



Students present their classroom flags at an Olympic Assembly Oct. 9.

UPCOMING DATES:

December 1 Lifetouch taking Candid Pictures at School

December 7 PTO- MOD Pizza Fundraiser 10:30-9 p.m.

December 14 Grade 5 Economic Bazaar in the morning

December 21 Artist Showcase (Music Concert)

December 22 Last Day before Winter Break

January 2, 2018 Resume School

Stoner Prairie News

This is the first of a new series of monthly newsletters to let families know about the upcoming events at our school

December, 2017

IN THIS ISSUE:

Welcome Message from Mr. Pisani

Focus on Staff: Welcome Ms. Belz, Behavior Specialist

Behavior Expectations

Teaching and Learning

State School Report Cards

PTO News

Welcome Message from Mr. Pisani

There are so many wonderful things happening every day at our school. Since the start of the school year, we have put in place new programs and resources for:

- **Teaching and Learning in Academics and Behavior:** Staff developed and taught new behavior expectations in all school environments. We revised and enhanced guiding documents like our Behavior T-Chart (see below), and implemented new curriculum tools.
- **Increase Communication with Families:** We have increased our social media presence on Facebook. Visit us at: <https://www.facebook.com/StonerPrairie> to like our Facebook page. On our webpage we feature video announcements by students and Mr. Pisani. Information from our Continuous Improvement Parent Representatives are featured on the Stoner Prairie homepage. <http://spes.verona.k12.wi.us/>
- **Enhanced Collaboration--Forming Family Engagement Group:** We are currently looking for family members or care-givers to be part of this group that collaborates with school staff to continue to make Stoner Prairie even better. The goal is to meet 4 times per school year. If you are interested in this group you can contact Mike Pisani at pisanim@verona.k12.wi.us

To keep everyone involved and informed, we will have a brief newsletter to share each month. Please be sure to send your feedback to me so we can be certain to provide the news that is most helpful to you at pisanim@verona.k12.wi.us or 845-4210.

Staff Spotlight: Welcome Ms. Belz, Behavior Specialist



We are very excited to introduce to you Terri Belz, our new Behavior Specialist and Special Education Coordinator. She works to support students needing additional training and support with behavior needs in the classroom at recess and in small groups. Small groups focus on topics like emotion management, impulse control, friendship issues/social skills, and self-regulation. She is very good at building relationships with kids. Ms. Belz can be reached via email at: Belzt@verona.k12.wi.us or 608-845.4234.

Behavior Expectations

You may have heard your kids talking about our behavior expectations: Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Responsible and Be a Problem Solver. These are new behavior expectations for our school this year. We made this change based on:

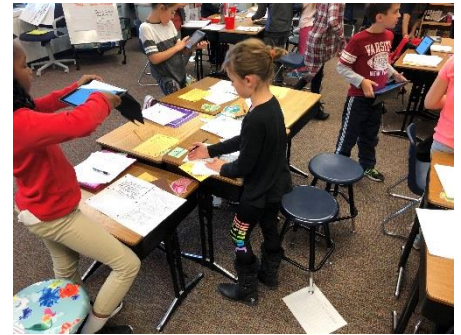
- Staff feedback that our previous school-wide expectations (Respect Self, Others, and Environment) were abstract and challenging for our youngest learners to understand.
- Family feedback that these are expectations that could be supported at home.
- Student feedback that included what it might look like at school.

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

Teaching and Learning

What is Writing Workshop?

Did you know that Stoner Prairie uses a workshop model for writing? Students are engaged in a mini-lesson with their teacher where a new writing skill is taught. Then, students go to their writing spots to independently write while the teacher meets with students in small groups or works one-on-one. Each writing unit focuses on a specific writing genre; narrative, opinion, or information. At the end, the class will have a writing celebration where students share their published writing pieces. The students are becoming such amazing writers through this workshop model.



Below you will find a link to a guide we use at school called a **T-Chart**. This is used by teachers, educational assistants, and the principal at Stoner Prairie in responding to student behaviors. When a behavior error occurs, staff consider the following things:



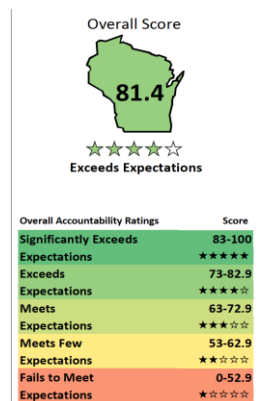
- What is our best guess for why the behavior occurred?
- What circumstances surround the behavior? (Age of student, severity of the error, frequency of the error)?
- Is the event managed by the teacher or office staff, based on circumstances?
- What consequence will be most effective at preventing the behavior from occurring in the future? Some examples include: reteaching, family contact, conflict resolution, additional practice, loss of privilege.

This was created through Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) within the Verona Area School District. You can view our T-Chart at this link: <https://goo.gl/cug2j4>

State School Report Cards

November 21st was the public release of State School Report Cards. **Stoner Prairie Elementary School "Exceeded Expectations."** Our school had an overall score of **81.4** which is the highest Report Card score in our school's history. This year is the second year in a row we have achieved a highest score.

Stoner Prairie also scored higher than 11 of the 12 VASD schools and outscored about 70% of elementary schools in Dane County. There is much to be proud of at our school!!!! This success reflects the hard work of teachers, families and students.



PTO NEWS

* PTO funded mini-grants for the purchase of new recess and classroom equipment, and new rollerblades for Physical Education. All of our students will benefit directly from these mini-grants.

* Thank you to all the families who supported our Staff Appreciation Breakfast!