight fundraiser at Bughouse Theater



Calling All Siblings

The application period for new Stone students opens in October and parents must apply if current students have a sibling they hope to attend Stone next year. Applications may be submitted online by visiting <http://cps.edu/AccessAndEnrollment> or completing a paper application, these cannot be submitted to the school. Please remember, this application applies to the academic year 2018-19.

Other News

Thank you to Mr. Tom McClurg, who represented Stone as an LSC community this past year. Unfortunately, Tom reluctantly submitted his resignation, so there is now a community vacancy on the council. If you know of someone interested in serving, please have them contact Ms. Angela Moreno-Greer in the school office for an application. This person may not be a parent of a currently enrolled student.

As a reminder, all Stone families are asked to help offset instructional costs by satisfying a \$100 student fee for their child. Many thanks to those who have submitted this fee. This is a gentle reminder if you have forgotten. We accept cash or check made payable to Stone Scholastic Academy.



Pictures from the History of Rock Assembly

School Safety

Upon return to school, all middle and upper grade students participated in the customary administrative led discipline assembly. Mr. Brandon and I outlined and discussed with students the expectations related to behavior. The audience was very attentive and this past month we have evidenced quieter hallways and smooth transitions. Students have also participated in a Chicago Police Department Lockdown drill and reviewed bus safety during our bus evacuation drills. Thank you students for such a great start to the year.

Residencies

To add to the excitement of the new year, our World Weaver program (sponsored by the Minasian Brothers) has begun for our 6th grade students. I can't wait to see the creative designs this project yields. Also beginning in the month of October is ballet for our first graders. We have decided to build upon the skills taught in kindergarten and widen children's dance experience. Ballet replaces tap from previous years.



Ballet from 2016-17



World Weavers Rugs and Designers



Violin from 2016-17

