Hello Families and Caregivers,

I hope you were all able to relax and spend time with family and friends over break.

Winter Assessments
We are in process for our winter assessments. This is where we gather academic information on every student in our school so we can see how they are progressing toward the learning targets. This information will also be used to see if instructional adjustments need to be made for individuals or groups of students. It is a very exciting time of year to see how kids are growing.

School Safety
We are continuing to work to make sure our process and systems work the way they are supposed to when needed. In early December we had our table top exercise (talk through a scenario that could be played out at school) with our building responders, Fitchburg Fire Dept, Fitchburg Police and our district security consultant. It was highly productive time and we are really learning how the school/district, Police Department, and Fire Department can work as effectively together as possible. We also identified areas we can enhance safety for all in the school. We periodically do drills to practice fire exits, and soft or hard lockdowns.

Hope you are able to stay warm and enjoy the snow.

Sincerely,
Mike Pisani

Principal’s News

Upcoming Calendar Dates

- Jan 2 - School Resumes
- Jan 14 - PTO/PAC 6:30 p.m.
- Jan 20 - NO SCHOOL
- Jan 24 - Science Fair Kickoff
- Jan 27 - Incoming Kindergarten Tours 1 p.m.
- Feb 28 - Science Fair

Market Day Pickup Dates

4:30-5:30 p.m.-Gym

- January 30
- February 27

Thank you for your support!

Incoming Kindergarten Parent Information Video/DVD in place of past January meetings.

Instead of the January Incoming Parents Meeting held in previous years, the Verona Area School District hopes that a new method of getting information to incoming kindergarten parents will allow more families to have a full understanding of the choices of where they may elect to enroll children for school within the district. Instead of having a presentation night in the midst of January, the district will be giving a short explanation of each school option through a video. This video will be put online and also sent out as a DVD in mid-January to all incoming kindergarten parents, along with a newsletter with more information.

Tours of Stoner Prairie for Incoming Kindergarten students and Parents

Stoner Prairie will host tours of our school for incoming Kindergarteners on January 27 at 1 p.m. and again on February 4 at 8:00 a.m. Tours will last approximately 45 minutes.
School Closings or Delays

The decision to close schools is made by our 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. Closings are also posted on the district website at www.verona.k12.wi.us

If it is necessary to close school during the school day, this information will be announced on the TV, radio and district website. 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.

Please read the letter from Dr. Gorrell on the main webpage of the Verona website regarding school closings. http://www.verona.k12.wi.us/uploaded/Central_Office/District_Information/12-5-13/VASD_Weather_Delay_Cancellation_letter_to_parents_13-14_ES.pdf

SAVE LIDS TO SAVE LIVES--
PINK LID UPDATE

Stoner Prairie staff and families have brought in another 68 pink Yoplait yogurt lids. Our total is now 152. (There's an equation in there somewhere!) Lids will be redeemed for money that goes toward breast cancer research, treatment, and education. You can send pink lids to the lunchroom through the last day of school in June.

Together we can make a difference. Many thanks!

The Verona Lacrosse Spring 2014 Registration is now open!
Register online at veronalacrosse.com
Boys & Girls Grades 2nd-12th – New players welcome!
February Kick – Off Meetings Scheduled
Free Open Gym Practices January – March
Season Runs March – June 2014

Fitchburg Police Officers Serve Lunch

Thank you to Fitchburg Police Chad Brecklin, Angela Hodermann and Rodd Rettler for serving lunch to our students on Tuesday, December 17
Extra Activities for 5th Graders!
College for Kids is a three-week experience at the UW Madison each summer. Children will be given information to bring home about this opportunity and the assortment of coursework that is offered.

Kids’ Choice is also for grade 5, and they read 5 books in 5 weeks. This “book a week” club is perfect for kids who love to read and discuss recently published (2013) books!

Extra Activities for 4th and 5th graders!
Math 24 is a math strategy game that many children enjoy. At the end of February we will have a contest with those interested students at S.P. to determine who should attend the multi-district competition in March. Teachers will be giving students more information in their classrooms.

MAP Testing for Grades 3, 4 & 5: January 13th - 17th
Our second testing of MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) will be during the week of January 13th. The best preparation for the test is a good night’s sleep, breakfast and your child’s desire to try their best.

More information about the above activities will be sent home with your child, but if you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Farnan at 845-4287 or janet.farnan@verona.k12.wi.us.

Nurtured Heart Parent Training
4 Week Course at the Fitchburg Community Center

Are you ready to improve your parenting skills and build a better relationship with your children? If so, the Nurtured Heart Approach is for you! This approach will help you become the agent of change in your child’s life. Traditional parenting techniques often make little if any difference in the behavior of a challenging child. Don’t blame yourself and don’t give up hope! In a fun, easy to remember way, this course will help you to:

- Gain a deeper understanding about ‘intense’ behavior in children.
- Improve behavior in the most challenging children, including children with ADHD.
- Learn powerful strategies to see what is great about your children and change the way they see themselves.
- Have time to practice different strategies and then discuss with teacher.

Wednesday Evenings: February 5, 12, 19, 26  Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Taught by: Gail K. Anderson, PhD, former school psychologist at Stoner Prairie, Certified Nurtured Heart trainer & coach. Contact: challengingchildren@charter.net
ART NOTES

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

There is a new face in the art room. . .

My name is Sarah Kirsop and I am the long term art substitute here at Stoner Prairie Elementary. I am a proud Verona alumni (K-12) and I am excited to get to know and work with all of these wonderful artists.

Kindergarteners are looking at artist Henri Matisse’s paintings and making their own fish bowls with lots of colorful fish. First graders are learning about what it means to be an artist. We read the book “Art Lesson” by Tommie dePaola. They worked on drawing different shapes and forms to create a self-portrait. They enjoyed drawing themselves looking like artists. Second graders are finishing up their Native American shields. Third graders are learning about Molas, which are fabric panels traditionally made in Panama. They have been working with shapes and bright colors to create this amazing layered paper appearance. Fourth and fifth graders are finishing up their warm and cool colored trees. The watercolor tree paintings are full of life with all of the contrasting colors they are using.

The middle of December has been a busy time for our artists at Stoner Prairie. We are pleased to have two muralists, Sharon Kilfoy and Emida Roller, working and creating alongside all of our students.

"Moving Together - Toward a Brighter Future" Stoner Prairie Elementary School Mural Project will celebrate our Fitchburg school’s rapidly growing diversity. A mural covering prominent walls in our entryway will showcase the many cultures represented in our learning community. We will celebrate the 17 nations represented by our student body through visual depictions of the multicultural society our community and our nation are moving toward. We will depict people from all places and all times who are significant role models for our students and their families.

We will involve all students at Stoner Prairie in the mural-making process. The murals that will be created will draw people inside our school – and will relay the message that Stoner Prairie is a learning community in which people from all cultures and backgrounds are not only welcomed, but celebrated.

During the weeks of December 9th and 16th your child/children’s art time will be divided between working on their classroom art project and the community mural.
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 participated in a Tumbling/Gymnastic unit during December. In January the kindergarten, first and second grade students will begin dribbling, passing and shooting basketballs. The third, fourth and fifth grade students will learn a variety of games and activities that incorporate Basketball skills.

All students will participate in a school wide event called “Hoops For Heart” at the end our basketball unit. This event supports the American Heart Association. Information came home before winter break.

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

A perfect musical winter day might include activities happening in the music room! There is no shoveling or slippery roads. Instead there is a flurry of listening activities, singing and playing classroom rhythm instruments.

Kindergarten students looked at a picture book called The Snowman by Raymond Briggs that was accompanied by music. The magic as a young boy’s snowman comes to life is enchanting with music by Howard Briggs.

Kindergarten and First Grade students sang a song called Mittens and Gloves. They worked to perform a steady beat on a tapping page and instruments that were the color of their own mittens and gloves.

Second Graders learned a light, upbeat song called Winter Again. The island groove style song made it very hard to think about blizzards and extreme cold!

Third Grade students learned about the composer, Peter Tchaikovsky and his wonderful composition The Nutcracker Suite. Wooden Nutcracker decorations, a variety of books and CDs came out of the big mystery storage can in the music room. After learning the story, students listened to dances from The Land of Sweets. Check out the App Store for The Nutcracker Musical Storybook. The app is an animated enchanting with beautiful artwork and music.

Grade 4/5 students learned about composer and musician, Duke Ellington. We read a Caldecott Honor book called Duke Ellington The Piano Prince and His Orchestra. Ellington composed and played swing music and the book shared his important role in the evolution of American jazz. Students were exposed to a transformation by Duke Ellington of The Nutcracker Suite's romantic period orchestra composition into jumpin’ jazz melodies. The Nutcracker Suite has never been so hip!
Health Room Request:

The health room is in need of girls’ leggings/sweat pants as well as long sleeve shirts. If you have some you are able to donate it would be greatly appreciated!

Pneumonia Can Be Prevented - Vaccines Can Help

Pneumonia is an infection of the lungs that can cause mild to severe illness in people of all ages. Signs of pneumonia can include coughing, fever, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, rapid breathing or shortness of breath, chills, or chest pain. Certain people are more likely to become ill with pneumonia. This includes

- adults 65 years of age or older;
- children younger than 5 years of age;
- people who have underlying medical conditions (like diabetes); and
- people who smoke cigarettes or have asthma.

Encourage friends and loved ones with certain health conditions, like diabetes and asthma, to get vaccinated against the flu and bacterial pneumonia.

Reduce Your Risk

Pneumonia can be prevented with vaccines in many cases. In the United States, there are several vaccines that prevent infection by bacteria or viruses that may cause pneumonia. These vaccines include

- pneumococcal,
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib),
- pertussis (whooping cough),
- varicella (chickenpox),
- measles, and
- influenza (flu).

Following good hygiene practices can also help prevent respiratory infections. This includes washing your hands regularly, cleaning hard surfaces that are touched often (like doorknobs and countertops), and coughing or sneezing into a tissue or into your elbow or sleeve. You can also reduce your risk of getting pneumonia by limiting exposure to cigarette smoke and treating and preventing conditions like diabetes.

Megan Marten, School Nurse
Stoner Prairie/Savanna Oaks/VAIS
(608)845-4215/(608)845-4015
What is TAP?

The Department of Public Instruction has requirements as they relate to Gifted and Talented. The Verona Area School District believes strongly in not labeling but rather meeting the needs of learners. Instead of Gifted Talented we have decided to use the title Talents and Passion. We want to develop the Talents and Passions of all of our learners.

TAP Advisory Committee

Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year the Verona Area School District formed a Talents and Passion Advisory Committee made up of parents, teachers and the TAP District Coordinator. The purpose of the committee is to advise the district on how best to meet the needs of learners who are performing above their grade level peers. We strive to have representation from each school in the district. A list of members of the Advisory Committee can be found on the District TAP website. If you have questions you can direct them to Advisory Committee members or Site Contacts also found on the website.

January Newsletter Topic: Identification

Where Do I Find the TAP Website?

http://libguides.verona.k12.wi.us/content.php?pid=328154&sid=2684834

Go to the District Website and Click on Departments and then on Curriculum and Instruction

Click on Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment

Click on the Talents and Passions Tab

Click on the link that will take you to the TAP Website and watch the short video on how to navigate the site.
¿Qué es el programa de Talentos e Intereses (por sus siglas en inglés TAP)?

El Departamento de Instrucción Pública tiene unos requisitos para los estudiantes Superdotados y Adelantados. El Distrito Escolar del Área de Verona cree firmemente en no ‘etiquetar’ los estudiantes, sino cumplir sus necesidades. En vez del título de un programa para los estudiantes Superdotados y Adelantados, usamos el título de Talentos e Intereses. Queremos desarrollar los Talentos e Intereses de todos los alumnos.

Comité de Asesores para el Programa de Talentos e Intereses (TAP)

A partir del ciclo escolar 2010-2011, el Distrito Escolar del Área de Verona estableció un Comité de Asesores para el Programa de Talentos e Intereses. El comité consiste de padres/tutores, maestros y la Coordinadora de TAP del Distrito. El propósito del comité es aconsejar el distrito acerca de las maneras en que puede cumplir las necesidades de los estudiantes con un rendimiento por encima de los compañeros de clase de su edad. Nos esforzamos en incluir representantes de cada escuela en el distrito. Se encuentra una lista de los miembros del Comité de Asesores en el sitio web del programa TAP. Si tiene alguna pregunta, puede dirigirla a cualquier miembro del Comité de Asesores o a los contactos de las escuelas que se encuentran en el sitio web.

Tema para el Boletín de Noticias para Enero: Identificación

¿En dónde se encuentra el sitio web del programa TAP?

http://libguides.verona.k12.wi.us/content.php?pid=328154&sid=2684834

Vaya al sitio web del distrito y haga clic en “Departments” y luego “Curriculum and Instruction”

Haga clic en “Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment"

Haga clic en “Talents and Passions”

Haga clic en el enlace al sitio web del programa TAP y mire el breve video sobre cómo navegar el sitio.