Welcome Back!

Dear Families,

Just as it did many years ago, the night before school still brings me butterflies and a restless night of sleep. However, once the smell of fresh crayons fills the air and squeaky shoes move swiftly across the newly waxed floors, I am reassured it is going to be another great year. With much excitement and anticipation, students find their way to their classrooms and smile at familiar faces. Anxious parents are finally put at ease as their children hop off the bus at the end of the day, trying to keep up as they hear all about that "first day" of school. Regardless of age or grade, the first day of school almost always welcomes this same tradition not only for students and parents, but also for all of our wonderful staff.

I am truly honored and proud to serve as the Principal of Nellie Stokes Elementary. In addition to being a CR alumni, I have also been a staff member of the CR family since 2005. I know first-hand that our schools are the cornerstone of this community. I also know that I am lucky to be surrounded by such great families and amazing teachers that help make my job easier and outrageously enjoyable.

Our staff have spent a good deal of their summer in various professional workshops fine-tuning their craft and staying current in educational research to ensure our students are ultimately college and career ready. We look forward to having the privilege of working with your children again this school year.

Respectfully,

Nicole Jones
Principal
Keeping You in the Loop

AM Parent Drop Off Procedures- Doors open at 8:25 AM. Students arriving after 8:40 AM are considered tardy and require an adult to sign them in at the main office. Parents dropping students off will use the front circle. Parents are asked to stay in their vehicles and have students exit from the right side of the vehicle. Another option is to park in the car lot and safely walk your child to the front sidewalk. Please do not allow students to walk through the lot unsupervised. Vehicles should not be left unattended in the circle at any time during arrival or dismissal.

PM Parent Pick-up Procedures- Students who are being picked up at dismissal will exit the building at 3:22 PM. Parents picking up students are asked to wait patiently as students are escorted to vehicles lined up in the circle. A staff member will assist with the flow of traffic; to ensure safety, please obey their directions. Please be sure to have your green visor card visible while in the circle. If you need a visor card, please contact the office. It is the parents responsibility to keep the visor card safe and displayed while in the circle.

Dismissal - Only authorized adults will be permitted to sign students out early, only for approved reasons, and are required to show identification. Regular attendance is critical to school success and to ensure the safety of our students, changes to regular dismissal practices require written notification from an authorized parent/guardian BEFORE 2:00 PM. Any requests for changes to bus transportation MUST be handled and approved through the transportation department at our district office. Please allow 3-5 days for processing and approval.

Visitors/Volunteers- For school security purposes, all visitors and volunteers must check in through the main office. All volunteers are required to submit a "volunteer" packet; this will include chaperones for field trips. Please allow up to 6 weeks for approval/authorization. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office at (302) 697-3205. Office hours are Monday -Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on days when school is in session. Here’s to another amazing year at Stokes Elementary School!

Stokes’ Food Policy

We take the health and well being of our students very seriously and the list of students with a variety of allergies and dietary issues is ever-growing. With this in mind, we ask that only store bought food items with listed ingredients on the package be sent in for classroom parties. These classroom events will be organized by the teacher based on the dietary/allergy issues in the classroom. Families will be notified about what items to avoid donating for those special events.

There will also be no food items used to celebrate birthdays. If you wish to send in items for your child’s birthday, please use non-food items such as stickers or pencils. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we ensure the safety and health of our students.

NHS Fundraiser

Want to save 10% each time you visit Fifer Orchards? Or, perhaps save $5.00 each time you spend $25.00 or more at La Tonalteca in Woodside? Interested in one free week of CrossFit? If you want to save money while helping our school earn funds for field trips, classroom materials and other activities for our students and families, then please support our Discount Card Fundraiser. This year, Stokes is partnering with the Camden/Wyoming Fire Department to sell discount cards for only $10.00 each. Each card can get you a variety of discounts at over fifteen local establishments for up to one year. Please be on the lookout for more information regarding our Discount Cards in upcoming Wednesday Envelopes!

A Note from the Nurse

“Did you wash your hands today?” How many times did you hear that today? Probably a lot. Washing your hands is the best way to stop germs from spreading. Think about all of the things that you touched today — from the telephone to the toilet. Maybe you blew your nose in a tissue and then went outside to dig around the dirt. Whatever you did today, you came into contact with germs. The next time you’re told to step up to the sink and scrub up, remember these handy hints:

-Use warm water (not cold or hot) when you wash your hands.
-Use whatever soap you like and work up a good lather on both sides of your hands and between your fingers.
-Rinse and dry well with a clean towel. Remember, clean hands help keep you healthy!
New Faces, New Places

We have several new faces in new places this school year. Some are teachers simply changing grade levels, while others are new to our building. This month, we are featuring three professionals new to our school. Please be sure to welcome them the next time you are visiting Stokes!

Mrs. Smith
Third Grade  Room 23

I love, love, love working with children! Working with kids has always been my passion. I have spent the past eight years working in CR as a special education teacher, regular education teacher, and school counselor. I definitely wear many hats!

When I am away from school, I enjoy traveling, going to concerts and plays, and spending time with my family. Family is definitely everything to me! I also enjoy decorating. I think my classroom reflects that passion quite well:-)

I have a cute little Bichon named Chase who will just melt your heart and a husband named Will Smith (yes, yes, I know). Dover is my second home, but Philly will always be my first. Go Eagles, Phillies, Sixers and Taney Dragons!

Mrs. Thompson
School Nurse

I am still a newly wed! I married my best friend September 29, 2012. My husband, Adam, and I have been very good friends since the second grade. I was lucky to become a step mom when we got married. I now have twin five year old step daughters. They will be turning six very soon and they have recently started kindergarten.

Although I am new to school nursing, I often served as a substitute school nurse in the past. I have also served as a critical care nurse for eleven years. I have worked at an emergency room level one trauma center, I have been a flight nurse, as well as a pediatric resource nurse to other emergency room staff.

I enjoy reading and spending time on the beach or river. I come from a very large and close knit family, so I also enjoy spending time with them as well as my friends.

Speaking of family, I am an identical twin. So, if you think you see me in public and I do not smile or say hello, it is my twin and not me. It happens to the both of us all the time!

Mrs. Graham
First Grade  Room 6

I am very excited to teach first grade at Nellie Stokes. I have a son, Mason, who is in first grade. We are both excited to be going to first grade together. I got married over the summer to my wonderful husband, Mike.

This is my first year in the Caesar Rodney School District, but I am in my fifth year of teaching. I graduated from Caesar Rodney High School. It feels great to be teaching for such a great district.

I LOVE to spend my spare time outdoors. I enjoy camping, fishing, hunting, going out on our boat and going to the beach. I love doing all of these things with my family.

I have coached competitive cheerleading for CR for nine years! I look forward to practices with my team, and cheering for the RIDERS on Friday nights!
September

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<td>SPIRIT WEEK!</td>
<td>Beating the Vikings is no sweat! Wear your sweats to school.</td>
<td>We’re Crazy for CR! Style your hair in a crazy and fun way!</td>
<td>Hats off to the CR Football Team! Wear your favorite hat to school!</td>
<td>Can’t hide our Rider pride! Wear blue &amp; gold!</td>
<td>Teacher In-service Schools Closed / Homecoming Parade @ 6:00</td>
<td>Rider Pride Day CRHS 9:00-2:00</td>
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Looking Forward to October!

10/1– Interim Reports Issued
10/2– PTO Meeting @ 3:45
10/20-10/23– Scholastic Book Fair
10/30– End of 1st Marking Period
10/31– Abbreviated Day

Box Tops Corner

By: Ms. Leone
Parent Volunteer

Let’s get collecting! Now is a great time to stock up on extra box tops as lots of products are offering bonus tops for back to school. Please be sure to attach any bonus tops in a Ziploc bag to the collection sheet. Extra collection sheets can be found in the office. Our goal this year is $3,000. Each month, the class that collects the most will win a special prize. The student with the most collected throughout the entire school year will have a chance to spend 3,000 Campbell’s label points out of their catalog full of games, toys, sports gear. Our first contest runs until Sept. 30th, and the class that collects the most box tops will earn extended recess! Start collecting those box tops!

Redner’s Save a Tape Program

Do you shop at Redner’s? If you said yes, please send us your receipts! Redner’s will donate a portion of all receipts collected directly to Stokes. Students may place receipts in the gold box in our lobby. The more receipts we collect, the more money our school will earn! Remind your family and friends to save their receipts too!