



Students enjoy the music at our PTO sponsored Luau

Stoner Prairie News

Stoner Prairie Monthly News

April, 2018

UPCOMING DATES:

April 2	Resume school from Spring Break
April 5	JusTme - PTO sponsored speaker-schoolwide
April 9 - 26	Box Tops for Education Competition
April 18	Verona Culver's Fundraiser 5:00-8:00 p.m.
April 24	VAHS Groundbreaking Ceremony 4:00-5:00 p.m.

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MESSAGE FROM Mr. PISANI

• **Teaching and Learning in Academics and Behavior:** The Tower of Power is a way for us to celebrate all the positive choices our students make every day. When a student receives a PAW for showcasing one of our **school-wide** expectations (Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Responsible, Be a Problem Solver) they give it to their classroom teacher. Each classroom sets a goal for how many PAWS it will take to receive a classroom celebration. Once the classroom reaches that goal, they have a classroom celebration and get to put a ball in the Tower of Power. When we get to one of our goal lines on the Tower of Power we have a school-wide celebration. Some of the celebrations we have had so far this year have been a Staff/Student Olympics, Pajama Day and our next celebration will be a Doodle Party!

• **Increase Communication with Families:** Title 1 Information Night, is April 12 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Stoner Prairie LMC. This is an opportunity for families to learn about the progress our building has made toward our school-wide goals in Behavior, Literacy, and Math during 2017-18 and to learn about our Schoolwide Title 1 program.

• **Enhanced Collaboration:** We will soon be creating the class lists for the 2018-19 school year. These placements are made mainly by the classroom teachers who know the students in K-4. If you would like to share information with school to assist us in our placement process, you can download the Family Insight Form at <https://goo.gl/iAuxsN>. Be sure to return it to school by April 4th. The forms are also available in the office.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: MS. CAROLYN MURPHY, EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT



Carolyn Murphy, who is the smiling staff person at our front doors in the morning, has been with the Verona Area School District as an Educational Assistant since 2000. She came to the VASD after a career with the Federal Government and 22 years in Human Resources at the CUNA Mutual Insurance Group. She has worked with staff and students in numerous roles throughout the years with the school system. Strong and lasting relationships with the children and staff are extremely important to her. Carolyn loves to spend time with her family, especially with her three grandchildren. She is an avid sports fan and loves attending Wisconsin Badger Basketball games with her family.

Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Responsible, Be a Problem Solver

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: YAHARA RIVER WRITERS

We had ten students enter their writing into the Yahara River Writers Contest. This is a writing contest for students across Dane County. There are five categories that students could enter: Short story, editorial, cartoon, poetry, or Spanish poetry. Congratulations to these students who were chosen in the top 10 for the Verona Area School District:

Neveah Grimmer- Short Story
 Anasia Pierce- Short Story
 Lilly Lambrecht -Short Story
 Hannah Haslam -Poetry
 Mallorie Kreuser -Editorial

Congratulations to Neveah Grimmer who was then selected by the Yahara River Writers judges as one of the Top Ten in Dane County. Neveah will get to go to Union South for a writing celebration with all the other writers from around Dane County. Way to go Stoner Prairie Writers!



Yahara River Writers Contest Participants

Ways to Help Your Child With Writing at Home by Julie Briggs

Stoner Prairie students have been busy writing reviews, poems, information books, essays, short stories, and more. The buzz about writing is spreading and students are eager to publish their writing and share their stories with others. We wanted to give you some tips on how families can help their child with writing at home. Have fun!

1. Find a Space for Writing

Find a quiet space where your child can write. Have paper and writing supplies available for your child to write. Find out what works best for your child. Do they like the lights dim? Fully lit? Quiet space? At a table? Encourage your child to go to the space to do their writing. Some very famous authors talk about their writing spaces and how they have made it their own. For example E.B. White, author of *Charlotte's Web*, likes to write at a table in front of a window to get inspiration. Encourage your child to find a space that is inspiring, fosters creativity, and allows your child to be organized.

2. READ!

Reading books is one of the best way to promote better writing. Students who read regularly are exposed to rich vocabulary and can learn craft moves from mentor authors. Students learn to not only read the books for comprehension, but they also learn to study the author and how they wrote the story.

3. Provide Authentic Writing Opportunities

Writing at home doesn't always have to be about writing a story. Have your child write the grocery list, create a how-to story for a chore they do or taking care of a pet, write a thank you card, send a letter to somebody, etc. Find ways to incorporate writing into authentic situations at home.

4. Ask Questions

As your child writes, ask questions such as, "Can you tell me more about that? What do you mean by...? How did that make you feel? What are some other words you could use?" Writing involves thinking and asking questions allows your child to reflect on their writing.

PTO NEWS

April 9-26 Students bring in Box Tops for Education-Class competitions
 April 18 Verona Culver's Fundraiser

Hope everyone had a great time at our first annual Stoner Prairie Dance/Luau! Once we are back from Spring Break we will be having our annual Box Tops competition between classrooms. Additionally we have our Culver's fundraiser night on April 18th. What a great way to celebrate the end of tax season! Both of these programs provide funding for the PTO general fund that is used for staff appreciation, funding of mini grant requests, and other items. Watch your inboxes for more information on the Color Run and Schoolkidz school supply order forms coming in April and May. Have a great Spring Break!