STONER PRAIRIE FAMILY NEWSLETTER

April, 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Stoner Prairie Elementary Parents/Guardians:

We hope that all of you had a good spring break, and our school welcomes you back for the last couple of months of the 2012-13 school year.

Our school is committed to having all students growing academically, socially and emotionally at our school throughout the year. We have added some wonderful after-school opportunities this year through our partnerships with the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County and FACTV at the City of Fitchburg in order to create the Stoner Prairie Video Productions Team, Power Hour (Homework Club) and Triple Play (recreational experience) for our 3rd-5th grade students. Survey results and academic results have shown these opportunities to be having a positive impact on our students. We hope to continually enhance these after-school opportunities when we make them available to students in 2013-14. We know that meaningful student engagement after school strengthens overall school programming in many ways as well.

We hope that your family will be engaging your child in fun learning opportunities this summer. The school district summer school registration period runs from April 9-19. The Fitchburg Recreational Department and FACTV at the Fitchburg City Hall hosts many worthwhile summer engagement opportunities for students as well. Keeping students engaged during the summer builds background knowledge, keeps students thinking and learning, and allows students to continue on their path of development.

Speaking of engagement, we hope that your family will join us for our 4th annual Cultural Celebrations night from 6:00-8:00 P.M. on Friday, April 19th, Celebrate the Arts on May 9, and our Field Day/Family Picnic on May 29. Your involvement helps our school in many ways. Thank you for your continued support and involvement at Stoner Prairie.

Yours in Education,

Chris Olson, Stoner Prairie Elementary Principal
608-845-4210 or chris.olson@verona.k12.wi.us
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 19  Cultural Celebration- 6:00-8:00 (see page 11)
April 25  Market Day Pick-up
May 4    Landscaping Day at Stoner Prairie (see page 3)
May 6    Staff Appreciation Luncheon
May 9    Celebrate the Arts – a.m. (see pages 5 & 6)
May 14   PTO/PAC Meetings 6:30/7:30 p.m.
May 23   Kindergarten Orientation
May 27   No School – Memorial Day
May 29   Field Day/Family Picnic (see page 7)
         Rain Date – May 30
June 7   Last Day of School – 12:20 dismissal

HOT LUNCH MENU
The hot lunch menu for May 29th and May 31st will be interchanged.

Stoner Prairie Video Productions Recognition

Congratulations to Ms. Karie Huttner, the Education Technology Coordinator, Bonny Lundy and Jeremy Crosby from FACTV at the City of Fitchburg, and to the Stoner Prairie Video Productions Team of students: Jordan Armstrong, Max Beardsley, Surya Blasiole, Abigail Chase, Anna Choles, Meredith Conley, Jennifer Daney, Olivia Ingrisano, Morgan Moll, Zakey Morrison, Elizabeth Newberry, Avery Shaffer, Hanna Steiner and Alina Yazek. The Stoner Prairie Video Productions Team was recently recognized by the Wisconsin Community's Best of the Midwest Video Festival for an Achievement Award that is the equivalent of the silver medal for their great video production work this year as part of the partnership between Stoner Prairie Elementary and FACTV. These students and staff have been invited to attend the April 26th Video Fest Banquet and Show in Milwaukee. Well done to this entire team!
Thursday Morning, May 9

Celebrate the Arts
All-School Program
Featuring
Music, Dance and Art
LOOK for specific times on page 5.

CUB SCOUT PACK 549
Come and see what we are up to by attending our Pack meeting.
Glacier Edge Elementary School
800 Kimball Lane, Verona
Third Thursday of each month (6:30-8:00)
Website: http://veronascouts.org/Pack_549/

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Blackhawk Church community for inviting members to help with the spring cleaning on the grounds of Stoner Prairie Elementary School and Savanna Oaks Middle School. All Stoner Prairie families are invited to work with the members of Blackhawk church from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 28.

SCIENCE FAIR

The 2013 PTO Science Fair took place on March 8th, and was a resounding success with over 150 students entering projects. Families enjoyed viewing all the projects, as well as presentations by VAHS students, UW-Madison groups, and the Lego Project. The event was held in the gym this year, creating a wonderful opportunity for classrooms to visit during the school day. Many thanks to all those who made the event possible and to all the families that attended.

LANDSCAPING DAY AT STONER PRAIRIE, MAY 4

Have Pride in Your School! We are having a landscaping day on May 4th from 1-4 pm to clean up the grounds and rejuvenate the planting beds around the front of the school. We will also be working on the school community garden. Wear your gardening shoes and clothes and bring a rake or shovel too! We'll provide a drink and snack. Thanks SPE PTO.
The Staff Appreciation lunch will be held on Monday, May 6, from 11:00 – 1:00. This lunch serves as a big THANKS to all the wonderful staff at Stoner Prairie. If you would like to contribute to this event by bringing a dish or helping at the luncheon and you have not been previously contacted, please call Angel Lim Meyers 274-7643 or Ann Stitgen 276-7961.

While it would seem that we have everything covered, we still need help to defray the cost of the main course, luncheon wares, teacher and staff prizes. If you can help with a monetary contribution, please send cash or check (made out to Stoner Prairie PTO) and return to school in an envelope marked “PTO Staff Appreciation Lunch”. If you have any questions, please contact Ann or Angel.

Looking for an exciting, affordable and educational experience for your middle school students this summer? Check out the Aldo Leopold Nature Center’s NEW Adventure Summer Camps! These camps will give your teen hands-on opportunities to experience and enjoy the best of the outdoors as they backpack local trails and the Porcupine Mountains, learn to canoe, delve into science topics with hands-on experiments, camp and more!

- Camps run Monday-Friday 9 am - 4 pm (8:30 am - 5:30 pm extended hours are available)
- Fun and diverse themes for all interests and skill levels
- Each camp begins at ALNC’s conveniently located Monona Campus!
- Special overnight camps available
- All gear and transportation from the Monona Campus provided!
- All camps taught by experienced naturalists and guides!
- Become a member to save 10% off your total fee!

Camps fill quickly and space is limited. Visit aldoleopoldnaturecenter.org or call 608-221-0404 x 1 to find out more and register!

This is not a school sponsored activity and the Verona Area School District does not approve, support or endorse this activity.
“CELEBRATE THE ARTS” – Thursday, May 9

Our annual “Celebrate the Arts” program will be presented on Thursday, May 9. All parents and families are invited to come to the gym to watch our students sing and dance. Following the program, you may view the art work displayed throughout the school and visit your child’s classroom for refreshments. The schedule for the morning is as follows:

8:00-8:40 am    Performance - Grades 2 & 3 & PALS 2, 3

8:40-9:10 am    View Art Show & Classroom Reception
                Grades 2, 3 & PALS 2, 3

8:50-9:30 am    Performance - Grades 4 & 5 & PALS 4, 5
9:30-10:00 am   View Art Show & Classroom Reception
                Grades 4, 5 & PALS 4, 5

9:40-10:20 am   Performance - Kindergarten, Grade 1 & PALS 1

10:20-10:50 am  View Art Show & Classroom Reception
                Kindergarten, Grade 1 & PALS 1
Please feel free to contact the Related Arts staff with any questions or concerns you might have regarding their classes.

ART - Jayne Baitinger-Peterson 608-845-4276
Jayne.Baitinger-Peterson@verona.k12.wi.us

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Jill Thronson 608-845-4248
Jill.Thronson@verona.k12.wi.us

MUSIC - Leanne Stucki 608-845-4279
Leanne.Stucki@verona.k12.wi.us

GETTING READY FOR CELEBRATE THE ARTS
Thursday, May 9
FIELD DAY AND FAMILY PICNIC
WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

Stoner Prairie will be hosting a Field Day and Family Picnic on Wednesday, May 29. (Thursday, May 30 is our rain date). Field Day will include outside student activities coordinated by Ms. Thronson, the physical education teacher. Parents who would like to help supervise or assist with the outdoor games and activities as part of Field Day are encouraged to call Ms. Thronson (845-4248) directly. We appreciate any parent volunteer help on May 29.

All families are invited to the Family Picnic on Wednesday, May 29 that will happen before or after your child’s Field Day activities. We will send you more information during the month of May about how you can pre-order the lunches for May 29 for the number of family members that you plan to bring along to the Family Picnic. Please contact the school office (845-4200) if your family needs transportation assistance.

The Field Day and Family Picnic activities will help our students, staff and families to build community and to celebrate the students of Stoner Prairie. We hope that you can join us on May 29 for these fun activities. A schedule of the events for is listed below:

K-2 & PALS 1-3 Field Day 9:00-10:30

K-2 & PALS 1-3 Family Picnic- 10:45-11:45

3rd-5th Grade Family Picnic- 11:30-12:30

3rd-5th Grade Field Day- 12:30-2:00
NEWS FROM STONER PRAIRIE PTO

Stoner Prairie PTO has partnered with Chili’s restaurant to raise money for Stoner Prairie. If you dine in or take out from both Madison Chili’s locations (west and east sides) from Friday, April 5 through Thursday, April 18, Chili’s will donate 10% of the cost of your meal to Stoner Prairie. You will NEED to show the “Pepper Partner Program” vouchers in order for Stoner Prairie to receive the donation. Show the voucher to your server. Thank you to Stoner Prairie Parent/PTO member and Chili’s manager, Terry Miller, for offering this great fundraising opportunity to Stoner Prairie. Remember, Stoner Prairie will receive 10% of all dining in and take out lunches, dinners and drinks as long as the program voucher is shown. Thank you! CLIP THE VOUCHER BELOW AND TAKE WITH YOU TO CHILI’S

Pepper Partner Program
Bring this voucher when you visit (Dine In or To Go) the Chili’s location identified below
And 10% of your purchase (excluding taxes) will benefit:

STONER PRAIRIE PTO
Group/Charity

APRIL 5TH – APRIL 18TH
Event/Exp. Date

One coupon per person per visit at participating Chili’s restaurants only. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer ends per expiration date above.

WEST MADISON & EAST MADISON
Chili’s Location
#99999000003774
SECOND GRADE ESTABLISHES PEN PALS

The second graders have established pen pals with residents at Hyland Park Assisted Living in Fitchburg. Friendships have continued to develop as students have had the opportunity to visit them two times this school year. Both residents and students have enjoyed singing, making bird seed ornaments, decorating pots and planting herbs, interviewing each other, reading books, and playing Bingo. The residents will be attending our Celebrate the Arts in May and a final field trip is planned in June for a celebratory end-of-the-year picnic.
Attention, Parents of Students in Grades 3, 4 & 5: MAP Testing

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) is an assessment that the district is continuing with our 3-5 graders. This is the first year that our students will have taken the MAP three times during the school year. Our final testing will be during the week of May 13th, with more information coming home from classroom teachers. This computer-based assessment measures a student’s general knowledge in the areas of reading and math. More information can be found on our district website.

As for any school performance, the best thing a student can do is have regular attendance at school and try his or her best everyday in school. In addition, good nutrition and adequate rest are always important for a student to have a successful day at school.

If you have any additional questions, please contact either Chris Olson, Principal, at 845-4210 or Janet Farnan, Learning Resource Coordinator, at 845-4287.

Kids’ Choice

Kids’ Choice is an opportunity for 5th graders in all of the VASD elementary schools, to read 5 challenging books in 5 weeks and discuss them with other students. This year the books, which were all published in 2012, included: Lions of Little Rock by Levine, Wonder by Palacio, Flying the Dragon by Lorenzi, The Might Miss Malone by Curtis, Three Times Lucky by Turnage and Liar and Spy by Stead. That’s right, you just counted six books! There were so many fabulous books that we decided to add an additional book and week this year!

The students who read 6 books in 6 weeks were: Jordan Armstrong, Haakon Anderson, Meredith Conley, Hailee Gerber, Ashley Hale, Devin Hernandez, Olivia Ingrisano, Divya Iyer, Maddie Kelley, Morgan Moll, Emilio Mora, Camiya Munsayac, Graziella Peirangeli, Evan Peterson, Andrea Schleeper, Sophia Tollefson, and Alina Yazek.
Stoner Prairie's Celebration of Our
Cultures & Traditions
Friday, April 19th

6:00pm - 8:00pm
FREE event
In the Big Gym

Come Join Us

Multicultural Musical Review by 4th & 5th Grade

Italy - Food & Music
Irish Singer - Pat O'Brien
Hmong Dancing & Crafts
Trinity Irish Dancers

Jamaica - Food
India - Food
Peru - Food
Ms. Gee's South American Experience

Dancing

Music

Good Food

Singing

Unity

Fitchburg - History
MEETING THE SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF ADVANCED LEARNERS – PART II
May 2 – 6:30-8:00
Badger Ridge Step Room
Presenter: Dr. Sue Schaar

Dr. Schaar was with us in December, however, the weather left something to be desired so we believe many parents were unable to join us. Therefore, we have asked Dr. Schaar to come back and join us again in May. Dr Schaar will give a brief overview of the presentation she gave in December and then will provide additional information. This interactive workshop will once again focus on the interplay between cognitive, social and emotional factors for advanced learners in grade 5-9. Take aways include knowledge of common stumbling blocks and topics to address with your children while keeping health and well-being in mind. If you have questions, please contact Donna Behn, Director of Instruction 608-845-4311 or behnd@verona.k12.wi.us.

Book SWAP

We are asking all students to bring in at least one book by Friday May 24th, for the SP Book Swap. On Monday, June 3rd, all students will have time to select a book from those donated, and extra books will be placed either in classroom libraries or donated to local shelters and organizations in need of books. It’s a good time to clean out those extra books that are no longer needed, and donate them to a good cause! Books will be collected in each classroom, or they can be brought to the office.

College for Kids

College for Kids is a summer experience that targets students who have a great interest in learning through a college campus experience. This year twenty VASD graduating fifth graders will participate in a multitude of science, literacy, technology and math experiences at UW-Madison. The students who will be participating from Stoner Prairie are: Jordan Armstrong, Anna Choles, Julia Hasselkus, Divya Iyer, Madelyn Kelley, Camiya Munsayac, Evan Peterson, and Mia Sanders
Math Meet

Each year the Greater Dane County Talented and Gifted Network has math meets for students in 5th-8th grades. After comparing the results from a math screener given across the district, schools form teams that compete at regional meets on April 24th. Winners from the regionals advance to Mega Meets at the UW Madison.

Math Meet Program Goals:
* To stimulate interest in mathematics
* To recognize exceptional mathematical talent
* To provide a healthy academic environment
* To support the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Standards

This year, the following fifth grade students will represent the VASD from S.P.: Mira Deutsch, Divya Iyer and Evan Peterson. Former S.P. students, now in 6th grade at S.O will be teaming with our fifth graders in combination 5/6 teams: Michael Fischer, Molly McCormick, Brandon Rothwell and Sammi Solomon. These students will form teams with other 5th and 6th graders from our VASD elementary and middle schools.

Math 24

Math 24 Challenge is another Greater Dane County Talented and Gifted Network competition for grades 4-8 that has regional tournaments. Work with this game fosters basic math facts, mental math ability, problem solving and patterning in math.

On March 20th, several 4th and 5th graders from VASD participated in the Math 24 Competition at the UW-Madison. Congratulations to 4th graders: Griffin Johnson, Gunnar Oakley, Jackson Puente, Hailey Rothwell, Andreas Scocos, and Arielle Smith for being chosen to represent Stoner Prairie. The following 5th graders represented S.P.: Gavin Doby, Dezire Johnson, Ronan Montgomery-Taylor, Evan Peterson and Rachel Wittuhuh. Congratulations to Hailey Rothwell and Evan Peterson for winning ribbons and trophies!

A very special thank you to our S.P. volunteer Math 24 (and Math Meet) Coach, Mr. Kent Strayer, and the parents and teachers who have worked with these students to help them be successful!

Yahara

Yahara River Writers Anthology Project is a writing and cartooning contest for students in grades 5-8. We had several entries from S.P. but no finalists this year.
The fourth and fifth grade students in the PALs (Partners Actively Learning) multiage classrooms presented a living American History Museum. Working in small groups, the students researched specific topics, wrote script and acted in scenes that depicted a particular topic in American history. The other Stoner Prairie students were invited to watch the presentation and learn about our country’s history. Thank you to our PALs 4/5 students for presenting such interesting and informative presentations. Thank you also to their homeroom teachers, Ms. Cook and Ms. Wick, and to the other staff members and parent volunteers who helped bring the museum to life.