Stratton Sentinel

March 2026 Monthly Newsletter

Letter from the Principal

Hello again Stratton Families–the year continues to fly by, hard to believe we're into March! This is one of the most important times of the school year, where we really push to get our students prepared for what comes next. For most of our students, that includes spring assessments; for some it means looking at where they will be next year in middle school, and for our Kindergarten students it means the big jump to 1st grade! Before all that can take shape, we need to make sure all our students are preparing to finish the year strong.

It's been a strange winter that doesn't really feel like winter...not sure what that means for March and April but one thing I've learned about Colorado is that in terms of weather, we need to be ready for anything! It's important to know that if we wind up with some snow days coming up, our Assessment Calendar doesn't change. If we wind up with a few days out of school because of weather, there are some fun things that families can do to help students keep some of those reading and math skills going–if we have a snow day, make sure you set aside 20 to 30 minutes for your child to read a fun book, or read with your child! If you have a big jar of change like I do at home, make it your child's job to go through and count it all up–this is great for math and for some financial awareness! If you're making hot chocolate, have your child measure the mix or the water (with some precautions obviously!). These are small things but they can have a big impact on those days where weather throws a wrench into things.

We have some awesome events coming up this month! Read Across America will happen here during the morning on March 6th; our Kindergarten students get to race their cars at KinDerby at Palmer High School on March 9th; Chocolate Art Night is coming up on March 12th; and we have another Skate City night on March 31st! And of course we all get a week off for Spring Break...which I'm sure maybe a couple of our students are looking forward to. Two other important dates–March 3rd will be our next PTA meeting, and March 4th will be our next School Accountability Committee meeting. We have a lot to share at both of these meetings, and I hope to see many of you at either or both of them! Our SAC meeting will be focused on "15 Great Things at Stratton" and I'm anxious to share these with everyone!

And lastly–we're going to have some small changes to our morning drop-off routine, starting the week after Spring Break. Keep an eye out for more information about those...for now, always great to see everyone when you come by, and hope to get a chance to talk with more of you soon!

Happy March, 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, March 4th
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

Read Across America

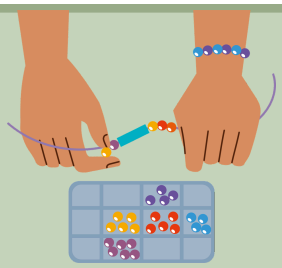
Friday, March 6th
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Stratton will celebrate Read Across America with a joyful day dedicated to books, creativity, and community connections! On the morning of March 6th, we are excited to welcome special guest readers. Students will take part in a variety of literacy, art, and STEM activities. Read Across America reminds us that reading opens doors to new ideas, cultures, and opportunities.

Chocolate Art Night

Thursday, March 12th
5:00-7:00 pm

Student Art Showcase



Make & Take Crafts

Come on over for a fabulous night brimming with artsy vibes, crafty fun, and scrumptious baked goodies!

PTA BAKE SALE

ART AUCTION

School News & Events

Pennies For Patients

A Student Council Project thru the Month of March

Help Bring Light To The Darkness Of Cancer

During the month of March, students will engage in activities that help them develop empathy, kindness, and generosity while learning how they can make a difference for patients and families affected by blood cancer.

There will be a friendly classroom competition to see which class raises the most donations! All funds raised go directly to Blood Cancer United's mission. The winning class will receive a prize.

Classroom Links:

Team Anderson's Class

Team Ball's Class

Team Bristol's Class

Team Fajardo's Class

Team Fischer's Class

Team Flanagan's Class

Team Francis' Class

Team Frei's Class

Team Huntington Deloy's Class

Team Kilman's Class

Team Noga's Class

Team Randolph's Class

Team Redwine's Class

Team Rodriguez's Class

Team Yenne's Class

Team Weaver's Class

School News & Events

No School

Monday, March 16th

NO STUDENT / Professional Development Day

Monday, March 23rd-Friday, March 27th

SPRING BREAK / DISTRICT CLOSED

Band Concert

Thursday, March 19th
6:00-7:00 pm
@ Mann Middle School

Our students can't wait to share what they've been working on.

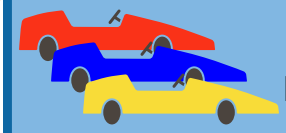
Class Picture Day

Tuesday, March 31st

Bring your smiles

Field Trips

Fridays in March for ISP
9:00-11:30 am
6th- Pepsi Truck visit
13th- Bear Creek
20th- Playpark



Monday, March 9th
12:10-2:30 pm
Kindergarten to Palmer HS for the KinDerby Peak Experience

Tuesday, March 31st
9:00-2:00 pm
4th Grade field trip to the Western Mining Museum

Coffee Talk

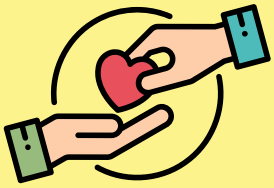
Monday, March 18th
9:00-10:00 am

Come enjoy some coffee with Principal Phalen and talk about what's happening at Stratton!

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!



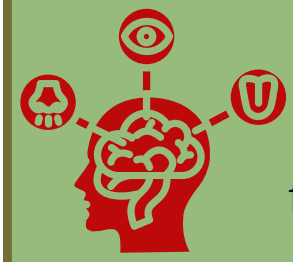
Cub Scouts Pack 24

March Meetings

Mon, 2nd 6-7 pm
Mon, 9th 6-7 pm
Mon, 30th 6-7 pm

ISP Parent Partnership Series

Friday, March 20th
1:15-2:45 (Library)



Sensory Support

This parent Partnership explores how to create sensory-friendly enviroments at home and navigate public spaces in the community with confidence.

YEAR BOOK PHOTOS

Did you snap a great photo at one of our events and think it belongs in the yearbook?
Let Mrs. Rickard in the office know, and she'll send you the link to upload your photos for approval—maybe it'll make it in!

PTA News & Events

Stratton PTA Board

Email- thestrattonpta@outlook.com

President- Anna Rau **Vice President**- Anneliese McCain
Secretary- Noel Erdmann **Treasurer**- Rhonda Ball

PTA Meeting

Tuesday, March 3rd

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

Popcorn Friday

Friday, March 13th

Bring money to classroom teacher's in the morning. Popcorn is handed out at the end of the day.

$1.00 per bag

Skate City Night

Tuesday, March 31st
5:00-7:00 pm

200 paid entries = $1,000.00 for our school

Classroom with the highest attendance will win the Golden Skate.

Location: Constitution & Academy

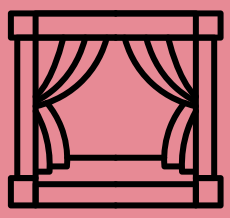
School Clubs

Thursdays
2:50-3:50 pm

2nd Grade Art Club

Choir Rehearsal "Annie"

Mondays 3:00-4:30 pm
&
Thursdays 3:00-4:00 pm



Tuesdays
2:50-3:50 pm

Stage Crew

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

YES Club

Thursdays
2:50-4:50 pm

Health & Wellness

Counselor's Corner

Hi Stratton Families!
National School Counselor Week is February 2nd – 6th! To celebrate the week, I wanted to bring some awareness to what a school counselor does day in and day out to support students and the overall culture of the school.

Elementary school counselors support all students' academic, social-emotional, and career development. Through classroom lessons, small groups, and individual support, counselors help students build skills like managing emotions, solving problems, making positive choices, and feeling connected at school. They also collaborate with families, teachers, and administrators to create a safe, supportive learning environment where every child can grow and thrive.

In a gist, I want students to know they belong in this world and here at school. I couldn't imagine doing this job at a better school than Stratton and the #1 reason is the amazing students we have here.

As always, if you have any concerns or questions regarding your student – please reach out to me as I am a firm believer that the more supportive adults in a child's life, the better.

Cheers!
Taylor Combs 719 – 328 – 3405 or taylor.combs@d11.org

LINQ 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

Good attendance sets students up for success! Being at school every day helps children build strong learning habits, stay connected with their teachers and classmates, and keep up with important skills that build day by day. Every school day counts—and together we can help our students shine by making attendance a priority.

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. For safety students **must** exit on the sidewalk.

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.**

March 2026

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1	2 **Annie Choir Rehearsal** 3:00-4:30 pm **StuCo** 2:50-3:50 pm **Cub Scouts Pack 24** 6:00-7:00 pm	3 **Battle of the Books** 2:50-3:50 pm **Stage Crew** 2:50-3:50 pm **PTA Meeting** 5:30-6:45 pm	4 **Yearbook Club** During Lunch Recess **SAC Meeting** 5:00-6:00 pm	5 **Battle of the Books** During Lunch **Annie Choir Rehearsal** 3:00-4:00 pm **YES Club** 2:50-4:50 pm **2nd Grade Art Club** 2:50-3:50 pm	6 Read Across America **ISP Pepsi Truck Visit** 9:00-10:30 am	7
8	9 **KinDerby @ Palmer HS** 12:10-2:00 pm **Annie Choir Rehearsal** 3:00-4:30 pm **StuCo** 2:50-3:50 pm **Cub Scouts Pack 24** 6:00-7:00 pm	10 **Battle of the Books** 2:50-3:50 pm **Stage Crew** 2:50-3:50 pm	11 **Yearbook Club** During Lunch Recess	12 **Battle of the Books** During Lunch **Annie Choir Rehearsal** 3:00-4:00 pm **YES Club** 2:50-4:50 pm **Chocolate Art Night** 5:00-7:00 pm	13 **ISP field trip to Bear Creek** 9:00-11:30 am	14
15	16 **No School For Students / Professional Development Day**	17 Happy Patrick's Day **Battle of the Books** 2:50-3:50 pm **Stage Crew** 2:50-3:50 pm	18 **Coffee Talk** 9:00-10:00 am **Yearbook Club** During Lunch Recess	19 **Battle of the Books** During Lunch **Annie Choir Rehearsal** 3:00-4:00 pm **YES Club** 2:50-4:50 pm **2nd Grade Art Club** 2:50-3:50 pm **Band Concert @ Mann** 5:30-7:30 pm	20 **PTA Popcorn Friday** **ISP field trip to Playpark** 9:00-11:30 am **ISP Parent Partnership Sensory Support** 1:15-2:45 pm	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 **StuCo** 2:50-3:50 pm **Annie Choir Rehearsal** 3:00-4:30 pm **Stage Crew & Music Tech** 3:00-5:00 pm **Cub Scouts Pack 24** 6:00-7:00 pm	31 **Class Picture Day** **4th Grade field trip to the Western Mining Museum** 9:00-2:00 pm **Battle of the Books** 2:50-3:50 pm **Stage Crew & Music Tech** 3:00-5:00 pm **PTA Skate City Night** 5:00-7:00 pm				

Spring Break / District Closed