



Stratton Sentinel

December 2025

Monthly Newsletter

Letter from the Principal

Happy December Stratton Families! December is the "shortest" month of the academic year, but we seem to have a lot of things that we try to fit in before our Winter Break. I know as a parent myself that there can be a lot of distractions during this time, and it's so important to be focused and to finish the quarter strong for all our students.

First up in December is our mid-year assessments. Students will be taking these pretty quickly during the first week of December, so it's important that we have students here on time in the morning and ready to go! We are still seeing a lot of students being dropped off late, and I just want to remind everyone that when students aren't here on time, they are missing something! We also want to make sure that students who eat breakfast have time to eat before school starts. If your student eats breakfast at school, please bring them no later than 7:40am so they can eat before going to class.

I also know that with sunrise coming later and later it can be harder to get your student (and sometimes ourselves!) up and going in the morning. Having a healthy sleep routine is key and part of that is getting off screens a little earlier in the evening. I am definitely guilty of scrolling just a little too long myself. There is a lot of research that shows getting off a device earlier in the evening helps people get better quality sleep, and that sleep is so important for our students to do well in school!

A reminder as well—we still go outside for recess on the colder days! Unless it is dangerously cold outside, taking wind chill into account, we will be going outside for recess during the day. That outside time is important for our kids so they have time to play, run around, and have a break from all the work we're asking them to do! Please help us by making sure that your child has layers or a winter coat on those cold days. If your family needs help getting a winter coat for your child, please let us know!

With only three weeks of school in December, we'll be done before you know it! Please be on the lookout for information for our holiday parties in your child's classroom, as well as our traditional events here at Stratton. It has been wonderful to be a part of all these activities and seeing our families celebrate together. I hope as we approach the holiday season that no matter what holiday you celebrate, you are able to be with family and friends and have a wonderful time together.

Thank you, everyone!

Mr. P

What's In This Month's Issue:

- Letter from the Principal
- School News & Events
- PTA News & Event
- Clubs
- Health & Wellness
- Attendance & Safety
- Monthly Calendar

Stratton's SAC Meeting (School Accountability Committee)

Join Principal Phalen for a conversation. Discuss such topics as school budget, improvement plans, academic achievement, etc.

**Wed, Dec. 10th
5:00-6:00 pm In Person
and via WebEx
(by request)**

Blue Flag =



- Enter the building.
- Hang backpack.
- Sit quietly in hallway until the first bell.

School News & Events

Annie Choir Auditions 4th & 5th Grade Students

Pre-Audition Rehearsals

Two rehearsals will take place before auditions:

Monday, Dec. 1 from 3:00–4:00 PM

Thursday, Dec. 4 from 3:00–4:00 PM

During these sessions, students will practice the songs they'll need for their audition.



Auditions

Auditions will be held **Monday, Dec. 8** from **3:00–5:00 PM**, immediately after school.

Carols and Cookies

Thursday, Dec. 18 4:00–4:30 PM

@ Makenzie Place

Join Ms. Davis in spreading some holiday joy! We will gather at Makenzie Place to sing carols for the residents from 4:00 to 4:30 PM. After our caroling session, enjoy some delicious cookie treats.

***Parents, please note you must accompany your children for this event.**



School News & Events

Field Trips

Fridays in Dec. ISP

5th- Walmart

12th- Target

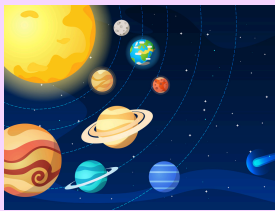
19th- Old Colorado City



Wed, Dec. 17th

9:00-12:30 pm

Kinder to the
Planetarium



5th Grade to Ameritowne

Tuesday, Dec. 9th

5th Grade students will be visiting a mobile mini-town, become citizens, take jobs, work in businesses, and spend salaries, learning about free enterprise and economics.

ECONOMICS



No School

Mon, Dec. 22nd -

Tues, Jan. 6th

District Closed

Winter Break



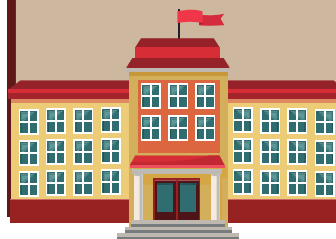
5th Grade GMP Shadow Day

Thursday, Dec. 11th

Holmes Middle School-
starting at 9:00 AM

Sabin Middle School-
starting at 11:30 AM
(lunch provided for students)

*families will need to
provide
transportation for
their students to
both locations.*



School News & Events

3rd GMP Poet-Tea

Monday, Dec. 2nd
12:45 - 1:45 pm

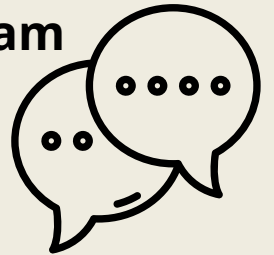
Families in Mrs. Anderson's Classroom are invited to come enjoy an afternoon of student poetry, warm tea, and creative expression.



Coffee Talk w/ Principal Phalen

Monday, Dec. 8th
8:00-9:00 am

Connect,
share ideas,
and chat
about what's
happening at
Stratton.



5th GMP Presentations

Monday, Dec. 15th
3:15 - 4:30 pm

the Stratton GMP 5th graders will be presenting their adaptations of Science Fiction Short Stories in the gym. 5th grade GMP parents and siblings are invited to come watch the hard work their student's have put into creating stage productions from the texts we've been studying!



Holiday Sing-A-long

Friday, Dec. 19th
2:00 pm in the gym

Students will kick off the winter break at school with a holiday sing-a-long in the gym



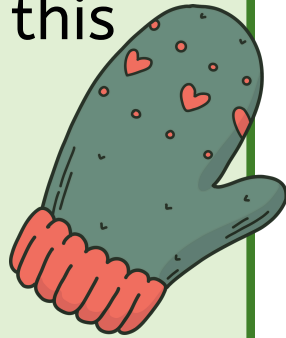
***Classroom parties to follow**

School News & Events



Holiday Helpers

If you're looking to spread some holiday cheer and lend a helping hand to a family in need, please visit the Holiday Helpers Board next to the front office. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a meaningful impact and share the spirit of giving within our Stratton community. Let's unite to spread kindness and support during this special time of year!



How to Participate:

1. Select a tag (mitten) from the Holiday Helpers bulletin board.
2. Purchase the gift indicated on the tag (mitten).
3. Return the unwrapped gift along with the tag (mitten) to the counseling team. **(The tag is essential for identifying the recipient student.)**



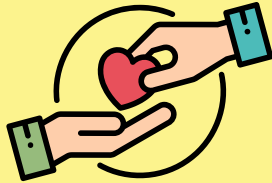
Please return gift and mittens by Wednesday, December 18th.



School News & Events

Support Stratton's SPED Resource Room & ISP Students

Celebrating the unique learning styles of our students. Our Special Education team uses hands-on, multisensory methods to make learning engaging and accessible. Help us enhance our learning spaces by scanning their Amazon List for contributions!



Cub Scouts Pack 24

December Meetings

Mon, 1st 6-7 pm

Mon, 8th 6-7 pm

Mon, 15th 6-7 pm



Orchestra Concert

**Tuesday, Dec. 16th,
6:00 pm in the gym**

Your Invited! Join us to hear what our amazing musicians have been learning this semester.

~Orchestra students arrive at 5:30, dress in concert attire.



**4th & 5th
Grade**

Basketball Tryouts

**Wed & Thurs
Dec. 17th - 18th**

**3:00-4:00 pm Boys
4:00-5:00 pm Girls**

Girls cannot wait after school during the boys tryouts. They must leave and come back at 4:00 pm. Boys need to be picked up promptly at 4:00 pm

PTA News & Events

Stratton PTA Board

Email- thestrattonpta@outlook.com

President- Anna Rau **Vice President-** Anneliese McCain
Secretary- Amanda Lockwood **Treasurer-** Rhonda Ball

PTA Meeting Tuesday, Dec. 2nd

Join us for the upcoming
[PTA Meeting](#) to share updates,
celebrate current initiatives,
and plan for an amazing school
year!

5:30-6:45 pm

School Library or via WebEx



Candy Cane Grams

\$1.00 EACH



Spread holiday cheer.
Send a **"CANDY CANE GRAM"**
to a friend, sibling or
staff member! Each gram

includes **2 candy canes and a note.**

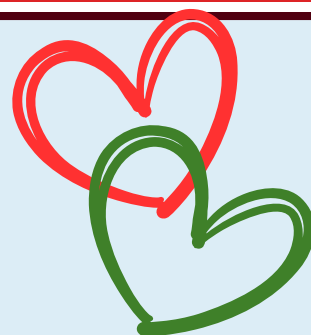
On sale after school

Dec.- 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th, & 17th



Holiday Shop

**Dec. 8th - 10th
11:30 am - 3:30 pm**



Stratton PTA will be hosting a holiday shop for
parents and students to come and purchase
gifts for friends or family. Please look for fliers
coming soon with more information.

Cash or Shopping Vouchers only



School Clubs



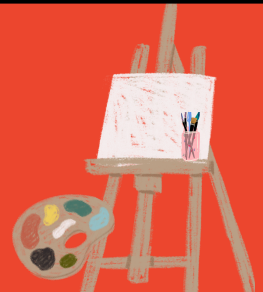
Yes Club

Thursdays
3:00-5:00 pm

Art Club

2nd Grade
Tuesdays
2:50-3:30 pm

(Last class
Dec. 2nd)



Battle of the Books

Tuesdays
2:50-3:50 pm

Thursdays
(During Lunch)

Yearbook Club

Wednesdays
(During Lunch Recess)



Mondays
2:50-3:50 pm

Student Council

Choir Rehearsal "Annie"

Mondays &
Thursdays
3:00-4:00 pm
(Dec- 1st, 4th, & 15th)



Health & Wellness

Counselor's Corner



Hi Stratton Families!

I cannot believe we're already a couple weeks into quarter two of this school year. I hope you all had a lovely fall break and were able to enjoy some time together.

I wanted to provide some insight as to what the school counseling program has covered this year. Every week I am in classrooms teaching SECL (social emotional cognitive learning) lessons. The goal of these lessons is to teach the students important life skills for them to flourish at school and in their day-to-day lives. Each lesson is specific to the developmental needs of the students based on grade levels!

Here's what we've covered so far...

August – Settling into the new school year

We reviewed "who is the school counselor?" and classroom team building.

September – Kelso's Choices

This is a conflict management curriculum. It teaches and empowers students to handle small problems on their own. (Ask your child what a Kelso's Choice is and when they would use one!)

October – Bullying Prevention Month

We focused on what bullying is, the different types of bullying and how to handle bullying.

November – Kindness and Gratitude

The ultimate way to prevent bullying is to focus on being kind – so that's exactly what we do. We discuss things such as what kindness is, how to be kind and the ripple effect that kindness has in school and in the world. (Check out the Kindness Tree bulletin outside of the office to see what kindness means to the students here at Stratton!) In addition, in the final two weeks of November we're talking about gratitude as we approach Thanksgiving.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me directly if you have any questions or concerns regarding your student.

Ms. Combs

719-328-3405 | taylor.combs@d11.org



LINA
Connect
ONLINE PORTAL

Free and Reduced/FEDS Combo Application

Even though the students are eating their meals for free, other benefits [to apply](#) are:

- Possible reduction of fees for programs both within District 11 and outside of District 11
- Qualified students will receive Summer Electronic Benefits (S-EBT) in the summer when school is not in session
- Additional funding for schools and District 11 thereby providing an enhanced educational experience for students

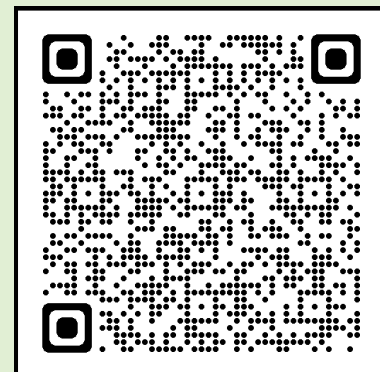
School Breakfast & Lunch Menus

Please scan the QR Code for
Breakfast and lunch menus.

*Menus are subject to change based on
availability.*



Breakfast
is served
at 7:30 am





Attendance & Safety

Attendance Matters

AIS & Attendance Notices:

- The AIS system is fully operational, with automated texts and calls at 8:50 AM for absent or tardy students. Families of students with attendance below 90% will receive periodic updates until improvement.



Drop-Off & Pick-Up:

- Drop-off starts at 7:35 AM.
- Pick-up is at 2:50 PM. Please arrange timely pick-up.



Kiss & Go Lane

The Kiss and Go Lane is a pull-through only. Pull to the right lane as far up as you can to drop off or pick up students. Please do so safely and quickly. **DO NOT PARK OR EXIT YOUR VEHICLES.** The left lane is used for exiting the Kiss and Go area. DO NOT let students out or pick up while in the left lane.

Employee Parking Area

The employee parking area is **strictly reserved** for staff, buses, daycare, and "Hop, Skip, Drive" student pick-up only.

Parents are not permitted to use this area for student drop-off or pick-up.



December 2025



Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
	1 StuCo 2:50-3:50 pm Annie Choir Rehearsal 3:00-4:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 24 6:00-7:00 pm	2 3rd GMP Grade Poets & Tea 12:45-1:45 pm Battle of the Books 2:50-3:50 pm Art Club 2nd Grade (last one) 2:50-3:30 pm PTA Meeting 5:30-6:45 pm Holmes Middle Info Night 5:30-6:30 pm	3 Yearbook Club During Lunch Recess	4 Battle of the Books During Lunch YES Club 3:00-5:00 pm Annie Choir Rehearsal 3:00-4:00 pm	5 ISP Field Trip to Walmart 9:30-11:30 am	6
7	8 PTA HOLIDAY SHOP 11:30-3:30 pm -----> Coffee Talk 8:00-9:00 am StuCo 2:50-3:50 pm Annie Choir Auditions 3:00-5:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 24 6:00-7:00 pm	9 5th Grade field trip to Ameritowne Battle of the Books 2:50-3:50 pm	10 Yearbook Club During Lunch Recess SAC Meeting 5:00-6:00 pm North Middle 6th Grade Preview Night 6:00-7:00 pm	11 5th GMP shadow Day @ Holmes & Sabin Battle of the Books During Lunch YES Club 3:00-5:00 pm Annie Choir Rehearsal 3:00-4:00 pm	12 ISP Field Trip to Target 9:00-11:30 am	13
14	15 StuCo 2:50-3:50 pm Annie Choir Rehearsal 3:00-4:00 pm 5th GMP Presentations 3:00-4:30 pm Cub Scouts Pack 24 6:00-7:00 pm	16 Battle of the Books 2:50-3:50 pm Orchestra Concert 10:00 am for Students 6:00 pm for Families	17 Yearbook Club During Lunch Recess Kindergarten field trip to the Planetarium 9:00-12:30 pm 4th & 5th Grade Basketball Tryouts boys 3:00-4:00 pm girls 4:00-5:00 pm	18 Battle of the Books During Lunch YES Club 3:00-5:00 pm Carols & Cookies 4:00-4:30 pm @ Makenzie Place 4th & 5th Grade Basketball Tryouts boys 3:00-4:00 pm girls 4:00-5:00 pm	19 PTA Candy-gram Deliveries ISP Field Trip to Old Colorado City 9:00-11:30 am Holiday Sing-A-Long 2:00 pm Gym (Classroom parties to follow)	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

WINTER

Break!