Message from the Principal

Dear Stoner Prairie Parents/Guardians:

Thank you to everyone for attending our October Parent/Teacher Conferences at Stoner Prairie. As you know the focus of the fall conference is on goal setting for your child including discussion of areas of strength and areas of growth (academic and social/emotional). The conference will include discussion of a plan for your child’s growth for the school year. Parent/Teacher Conferences are important, but they are not the only opportunity that you have available to you to dialogue about your child’s progress at school. Please feel free to contact school staff at any time during the school year to check on progress, discuss concerns or to share feedback.

Thank you for your continued partnership with Stoner Prairie.

Sincerely,
Chris Olson, Principal
My name is Andy Miller and I am a first year special education teacher at Stoner Prairie. This year I am working mostly with students in kindergarten. Prior to coming here, I worked at Verona Area High School as a special education assistant for six years. My other job is teaching Driver Education at VAHS. I also coached freshman basketball at VAHS for two years. My wife, 1 year old son and I enjoy camping, swimming, and playing games in our free time.

My name is Angie Davis!

I'm very excited to be teaching kindergarten at Stoner Prairie Elementary School!

Prior to joining the Verona Area School District, I taught both kindergarten and first-grade in the Oshkosh Area School District.

I received both of my undergraduate degrees, BA Journalism and BS Elementary Education, from The University of Wisconsin—Madison. Go Bucky!

I've also earned my master's degree in Reading Education from The University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh.

As you can probably tell, I'm a lifelong learner. I hope to use the knowledge that I've gained to inspire my students to be just as passionate about learning as I am!

When I'm not teaching I enjoy staying active. I like to swim, bike, and run marathons. I also love reading, traveling, and spending time with my friends and family.

I look forward to making many meaningful connections with the Stoner Prairie families this school year!

Lost & Found

Our Lost and Found bins are filled with a variety of items. Please look through the collection when you are at school.

Did You Know...

You can receive the Family Newsletter via your personal e-mail account? And when you sign up for e-mail newsletters, you will also receive timely e-alerts with important school news.

To subscribe to Stoner Prairie E-mail Newsletters and Alerts go to the Verona Area School District's website home page: www.verona.k12.wi.us

PTO Fundraiser

Plan to pick up the items that you ordered from the PTO Fundraiser on Saturday, November 3, from 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
NEW STAFF MEMBER (CONTINUED)

Dear Stoner Prairie Families,

Welcome new and returning families to the 2012-2013 school year! My name is Mrs. Sarah Holzum and in my role as School Counselor, I hope to get to know all of you. Please feel free to stop in my office when you are in the building to say hello.

As the school counselor, I see students in a number of settings. Primarily, your child will have guidance lessons every other week focusing on the themes established by the Wisconsin Comprehensive School Counseling Model. During these lessons, we will focus on the following themes: Academic Success, Careers, Citizenship, Diversity, Safety, Self Knowledge/Management & Transitions.

I may also visit with a child individually for a variety of reasons including family changes, anger management, building social skills and low self-esteem. The focus of individual counseling is to help children learn problem solving, social and coping skills.

Organizing small groups is also part of the Stoner Prairie guidance program. Groups are an extension of the classroom and individual counseling sessions. The group setting allows children to interact with their peers while focusing on a specific subject. It also enables them to understand how other students handle similar situations. These groups are formed as students' needs dictate with possible themes covering friendship, new students, self-esteem, family changes, and loss. Groups typically meet one day a week and run for four to six weeks during student's recess time.

If you do not want your child to participate in either group or individual counseling, please send a note or call.

I am looking forward to working with you and your child to ensure a successful school year. Please do not hesitate to call or stop by with questions, concerns or just to say "hi."

Sincerely,

Sarah Holzum
Stoner Prairie School Counselor
608-845-4228
holzums@verona.k12.wi.us
PTO APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

PTO is sponsoring a Staff Appreciation Breakfast on Monday, November 5. If you are interested in providing a breakfast item or volunteering at the event, please contact Sarah Hasselkus at shaselkus@charter.net or 288-8281. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

FREE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, November 16

Movies: Madagascar 3 (PG) or Chimpanzee (G)

Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. Come join your classmates and families for a fun night at the movies. Come in your pjs and remember to bring your pillows and blankets. A parent or guardian must accompany their child(ren).

FREE POPCORN & JUICE.

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

Wednesday, October 24 - 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Culver’s—430 E. Verona Ave., Verona

Head south on US-151, 18 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.

BUS SAFETY

Mr. Olson works closely with the bus drivers and the bus company, First Student, to enhance overall student safety. Teachers also work with students to reinforce positive behavior on the bus on a daily basis. A bus safety talk was conducted by some of our bus drivers stressing the importance of staying seated, keeping hands to ourselves, using kind and calm words on the bus, and following the bus driver’s directions. Lastly, a bus evacuation drill was also conducted to help our students know how to safely evacuate the bus from the back.

Identifying Students with Specific Learning Disabilities

Wisconsin’s rule for identifying students with specific learning disabilities (SLD) has changed. No later than December 1, 2013, all initial SLD evaluations of public school students will use information from interventions to make eligibility decisions.

This serves as notice that beginning November 1, 2012, initial SLD evaluations at all Verona Area School District elementary schools will begin using information from a student’s response to intensive, scientific research based or evidence based interventions when making special education eligibility decisions.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please refer to the Verona Response to Intervention website at http://libguides.verona.k12.wi.us/content.php?pid=302610 or contact Erin Schettler, Director of Student Services, at (608)845-4314.
RELATED ARTS NOTES

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).

Kindergarteners learned all about different varieties of LINE. Using one of the PRIMARY COLORS (red, yellow or blue), they painted connected lines on their paper. During the next art class they painted in the spaces of their composition using the other two primary colors. These paintings will be on display in our hallways. The next lesson was to learn about the SECONDARY COLORS (green, orange and violet). Children learned that no other colors can be made without mixing the primaries together. Finger painting was the medium to explore the SECONDARY COLORS. The books; "Mouse Paint" by Ellen Stoll Walsh and "What Makes a Rainbow" by Betty Ann Schwartz are great examples of the primary and secondary colors. Ask your child how to make orange, green and violet.

First Graders created their very own idea of a "wild thing" after looking at the book; "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak. Extremely unique and creative "creatures" came to life with crayon and watercolor paints. Wild thing habitats are next, using paper crimper and ziggy zaggy scissors, children are cutting and gluing paper backgrounds or habitats for their wild thing.

Second Graders are exploring their ideas with a "Monster's Ink" lesson. They blew ink through a straw to create unique ink blot images. Imaginations were needed to "see" a creature in the ink blot. Wow, we have some very creative creatures, some with horns, wings, multiple eyes, goofy teeth, and claws. Using black markers and watercolor paints, their creations are developing lots of detail. Next we will learn how to write a haiku to describe their creations.

Third Graders are learning about hot and cold colors. Colored pencils are the medium to draw circular designs with their hand traced over the top. Their hand is colored using hot or cold colors, the circles are colored with the other color group. This lesson takes a lot of concentration to use the color groups in the appropriate areas. They are looking amazing and proving to be a good way to learn and apply color knowledge.
Art Notes continued:

Fourth and Fifth Graders are learning about "The Mona Lisa", the popular painting by Leonardo daVinci which was painted between 1503-1505. While also learning the meaning of the word parody, children are creating alternative styles of "The Mona Lisa." What if she were a rock star or an athlete? We can't wait to see how these collage compositions progress.

OCTOBER'S FAMOUS ARTISTS OF THE MONTH are:
Faith Ringgold and Pablo Picasso
Please look for the FAMOUS ARTIST 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 minutes per week.

If your child is in Kindergarten they have experienced the "Musical Adventure Of The Meadow." Students moved like bees, birds, flowers and butterflies to classical music. Rhythm instruments were played for frogs, chipmunks and grasshoppers while different sized rain sticks provided the sound of the stream.

First Grade sang a song called Play Me a Cowbell. Of course, the cowbell was the main attraction. but they needed help from rhythm sticks, drums and tambourines that were also in the song.

Second Graders are enjoying using song sheets with lyrics and learning about the musical staff. Students learned a fun fall song called "Apple On A Stick". Everyone enjoyed the whistling part.

Third Grade students are whacky! They have started playing boomwhackers. Boomwhackers are plastic pitched tubes that students tap on the floor, their knees or hands to play songs. Playing boomwhackers is a fun way to work on note reading.

Imagine, a Yellow Submarine crew calling out “Help” I missed the turn for Abbey Road and ended up on Devoro Road. Grade 4/5 students completed learning about The Beatles and wrote in their Related Arts journals about what they had learned. We ended by viewing a very moving tribute to John Lennon during the closing ceremony of the summer Olympics. Lennon’s family provided a never released video of John singing his song.
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.

We have been learning and practicing many new skills, games and activities in Physical Education. The kindergarten, first and second grade students have worked on throwing, catching, kicking and punting skills through a variety of activities and games. The third, fourth and fifth grade students practiced football and soccer skills such as throwing, catching, punting, dribbling and kicking. They learned new games that incorporated these skills. The book fair will be set up in half of the Gym the week of October 15th and all students will be jumping rope, juggling and writing in their Related Arts Journals.

All third, fourth and fifth grade students will begin Fitness testing next week. Please read the paragraph below for more information.

FITNESSGRAM

This year, Stoner Prairie will be implementing the FITNESSGRAM physical fitness testing program for students in grades 3-5. This program tests students in the areas of aerobic fitness (PACER test), muscular strength/endurance (Push Ups and Curl Ups), and flexibility (Back saver sit and Reach). Students will do a pre-test and then set goals for how much they want to improve in each of the different areas. In the spring we will do a post-test so that the students are able to see how much they improved and if they were able to achieve the goal they set for themselves. Although we will plan activities throughout the year to help improve in all areas of physical fitness, we will be putting our emphasis on improving aerobic fitness. This will be done using the PACER (Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run) Test. The PACER and the rest of the FITNESSGRAM program were developed by the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) and are endorsed by the National Association of Sport and Physical Education (NASPE).

The FITNESSGRAM is a quality assessment for three reasons:
1. FITNESSGRAM establishes a baseline of a healthy fitness zone from which students can set goals and check progress to maintain and improve their fitness level.
2. FITNESSGRAM provides recommended activity program ideas that will help students reach healthy fitness zones in areas they would like to improve.

FITNESSGRAM is non-competitive. It does not compare students to other students. Results are only shared with individual students and their parents/guardian.

Look for Related Arts Notes in upcoming family newsletters!
**Pink Update**

Students and staff have been bringing their pink Yoplait lids to school with great enthusiasm. The most current count is 167! You can look for the pink ribbon symbol on GM cereals and other products. We know there will be hundreds more surrendered by the Winter Break deadline. Lids save lives, so please keep those covers coming. (Yoplait will donate 10 cents per lid to Susan G. Komen.) Many thanks!

---

**Nonfiction Books.** Finding information within a resource is part of the research process. Students in grades 3-5 will be learning about the parts of a book. The Table of Contents, Glossary, and Index assist in the location and retrieval of information. Identifying and interpreting the graphic and textual aids within the resource provides additional information for the reader. These elements and concepts apply to electronic resources as well.

---

**Regular Safety Drills**

Each year our building practices a Code Red Drill. This is our attempt to help all students and staff know what to do in the event that our school needs to go into a lock down. In our school district there are two types of lock downs: a "soft lock down" which means entering or exiting the building is forbidden but school life within continues its normal schedule, and a "hard lock down" which means all students are escorted to a safe place and all doors are locked. We also hold at least one tornado drill a year, usually during Wisconsin's Tornado Awareness Week in April. Lastly, we are required to hold monthly fire drills. We take the safety of all students and staff seriously. Thank you for continuing to sign in at the office upon arrival and picking up a visitor badge/sticker which also enhances our overall school safety.

---

**Safety Patrol**

All fifth graders have the opportunity to join Safety Patrol each year. This optional leadership opportunity allows students to help with safety in the lunchroom, on the playground, and within different locations on school grounds. Nearly all of our fifth grade students have joined Safety Patrol this year, and they are taking their added responsibilities of being at a safety post, helping in the lunchroom and helping on the playground very seriously. We are committed to continue to develop student leadership opportunities at Stoner Prairie. Please watch for more information about student leadership at our school.
Junior Achievement at Stoner Prairie

The kindergarten team, second grade team, PALs 1-3 team, and most of our 4th/5th grade classrooms have chosen to partner with the Junior Achievement (JA) program coordinated by Ms. Beth Tomscak during a portion of the 2012-13 school year at Stoner Prairie. Some of the anticipated outcomes of Junior Achievement include giving young people additional knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and economic choices. Junior Achievement offers corporate and community volunteers that work within the Stoner Prairie/VASD classroom/curriculum context to deliver relevant, hands-on experiences that give students from kindergarten through high school knowledge and skills in financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship. JA programs empower students to make a connection between what they learn in school and how it can be applied in the real world – enhancing the relevance (btomscak@jawis.org or 354-6798) with questions or for more information regarding Junior Achievement of their classroom learning and increasing their understanding of the value of staying in school. This school year, JA in Dane County will reach over 10,000 students in 525 classrooms. Nearly 400 volunteers will play a key role in bringing Junior Achievement to life. By sharing their personal and professional experiences and skills with students, JA volunteers help students make the connection between what they are learning in school and what they will need to succeed in work and life. Please contact your child’s teacher, Principal Olson (845-4210) or JA Senior Program Manager, Beth KM Tomscak.

RSVP Dane
(Retired Senior Volunteer Program)

Stoner Prairie is working with some volunteers from RSVP Dane who provide members of the community that want to work with students and classrooms. We are continually exploring ways to involve the community within our school, but also working to provide additional student supports along the way. We thank Paula Reif and Akeem Torres form RSVP Dane for partnering with us to provide volunteers to Stoner Prairie.
Y5210 Program Partnership with Stoner Prairie

The teachers of the PALs 1-3 and 2nd grade classes are taking part in a program titled Y5210, in partnership with the YMCA of Dane County, in order to bring increased awareness to students of the daily guidelines for nutrition and physical activity. The main goals of the Y5210 program include raising awareness and creating behavior change, engaging the entire family in supporting healthier environments, increasing the amount of physical activity during the school day, and to decrease classroom distractions and interruptions, among others.

Y5210 includes brief activities each day in the classroom that our teachers will do with the students that come from YMCA curriculum kits that are focused on the content of healthy living and developing healthier living habits. The program will last approximately 24 weeks. A big thank you to our teachers for volunteering to help emphasize these important daily living skills and knowledge with our PALs 1-3 and 2nd grade students within the Y5210 program.

---

**WISCONSIN KNOWLEDGE AND CONCEPTS EXAMINATIONS (WKCE-CRT)**

We will be administering the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) from October 22-November 18. We will be testing all students in third, fourth and fifth grades. Fourth graders will be tested in the areas of reading, math, language arts, writing, science and social studies. Third and fifth grade students will be tested in reading and math. Parents of students in grades three through five will also be receiving letter about the WKCE.

It is important for your child to be in attendance every school day, but even more so during a testing day. We appreciate your attempts to schedule appointments and vacations around the days that your children will be taking the test so that they may have the opportunity to test with their class in their classroom where they are the most comfortable.

If you would like to know more about the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations-CRT and you have access to a computer, you can check the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction’s website at www.dpi.state.wi.us/oea/wkce.html or contact Erin Schletter (Director of Student Services) – 845-4314.
Triple Play at Stoner Prairie

Stoner Prairie Elementary School and the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County are partnering to provide after-school recreational activities for 3rd-5th grade students at Stoner Prairie called Triple Play, which is offered from 2:35-3:45 P.M. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays starting on Wednesday, October 24. All after-school programming and bus transportation is completely free to all participants. Additionally, families may choose to pick up their child at 3:45 or families may pre-arrange to have their child transported to the Boys and Girls Club for additional programming until 6:00 P.M. if interested.

Triple Play will include various recreational, athletic, and team-building activities in our school gym coordinated by a staff member of the Boys and Girls Club. Triple Play will involve 16-20 students each night from 2:35-3:45 P.M. involving a different group of students each night for 25 weeks. Students that sign up for Triple Play will be assigned to a Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday night group from 2:35-3:45 P.M. that works in conjunction with their participation within other after-school programming at Stoner Prairie. Students who are only available on one of the given nights for Triple Play will not be guaranteed placement within this after-school program. Lastly, our 5th graders will be placed in Triple Play first, fourth graders will be placed second, and third graders will be placed last. It is important that we do not exceed a student to staff ratio of 20:1 for any given night of Triple Play, so space is limited for Triple Play on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays.

It is very exciting to have many more learning and enrichment opportunities available to students at Stoner Prairie. We extend a big thank you to the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County including Michael Johnson, Nathan Beck and John Suggs for their partnership with our students and staff. We hope that your family will join us for Triple Play Stoner Prairie Elementary starting on October 24.

Power Hour at Stoner Prairie

Stoner Prairie Elementary School and the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County are partnering to provide after-school academic support for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade at Stoner Prairie called Power Hour (Homework Club), which will be offered from 2:35-3:45 P.M. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays starting on Wednesday, Oct. 3. All after-school programming and bus transportation is completely free to all participants. Additionally, families may choose to pick up their child at 3:45 P.M. or families may pre-arrange to have their child transported to the Boys and Girls Club for additional programming that could last until 6:00 P.M. if interested.

The Power Hour Homework Club will involve approximately 16-18 students that are a combination of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders that will work with Stoner Prairie Elementary Reading Specialist, Theresa Vasen, and one DPI-certified teacher from the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County. Stoner Prairie staff have selected the students that are part of Power Hour, and this list of students will change over time involving additional families. Stoner Prairie staff members have been and will be in contact with families that have been or will be invited to participate in 2 or 3 nights per week of the Power Hour. Thank you to the Boys and Girls Club for partnering with us on Triple Play and Power Hour.
We Saved over $1000 From Garbage!!
That's right! Last year from turning in Kemp's lids, Labels for Education and Box Tops, we saved all that money. Please consider asking extended family, co-workers and neighbors to recycle their garbage and help support our school. Every little bit helps.

Target Red Card (credit or debit) gives you 5% off your purchase AND gives 1% of your total to the school of your choice! PLEASE choose STONER PRAIRIE!

FACT (Fitchburg Area Community Television)

Beginning this school year, Fitchburg Area Community Television and Stoner Prairie Elementary school have started a collaboration to create a student designed newscast showcasing our school and community. This month a core group of 4th and 5th grade students are learning how to use equipment, capture footage, edit footage, and create a finished newscast. The finished newscast will be shown on both our school website and FACTV's educational channel. To access the newscast on our school website, click on the tab on the left side called FACTV and Stoner Prairie Productions.

At the end of the month, this core group will be traveling to the studio to create the newscast. Each month, new students will be invited to participate in this after-school opportunity on either a Monday or Wednesday afternoon. Stay tuned for the upcoming newscast!
THANK YOU FROM PTO

A big thank you is extended to Michelle Cruz and Laura Olson Dugan for a very well organized Pizza on the Prairie for Back to School Night. Also: Angel Lim Meyers, Brenda Valitchka, Coleen Chase, Julie Rothwell, Kim Puccio, Kara Steiner and Vickie Gormley.

Thank you to Rebecca Reller for chairing the Picture Retake Committee. Thanks also to her team who pitched in the last minute: Sara Kelley and Catherine DeMarco.

SAVE THESE DATES!

Book Fair
October 16-19

Science Fair
March 8

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
November 5

Cultural Celebration
April 19

Movie Night
November 16

Celebrate the Arts
May 9

Rock n’ Recess
January 26

Field Day
May 29