MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Stoner Prairie Parents/Guardians:

As you may know, VASD is exploring the idea of how to increase personalized learning in our schools across the district. We have examples of personalized learning already happening at Stoner Prairie, but the new national standards (the Common Core State Standards) and a new state student assessment system (coming in the fall of 2014) may cause schools across our country to move in this direction. I wanted to take this opportunity to share more background about what makes up personalized learning.

Personalized Learning:
- Starts with the learner.
- Connects with interests, passions, and aspirations.
- Learners actively participate in the design of their learning.
- Learns have a voice and choice on what they learn.
- There are different objectives for each learner.
- The learner selects appropriate technology and resources to support their learning.
- Assessment is done as a part of learning.
- Students (eventually) are able to set goals, monitor progress, and reflect on learning.

Our school is piloting two different math supplemental programs, DreamBox and ALEKS, which are accessible online to students and families. These free pilot programs are optional to any of our teachers and each one will last 3 months over the winter/spring giving us more experience with personalized learning. A group of teachers and I also recently visited West Milwaukee/West Allis to view additional examples of personalized learning at Walker Elementary School.

The topic of personalized learning poses changes to current systems and procedures in many current K-12 schools across our country. Feel free to join us at PAC on Monday, April 8 at 7:30 P.M. as we begin this conversation with parents as well. Please send questions to me at any time regarding personalized learning and our school’s continued work in this area.

Thank you for your continued support of our school. Lastly, we hope to see you at the Science Fair on March 8 and at the upcoming Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Yours in Education,
Chris Olson
Please Mark Your Calendar!

The 4th annual “Cultural Celebrations” night is scheduled for Friday, April 19th in the Stoner Prairie gym sponsored by the PTO. Please call or email Mr. Olson (845-4210) with any questions.

Please mark your calendars for “Celebrate the Arts” on Thursday, May 9. We hope that you will join us for the performance, artwork viewing and classroom visit on that morning.

Lastly, our 5th annual Field Day and Family Picnic is scheduled for Wednesday, May 29 (with a rain date of May 30). This event involves hands-on outdoor activities that promote health and wellness, teamwork, and community for our students. Half of the students participate in the morning with these events, and the other half of the students participate in the afternoon with these same activities. Parents are welcome to attend the Field Day activities, but are most definitely welcome to join the Family Picnic happening over the lunch hour. A more specific schedule and menu will be shared with you over the next couple of months. Please bring the whole family!

Thank You, Exxon Mobile Corporation

The Exxon Mobile Corporation has generously provided $500 grant to Stoner Prairie Elementary School to be used for technology, math and science supplies or project purchases. We thank them for their financial assistance and for reaching out to schools across our country in this same matter. In an era of dwindling school budgets, this financial assistance is much appreciated!

GARDEN
AT
STONER PRAIRIE

All VASD school sites are encouraged to invite parents to start their own garden on the school grounds if interested. Any parents that are interested in starting and maintaining their own garden plot at Stoner Prairie should contact Barb Urmann (204-7069, cell: 215-5664). It is important to note that all gardening supplies would need to be provided by families, and all maintenance of the garden plot would need to be provided by the families involved. At least one of our grade levels will be also starting a garden plot on the school grounds this spring as well.
Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
Tuesday, March 12th Agenda
7:30-8:30 P.M. in the Stoner Prairie Elementary Library

Welcome, introductions, and announcements (7:30-7:35):
- Update on changes with the WKCE test
- School budget update
- Parent/Teacher Conferences

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

Staff Sharing (7:40-8:00):
- How does the student placement process work at Stoner Prairie? How are class lists developed?

PAC Discussion Item- Continued from November 27 (8:00-8:25):
- 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?
- PAC will also spend time reviewing a potential healthy snack list created by parents.

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

Giving Tree

We are very fortunate to have supportive parents at Stoner Prairie who help out students, staff and families in many ways. Because we have many parents who ask us often about how they can help out school, we have posted a “Giving Tree” within our school that you may notice upon entering. The “Giving Tree” has teacher names along with “wish list” items shown for each classroom. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items in the future, please contact our school office (845-4205/845-4206) or the teacher directly. Thank you for your cooperation.
LET’S DO LUNCH
How about Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday?

Stoner Prairie parents are so generous, dependable and flexible about helping in our lunchroom. We still have need of assistance and that is especially true at the beginning of the week. Please call the office (845-4205) if you are able to help out regularly or occasionally between 10:35 a.m. and 12:35 p.m. Your presence would make

Jayne Baitinger-Peterson - Art
Jill Thronson - Phy Ed
Leanne Stucki - Music

Related Arts Notes

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns
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

ART NOTES from Ms. Baitinger-Peterson

Children receive art instruction in the ART room for 60 minutes once per week

Kindergarteners - Our last “four-square lesson” is two-dimensional with a three-dimensional look. It is the melting snowman. Concentric circles were cut out and glued together to give the appearance of a snowman that is going through the winter thaw. (We can only hope). They are so cute and at the same time children are continuing to build skills in cutting, gluing, shape, size, dimension and of course craftsmanship.

First Graders - The term “pop art” is mostly associated with the work of artists by the names of; Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and Claes Oldenburg. The subject matter in pop art is considered “popular” for the times. Andy Warhol is remembered for his famous art prints of tomato soup cans. In first grade, students are learning about “pop art” and using their hand as subject matter for a bright graphic painting.

Second Graders - Repetition in design is found in many cultures and styles. In second grade we looked at repetition in Pennsylvania Dutch hexagon designs. Students traced shapes and lines within one section of a hexagon and then repeated and colored with markers to fill the six-sided shape.

Third Graders - After reading the book; “Snowmen At Night” by Caralyn Buehner, third graders learned how to shade with chalk pastels. Shading and blending gives a 3D look to their close-up drawings of snowmen. We are now completing clay turtles which were made a few weeks ago. Students are painting colorful patterns with tempera paint on the turtle’s shell. The book; “Jabuti the Tortoise. A trickster tale from the Amazon” by Gerald McDermott tells the tale of a mischievous turtle who ends up with a very patterned shell.

Fourth and Fifth Graders recently completed a watercolor lesson of a winter landscape with birch trees. Shadows painted on the trees as well as cast shadows from the sun really provide the paintings with a realistic look. I am really impressed by the beauty of their completed compositions. Clay is the next unit and we have really had lots of fun creating a clay shoe! Hopefully you will be able to see the completed shoes, they will be glazed before being displayed.
March is Youth Art Month

Youth Art Month is a national, annual celebration which emphasizes the value of Art Education for all students, and encourages public support for quality school art programs. Youth Art Month directs attention to the values of Art Education; the development of self-esteem, appreciation of the ideas, work and cultures of others, self-expression, cooperation, development of thinking and learning skills, stimulating learning ability and creativity, as well as providing a life long appreciation of Art in our lives.

You as a family can bring the importance and enjoyment of Art into your home by displaying your child’s artwork, visiting local galleries and art museums as well as creating work at home together. This extra encouragement and involvement will work wonders for your child’s self esteem and help to build a lifetime interest in the Arts.

Art contributes to developing unique, feeling, thinking and expressive individuals. Celebrate and participate in Art by viewing our local art shows. The following locations will feature artwork from Verona Area School District students; the Verona Area School District Office and the Sugar River Gallery in the Verona Area High School. In addition, special congratulations are extended to Marina Frazier a 5th grade student at Stoner Prairie. Marina’s sea turtle drawing has been selected to be framed and displayed in the Verona Area School District Administration Building until February 2014.

Congratulations to all of our featured artists, their artwork will be on display at the location listed below.

Verona Area High School – Sugar River Gallery

Monday, March 4 – Wed, March 20, 2013

Isabella Boyle- “Monster’s Ink”, watercolor and ink
Brynn Stacey- Abstract Design, watercolor
Jamie Puente- Abstract Design, watercolor

Sotera Boado- Tempera paint study of; “The Great Wave Off Kanagawa” by Hokusai
Jasmine Luck- Concentric Hand, colored pencil
Mary Kate Locht- Thankful Tree, watercolor
Karina Meyers- Thankful Tree, watercolor

Linh Tuong- Tempera paint study of; “Wanderer Above the Sea of Fpg” by Friedrich
Abigail Chase- Winter Birch Trees, watercolor
Kylie Magnus- Winter Birch Trees, watercolor
Jordan Armstrong- Winter Birch Trees, watercolor

Camiya Munsayac- Abstract Name, acrylic, Tabitha Soutsada- Abstract Name, acrylic
Anna Choles- Abstract Name, acrylic
Marissa Arila- Spheres in Space, chalk pastel
Olivia Ingrisano- Spheres in Space, chalk pastel

Jaxon Kawecki- Clay Shoe, Jack Crowley- Clay Shoe, Ammar Smiri- Clay Shoe
Jennifer Tindall- Clay Shoe, Mira Deutsch- Clay Shoe, Kaela Babr- Clay Shoe
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. Playing a steady beat is an important rhythm skill that Kindergarten students continue to work on by playing classroom instruments to a variety of music. After reading a bright and sunny picture book and listening to a song now called Waking Up Is Hard To Do by Neil Sedaka, triangles and a variety of bells were great sounds to imitate the sound of an alarm clock helping the world wake up and get ready for school.

First Grade sang a song called My Red Sled. The accompaniment of the song gave the feeling of moving downhill fast. Red instruments were added to the beat. A book called Pookie and Tushka Find A Piano was a favorite when the polar bear and penguin rescued a piano lost in the sea and then find out that music is more fun if you can share it with a friend.

Second Grade students learned that writing music was considered play for the child genius Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. A book called Play, Mozart Play! illustrates the beauty of listening, imagining and playing music. We watched a performance of the well-known Eine kleine Nachtmusik where students followed icons that represented the melody and rhythm of the song. We finished with a song called Root Beer Mozart where the melody was played on root beer bottles!

Grade 3 students learned a fun and lively song called Snow Day. Everyone seems to love that special winter day when nature gives us a lot of snow or ice and school gets cancelled! The accompaniment had great sounds to make you feel like you are out sledding down a big hill. A guitar solo was perfect for students to play inflatable electric guitars. Who doesn't want to be a rock star?

Grade 4 and 5 students have been busy learning about the amazing Wolfgang Mozart who would have celebrated his 257 birthday in January. A cartoon book by music author Mike Venezia gave biography information about Mozart's short life as well as funny pictures. Students are amazed that Mozart could write such beautiful music at a young age. Mozart loved to participate in games such as bowling and pool. He also liked to play games with music. Students used one of the strategies that Mozart devised by himself called musical dice game. I think that Mozart would have been impressed by the SmartBoard rhythm that students created!

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.

The students really enjoyed the Rollerblading unit and are now working on golfing skills. We have been learning the parts of a golf club, putting and chipping. Swimming starts the week of February 25th for all students in first through fifth grade and ends April 19.

The following classes swim on Monday; Wick, Funke, Johnson.
Tuesday; Freiss, Adaptive Class, Cook and Durnen.
Wednesday; Kufel; VAIS gr 1, PALS gr 2, Finnell/Magnus, Klawiter.
Thursday; Peterson, VAIS gr 2/3, PALS gr 1, Chartier, Scott.
Friday; Jones, PALS gr 3, Shrader, Murphy.
Thank You, Partners in Education!

-Thank you to the Boys and Girls Club for their continued partnership to help make it possible for us to have Power Hour (Homework Club) and Triple Play.

-Thank you to RSVP Dane for providing us with volunteers that work with students and classrooms at our school. We also thank RSVP Dane for providing us with $600 for multicultural literacy and guidance resources for students and families.

-Thank you to our PTO for their ongoing support. PTO coordinates our Rock ‘N Recess event in January, the Science Fair on March 8, and the Cultural Celebrations event on April 19. The PTO also most recently contributed $1,050 towards the discounted purchase of 37 google chromebooks for our school. Thanks, PTO!

-Thank you to Jeremy Crosby and Bonny Lundy from FACTV for helping to provide the video productions experience to some of our 4th/5th grade students at the FACTV studio in the Fitchburg City Hall. Please watch FACTV for the next Stoner Prairie newscast from our students.

-Thank you to Jake Hollman at the UPS Store for volunteering along with some of his workers at our weekly Wednesday homework club and for his contributions to the cost of the PTO family directory.

-Thank you to the YMCA (Y5210 program) and Junior Achievement organizations for bringing learning opportunities from the community into our classrooms at Stoner Prairie this year.

-Thank you to the Hyland Park Community for recently hosting a second grade visit to their facility, for their pen pal work with our second grade classes, and for their help in developing this new school/community partnership.

-Thank you to SP parent, Scott Anderson, from the Bruce Company, and parents, Barb Urmann and Sarah Hasselkus, for their ongoing planning for upcoming gardening and landscaping projects at Stoner Prairie this spring. Think spring, everyone!

SCIENCE FAIR IS COMING SOON!

The Stoner Prairie Science Fair is scheduled for Friday, March 8, from 5:30-7:30. Please join us to see the students’ display and hear what they learned while researching their project. All families are welcome to come, regardless of whether or not their child displays a project. A big thank you to our PTO and parents, Heidi Updegrove and Julie Rothwell, for coordinating the Science Fair at Stoner Prairie. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Rothwell at jmrotahwell12@gmail.com or Heidi Updegrove at hupdegro@yahoo.com.
VASD Parent Survey
Every school in the Verona Area School District conducts a staff survey, student survey, and parent survey each spring. Our school uses this information to assess our work with students, parents, and families and to help us continue to enhance what we offer as a school staff. We invite you to complete this electronic survey on our school website between March 18-April 13. This parent survey can also be accessed on school computers within the school library on all-school conference nights on March 14 and 18. Thank you in advance for offering your feedback to our school.

Parent Representative to Site Council and PAC
The Stoner Prairie Site Council is the governing body at our school comprised of 4 teachers, the Learning Resource Coordinator (LRC), one support staff member, a central office liaison, the building principal, and two parent representatives. The Site Council usually meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 2:45-4:30 P.M. to discuss educational programming topics, works to identify creative and flexible use of resources, uses student assessment information within decision-making, and makes budget and resource allocation decisions each spring, among other tasks. Parent representatives to Site Council also participate within Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings on the Monday night (7:30-8:30 P.M.) prior to the Site Council meeting each month. There will be one Site Council parent representative position open for the 2013-14 school year. If you would like to be considered to be a parent representative to Site Council for this 2-year term, please call our school office at 845-4200 for an application and return it to Mr. Olson by no later than Friday, April 12. If you have specific questions about the role of the parent representative on Site Council, please call Mr. Olson at 845-4210.

SCOOPIE NIGHT AT CULVER'S
February 27
4:00—8:00

You are invited to attend Scoopie Night at Culver's in Verona—10% of the sales will be given to Stoner Prairie Elementary School for classroom and school supplies.

Culver's—430 E. Verona Ave., Verona
Head south on US-151/Verona Rd. toward McKee Rd. (Hwy PD), continue south to Exit 81 to merge onto E. Verona Ave. Culver's will be on your right.
Notes from the Library — Ms. Krohn, Librarian

Here are the award winning books for 2013
For more information: http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/

Newberry
The One and Only Ivan
Katherine Applegate

dSchneider Family
Back to Front and Upside Down
Claire Aleander

Caldecott
This is Not My Hat
Joh Klassen

Mildred L. Batchelder
My Family for the War
Anne C Voorhoeve

Coretta Scott King
I, Too, Am America
Bryan Collier, illus.
Langston Hughes, author

Pure Belpre
Martin de Porres
David Diazk illus.
Gardy D. Schmidt, author

COME SLIDE WITH ME!
2013 SUMMER SCHOOL

The Verona Area School District (V ASD) will be offering a number of summer school courses this summer for all students. V ASD will be sharing summer course descriptions with parents during the month of March which will provide a wide-range of learning opportunities for all students. These summer class offerings will be available in the mornings from 8:30-11:00 A.M. on Mondays-Thursdays from July 8-18, July 22-August 1, and/or July 9-August 1. Registration will be online, and summer courses will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The only cost associated with these summer courses will be a small supply fee per class, but students who qualify for free and/or reduced lunch will have these fees waived.

Each of the summer course offerings will have a mixture of academics alongside many enrichment and creative opportunities for students. We encourage all students to register for summer courses that fit their interest level within the timeframe that works for your family. Please note that all classes are open to all V ASD students.

Spring Portfolio Parent/Teacher Conferences

We cordially invite all parents to our spring portfolio parent/teacher conferences in March. This is a great opportunity to see students celebrate their learning with you and their teachers and to chart the course together for the remainder of the school year. If you need transportation to your child’s conference, please do not hesitate to contact the school office (845-4210) ahead of your parent/teacher conference date. Parents are encouraged to contact school staff at any time during the year with questions, concerns, or ideas about your child’s education as parent/teacher conferences are not the only time for this important ongoing dialogue to occur.

WE ARE HAVING LOTS OF FUN IN THE SNOW!!!!!!
ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL SNOWFALLS!

Verona Area Girls Softball

Are you or your children looking for an opportunity to learn about teamwork, develop softball skills, and, most importantly, have fun? The Verona Area Girls Softball Association (VAGSA) offers opportunities for girls in grades kindergarten through high school. Our program incorporates a summer long clinic (Instructional Softball, provided through the Verona Area Rec Dept.), Recreational Leagues, and more competitive leagues. Our approach produces a learning environment for players of all levels from those new to the sport to seasoned players looking to hone specific and complicated skills.

Upcoming important dates for girls with birth-years 1998 - 2004:
- Pre-season Warm-up Clinic April 7, 2013
- Skill Assessments April 14, 2013

For more information and registration materials, please see our website: http://www.vagsa.org/.

With any questions, please email us at: vagsawi@gmail.com or call Kim Neitzel at 225-8894.

Charlie Brooks Band entertains at Stoner Prairie!

Thank you to our Stoner Prairie PTO for providing the Charlie Books Band for our students.

All students in Ms. Stuck's music class learned a song, "Show Me Some Respect..." They performed with Charlie Brooks and his band.

Thank you again to the Stoner Prairie PTO for supporting this cultural enrichment opportunity.