A Message from the Principal

Dear Stoner Prairie Parents/Guardians:

Happy Holidays to each of you and your families! Thank you for your continued support of our students and staff.

We hope that you and your family are having a good school year. Please do not hesitate to call our school when you need assistance or if you have any questions/concerns at any time. Please stay connected with us so that we can continue to work together with you to best support your child and all of our students.

As I reflect upon the 2012 year, I am continually thankful to have very supportive parents, a terrific staff, and a great PTO at Stoner Prairie. I appreciate the strong community partnerships that we have developed with the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County, FACTV in Fitchburg, Junior Achievement, the YMCA, and RSVP Dane that have helped to create additional student learning and leadership opportunities. It has been a very good year at Stoner Prairie, and I am looking forward to a great 2013 with all of you.

Best Wishes,
Chris Olson, Principal
Once a month, students in the PALs Multiage Program at Stoner Prairie participate in something called “workshop,” which usually centers around a theme. On workshop days, multiage students in grades 1-5 join together and participate in a variety of learning activities around a wide range of topics. Parents and community volunteers come in to help lead activities, and without this help, workshop could not happen.

On November 16th, workshop centered around the topic of giving back to the community and recognizing the ongoing need for community service. With the support of teachers and parents, students contributed to our wider community in a variety of ways. Paper bags students decorated will be used to package cold food items for Meals on Wheels, and hopefully they provide some cheer to the individuals receiving these meals. Students also made labels for unmarked cans of food for the Verona Food pantry and designed cards to go with the food baskets the pantry distributes. Students are also currently holding a food drive for the Verona Food pantry. Elderly and wheelchair-bound adults will find warmth in the fleece lap blankets students made and donated to individuals at Willow Pointe Assisted Living. Students also made winter table decorations for Willow Pointe. Dreamweavers is a local agency that supports independent living opportunities for developmentally disabled adults, and students helped out the Dreamweavers organization by making picture frames that will be used as gifts at their annual dinner. Finally, students wrote letters to local Veterans thanking them for their service.

Overall, the PALs enjoyed learning new skills while giving their time and effort to help others.
**Meeting for the Parents of Incoming Kindergartners**

Parents of children who will attend kindergarten in the fall of 2013 are invited to attend an informational meeting on Thursday, January 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Badger Ridge Middle School (740 N. Main St, Verona). Information will be provided about the programming options including the district’s neighborhood schools and charter schools. Please share this information with your friends and neighbors who may have children eligible to attend kindergarten next fall.

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**Lost & Found**

Please look through our Lost and Found bins to retrieve your child’s lost items.

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**Current Forecast: Snow!**

The Wisconsin winter forecast predicts cold temperatures and snow. We want our students to be appropriately dressed to stay warm during outdoor recess. All students who are healthy enough to attend school will participate in outdoor recess, so please be sure your child has hats, water-resistant mittens, scarves, boots and water repellent snow pants/ski pants (grades K-3). For students in grades 4-5, snow pants/ski pants or double pants are optional, but highly encouraged as they keep students warm and dry. Students who do not have winter boots (i.e., boots that are worn out to recess only and are not worn indoors as well) or who do not have snow pants/ski pants or double pants will be restricted to the blacktop areas of the playground.

Please talk to your child about dressing appropriately for the weather. We have students who bring their winter gear to school, but then choose not to wear it. Damage done to a students’ clothing or health due to their own negligence (e.g. walking through puddles, not wear a hat, etc.) is the responsibility of the students.

We have a large collection of winter times in our Lost and Found. Please ask your child to look through the Lost and Found to find their missing winter apparel.

If you need assistance obtaining winter clothing, please call Sarah Hollzum, school counselor, (845-4228).

The Verona elementary schools recommendations by the National Weather Service: Unless the temperature or wind chill is at or below -10 degrees Fahrenheit, students will go outside for recess. **Thank you for sending your child to school everyday with appropriate winter clothing.**

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**Additional Winter Recess Guidelines**

1. Students should not bring any types of sleds to school. We will provide sleds when sledding is permitted.
2. Students should not share any winter clothes with their friends.
3. Students should not throw snow or ice at any time.
4. Students should have winter wear that they can put on and take off successfully by themselves or with minimal assistance from others.
5. Students who do not have a specific winter clothing item on a given day will need to stay on the blacktop area of the playground.
Please join us at the January 14th PTO (6:30 p.m.) and PAC (7:30 p.m.) Meetings.

The next PTO meeting will be at 6:30, Monday, January 14.

PAC meetings give school staff members a chance to share information with parents about school programs and events, highlight school achievements, and provide the opportunity to dialogue about global school issues. All Stoner Prairie Elementary parents are invited to participate in PAC meetings.

Every year at this time, as part of the fifth grade social studies curriculum, students become entrepreneurs. They design, produce, and market items of their choosing in order to experience the actual monetary gains or losses associated with a business venture.

On Friday, December 14th, the 4/5 Multiage and Fifth Grade students will once again be holding their annual Economics Bazaar at Stoner Prairie.

The bazaar serves two purposes: First, it allows Multiage and Fifth Grade students to apply some of the concepts they have been learning in their unit on economics. Secondly, it provides 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders with an opportunity to purchase inexpensive items for themselves or their families. They also get a chance to practice the skill of making choices when purchasing items. All items are priced below $2.00.

All parents, families, and friends are invited to attend the bazaar. Classrooms participating include: Peterson/Freiss - rooms 414/416, Kufel - room 408 and Wick/Cook - rooms 221 & 222. Stores will be open from 8:00 – 9:00, and from 9:15 – 10:00. Please bring small bills, and you are encouraged to spend liberally!

Thank you to parents who volunteer in our lunchroom. Parents provide extra help to students and staff in so many ways during this very busy part of the school day. Whether it is wiping tables, opening milk cartons, monitoring a walkway or help students to have everything they need, all of these activities need adult guidance and supervision and at this time of the year, zipper and “mittening” skills are invaluable! Please call the school office (845-4205) if you would like to volunteer in the lunchroom from 10:50-12:30 on any given day, alternating with another adult or on a consistent weekly basis. We would like to have at least two or three adults each day. We appreciate any amount of parent volunteer help.

All parents are asked to continue to reinforce with your child our school’s lunchroom expectations:

1. Do not share food.
2. Touch your food only.
3. Raise your hand for help.
4. Stay seated until you are dismissed.
5. Place both legs under the table and sit flat.
6. Use an inside voice.

THANK YOU
To RIPPE KEANE MARKETING!
Thank you to Rippe Keane Marketing for their generous donation of snow pants and waterproof gloves for the upcoming winter season. Over the year Rippe Keane Marketing has made several large donations to our school community. Because of their generous support, we will continue to keep many of our students happy and healthy!

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Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
Monday, January 14th Agenda
7:30-8:30 P.M. in the Stoner Prairie Elementary Library

Welcome, introductions, and announcements (7:30-7:35):
- MAP Testing is January 8-11, 2013
- Report Cards will go home on February 1, 2013

PTO/Site Council Report (7:35-7:40):
- Discussion/sharing of recent Site Council/PTO topics.

Staff Sharing (7:40-8:05):
- What does the universal guidance program look like at Stoner Prairie?
- What are the after-school programs, community partnerships, and student leadership opportunities at Stoner Prairie? How are they doing?

PAC Discussion Item - Continued from November 27 (8:05-8:20):
- Should students continue to bring in food items to school for classroom parties or birthday treats? What are the positive and negative impacts for students, staff and families? How can we make it healthier for everyone involved?

Sharing of Appreciations & Possible Future Agenda Topics (8:20-8:30):
- Discuss/revise PAC bylaws
- What other global school topics would parents like to request for PAC on January 14?

PUPUL SERVICE NOTES
FROM Ms. Holzum, Ms. Garity and Ms. Burke

After returning from winter break, the next rounds of small groups will begin for students 1st through 5th grades. Areas of focus could be friendship, social skills, anger management, family change or stress management. Students can be referred by classroom teachers and/or by their family. The Pupil Services department will strive to place many students in groups as possible, but cannot be certain that all referrals can be accommodated. If you would like to refer your child for a small group, please feel free to contact one of the following:

Sarah Holzum, 845-4228, Christine Burke, 845-4294 or Kathy Garity, 845-4250.
School Closings or Delays

The decision to close schools is made by school district officials after consultation with the bus company, Weather Central, and other districts in the path of the storm. Every effort is made to make a decision as early as possible to allow families to make plans. In the event of fast developing storms, however, sudden decisions are sometimes necessary. Local TV and radio stations will be notified by 6:30 a.m., or as soon as the decision is made to close or delay the start of school. An announcement will also be recorded on the Stoner Prairie telephone line (845-4200 x3).

If it is necessary to close school during the school day, this information will be announced on the TV and radio. In addition, the closing or delay will be posted on the district’s web page (www.verona.k12.wi.us). School personnel are not responsible for contacting parents if school dismisses early. Teachers will refer to the emergency dismissal form parents filled out at the beginning of the school year. Families should not plan to reach children at school by phone as lines are often busy. Schools will try to allow a one-hour notice if school is dismissed during the day.

Think Pink

The latest count of pink Yoplait lids yielded 13 stacks of 9 plus 5. Combined with covers from our previous tallies, Stoner Prairie now has 443 lids to ship off to aid Susan G. Komen for the Cure in the fight against breast cancer. If you have any lids for this Stoner Prairie cause, now is the time to send them to the lunchroom. Our collection ends in June. Thank you for your healthy and enthusiastic response!

SCHOOL RESUMES ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

Enjoy your vacation!
Swim News from Ms. Thronson and Ms. Shaw

All students in grades 1-5 will participate in a swimming unit as part of the district’s Physical Education curriculum. The unit begins the week of February 25 and ends the week of April 19. Each class swims once a week. Students are picked up by a bus from First Student in Verona and transported to the Natatorium. Ms. Shaw will ride on the bus with the VAIS students. Ms. Thronson and Ms. Evans will meet the students at the pool to discuss general expectations, safety rules and locker room procedures. Swimming instruction follows Red Cross guidelines and is designed to meet the skills demonstrated by the students.

Students are encouraged to bring swimsuits that are appropriate and comfortable for swim lessons. If a student forgets their suit, they will borrow one from the Natatorium. Towels are provided by the Natatorium. Students may also bring goggles, swim cap, brush/comb and a plastic bag with their name printed on the items. Swim caps are available to purchase for $2.75 from the Natatorium.

Kindergarten students do not have swimming. They will have Physical Education at school during this time.

Please feel free to contact Ms. Thronson if you have any further questions or concerns at 845-4248 or Ms. Shaw at 845-4266.

MAKING FOOD AT HOME WITH A LITTLE HELP!

Have you noticed that folks don’t cook at home like they used to? Making food yourself with a little help from a parent - is a great way to learn about food and meal preparation. Try it at your home!

Apple Chicken Stir Fry
Serves: 4
1 pound cubed boneless, skinless chicken breast
½ cup onion, vertically sliced
1 ¾ cup (3-4 medium) carrots, thinly sliced
1 ½ teaspoon vegetable oil
1 teaspoon dried basil, crushed
1 cup fresh or frozen Chinese pea pods
1 tablespoon water
1 medium baking apple, cored and thinly sliced
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
2 cups cooked brown rice

Stir fry cubed chicken breast in 1 tablespoon vegetable oil in non-stick skillet until lightly browned and cooked. Remove from skillet. Stir fry onion, carrots and basil in oil in same skillet until carrots are tender. Stir in pea pods and water. Stir fry 2 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in apple. Add to chicken, serve hot over cooked rice.

Calories: 330, Total fat: 7.7 g, Saturated fat: 1.1g, Protein 29g, Carbohydrates: 30g, Cholesterol 66 mg, Fiber: 5 g, Sodium: 117 mg
Related Arts Notes
Related Arts includes art, music and physical education.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you might have regarding our classes.

ART - Jayne Baitinger-Peterson - 608-845-4276 Jayne.BaitingerPeterson@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

ART NOTES from Ms. Baitinger-Peterson
Children receive art instruction in the ART room for 60 minutes once per week.

THE ART ROOM IS OUT OF BABY WIPES, IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO DONATE ADDITIONAL BABY WIPES, PLEASE DROP THEM OFF IN THE ART ROOM, OR SEND THEM TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD. Thank you!!!

Kindergarteners will be bringing home their clay pinch pots before winter break. They learned how to create a pinch pot by first rolling their clay into a ball, then sticking their thumb into the ball and “pinching” the sides to create the pot. We recited “Little Jack Horner”, the nursery rhyme that says; “…he stuck in his thumb and pulled out a plum…” to learn how to begin their pinch pots. Glazes will be applied after the pinch pots have been bisque fired in the kiln. These little pinch pots are so special, they become keepsakes, I still have my own clay pinch pot from kindergarten!

First Graders created a clay “sock bank”. The clay portion is a round face with a wide open mouth large enough to drop coins into. The sock fits over the face to collect the coins as they are dropped in. First graders learned the technique of adding pieces of clay for the eyes and nose. The technique is to score and add water to “glue” the pieces together. Glazes will be applied after the bisque firing.

Second Graders created an abstract watercolor composition recently. After learning the “wet on wet” technique, children experimented with color mixing and blending. After the papers dried, we tore them apart and re-created a composition with the pieces. Some students wove their pieces, some layered, some tore some more. They are all very creative!

Third Graders are learning about the Tlinget Indians from the north west coast by creating a symmetrical mask with bold designs. One of the most interesting things we learned is the pronunciation of “Tlinget”. It is actually pronounced; “klinket”. Oil pastels are the medium to add the beautiful color to the masks.
Fourth and Fifth Graders just completed a drawing lesson. They chose half of a magazine picture of an animal or something from nature. After gluing the picture to drawing paper, they drew the half that was missing. This was a successful challenge. Colored pencil and chalk pastels were then added for the coloring step. These drawings are beautiful!

DECEMBER’S FAMOUS ARTISTS OF THE MONTH are;
DIEGO RIVERA, EDVARD MUNCH, HELEN FRANKENTHALER and HENRI MATISSE
Please look for the FAMOUS ARTISTS OF THE MONTH display by the Art Room the next time you are at school.

MUSIC NOTES from Ms. Stucki
Children receive Music instruction in the Music room for 30 minutes twice per week, for a total of 60 min. per week.

Kindergarten and First Grade students used smile face and sad face cards to show their ideas about how different examples of music made them feel. A song called Happy Today was easy to sing and also agree that the smiley face went with this song. Other music examples didn’t include singing in order to challenge the students listening. A book called The Loudest, Fastest, Best Drummer in Kansas was about a girl named Maggie who made the community happy when she played the drums and drove a storm out of town.

Second Grade students are listening and matching music on the staff. They each had a slice of pie, the melody, to create the song “Over the River and Through the Wood.”
Students learned that the lyrics from the song were the text of a book. Our first book had illustrations showing an old fashion sleigh ride to grandmother’s house. A second book with modern illustration of this favorite song provided a crazy ride to grandma’s house. A traffic jam, a crowded parade, several mishaps including a tuba, a gorilla and an airplane made the journey quite funny as students enjoyed the book.

Students in Grade Three were energetic singers of a song called “Pumpkin Pie Polka.” Songs about unique pies were created with different types of music including opera, rock-n-roll, techno, bluegrass, a capella, cajun, blues, jazz and gospel in a book/CD called “Bake You A Pie.”

Grade 4 and 5 classes participated in a variety of rhythm activities. Tubano drum rhythm patterns were created by student leaders and echoed by the drum circles. It is always fun to drum to a new song like the theme song from Wreck It Ralph. Another activity had partners at the SmartBoard playing a game called What Do You Hear? After listening to a woodblock play a rhythm pattern, the students choose the correct notation from three similar patterns. Students put all of their rhythm reading skills into a song called Thanksgiving Rap.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION NOTES FROM MS. THRONSON

Children receive Physical Education instruction in the Gym for 30 minutes twice per week, for a total of 60 min. per week.

All students have been participating in our tumbling/gymnastics unit. For two weeks they have practiced a variety of skills through station work. The skills have included rope climbing, rolls, cartwheels, round-offs, vaulting, yoga poses, animal walks, climbing wall and balance beam stunts. The week before winter break, the students will journey through the Stoner Prairie obstacle course.

When we return from Winter Break, the kindergarten, first and second grade students will work on ball skills while the third, fourth and fifth graders will begin a basketball unit.
A Word About Bullying...

The Verona Area School District strives to provide a safe, secure and respectful learning environment for all students in school buildings, on school grounds, in school buses and at school-sponsored activities. Bullying has a harmful social, physical, psychological and academic impact on bullies, victims and bystanders. The District shall consistently and vigorously address bullying so that there is no disruption to the learning environment and learning process.

Bullying behavior is prohibited in all school buildings, property and educational environments, including any property or vehicle owned, leased or used by the District. This includes public transportation regularly used by students to go to and from school. Educational environments include, but are not limited to, every activity under school supervision.

“Bullying” is defined as deliberate or intentional behavior using words or actions, intended to cause fear, intimidation or harm. Bullying may be repeated behavior and involves an imbalance of power. The behavior may be motivated by an actual or perceived distinguishing characteristic, such as, but not limited to: age; national origin; race; ethnicity; religion; gender; gender identity; sexual orientation; physical attributes; physical or mental ability or disability; and social, economic or family status. Bullying behavior can be:

- Physical (e.g. assault, hitting or punching, kicking, theft, threatening behavior)
- Verbal (e.g. threatening or intimidating language, teasing or name-calling, racist remarks)
- Indirect (e.g. spreading cruel rumors, intimidation through gestures, social exclusion and sending insulting messages or pictures by mobile phone or using the Internet – also known as cyber bullying)

The VASD Bullying Policy above can be located on the district website under board policies within the 400 series at 443.8. Please call Mr. Olson (845-4210) with any school bullying related questions or concerns at any time.

How does Stoner Prairie handle bullying?
Stoner Prairie staff members continue to immediately address bullying if it happens at our school. Our guidance curriculum addresses bullying behavior within all K-5 classrooms and helps students to develop strategies for addressing bullying or any inappropriate behavior with other students. Teachers reinforce these strategies within the classroom and many offer classroom meetings to strengthen the bond between students so everyone knows that they are included, and meetings give classmates opportunities to communicate directly to each other in a structured setting with adult direction.

Stoner Prairie staff members will respond by taking the following steps with any inappropriate behavior that is reported to us at school:

**Clarifying the situation—is it bullying or is it a conflict?** Staff members will clarify reports by asking questions and gathering the facts. Staff members may intervene at this level if appropriate. Interventions can take many forms including student problem-solving, resetting, referring to the office, removal from the situation, loss of recess, development of a new plan by students, etc.

**Communicating the report** to the appropriate staff members at school and consulting with staff members as appropriate. Additional investigation may or may not be warranted.