



February, 2015 Family Newsletter

Hello NCS Families,

SAFETY FIRST! Sometimes we may not take the adage to heart as much as we should.....

Please do not cross W. Verona Ave. in front of school with your child only at the designated cross walk. Please avoid completing any U-turns in front of school. Please take the extra minute required to ensure the safety of you, your child, and others in our school community. THANKS. Also to those of you who are able to walk to school and perhaps have your dog with you, please keep your dog a distance away from the crowd, so that they do not get over excited and potentially hurt someone. Thanks again.

Lastly, thanks in advance for making it a priority to participate in parent/teacher/student conferences coming up in the next two weeks. The conference time goes so quickly, so please do your best to arrive on time or a bit early. Teachers are pressed to stay on schedule in order to avoid making other families wait. Thanks for giving the new Sign-up Genius conference scheduling a try. Please contact Tammy or Michelle in the NCS office if you need any assistance.

With warm regards,
Jim Ruder
NCS Director



UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 13	School Choice Forms Due TODAY
Feb. 16	Diversity/Equity Event, Celebrating Africa, 12:30-2:20 pm
Feb. 19&24	Winter Conferences
Feb. 26&27	NO SCHOOL
March 3	Diversity/Equity Committee meeting 6:30-8:00 pm
March 4	Baby Shower for Mr. Gundlach
March 6	NCS Family Dance Party from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Mar. 18	Spring Picture Day
Mar. 29	Ice Skating Party 1:00-3:00 pm
April 3-10	SPRING BREAK (NO SCHOOL)
May 5	Spring Concert, Art Show, and Basket Raffle in the evening
May 6	All school field trip to the Nat'l Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium



Do you have a friend, neighbor, or acquaintance who has an incoming kindergartener for next school year or someone who might be interested in transferring their elementary school

child to NCS? NCS has spots available at kindergarten and other grade levels for 2015-2016! Word of mouth is the best outreach! The DEADLINE for district residents to submit their School Choice Form is Friday, February 13th either ONLINE (new this year!) or by PRINTED COPY.

Also, for incoming kindergarten SIBLINGS of current NCS students, make sure you get your School Choice Form in by the Feb. 13th deadline. Even if an older sibling attends NCS, you MUST still submit a School Choice Form (either online or paper copy) for your incoming kindergartener by Feb. 13.



THERE IS NO SCHOOL FEB. 26&27TH

Please make child care arrangements.



JOIN US FEB. 16TH, FOR A DIVERSITY/EQUITY EVENT, CELEBRATING AFRICA, 12:30-2:20PM

Students will see, feel, and experience Africa all while gaining a deeper understanding of the world beyond their personal experience.

All are welcome to attend.

Volunteers as greatly needed and appreciated!

To help, please contact Marti Fechner

mmf@tds.net

or Isabel Agasie isabel.agasie@gmail.com.

Want to get involved with the next event? Attend our next Committee Meeting on: Tuesday, March 3rd from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM in the NCS Art/Music Room.



THE BASKET RAFFLE IS A FUN FUNDRAISER NEEDING A COORDINATOR FOR THIS YEAR

Looking for a fun way to get involved in the NCS community?? We are looking for a volunteer to spearhead one of our biggest and most fun fundraisers of the year: the BASKET RAFFLE at the Spring Concert in May. This fun event features prize baskets filled with themed items donated by families in each classroom. Past baskets have included Gardening Gear, LEGO, Wisconsin Badgers, Arts & Crafts, and more. We're looking for someone who can gather and organize donations and assemble other parent volunteers to help. Team up with a few friends! This would be a great group project! If you want more information or you want to help out, contact leighanneschmidt@gmail.com.



PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT WINTER CONFERENCES AND LOST AND FOUND...THE NEXT 2 WEEKS

It looks like we had success with our Sign-Up Genius for parents to sign up for their conference times with their child's teacher. Being that the information is still available online in the Sign-Up Genius, we will not be sending out paper copies of conference time reminders. If you have forgotten when your conference is scheduled and are having trouble accessing the information through your Sign-Up Genius, please contact the NCS office at (608) 845-4905 and we will be happy to look it up for you.

Just as a reminder:

For all teachers, except Mr. Gundlach,
the Winter Parent/Teacher/Student
Conferences are offered on:
Feb. 19 & 24 between 3:10 and 7:20 pm

Mr. Gundlach has conference times on:
Feb. 17, 19, and 24 from 3:30-6:40 pm.

**WHEN YOU COME FOR YOUR CHILD'S
WINTER CONFERENCE, SEE WHAT
BELONGS TO YOUR CHILD IN OUR
OVERFLOWING LOST AND FOUND!**

The NCS Lost and Found is overflowing with pants, sweatshirts, hats, mittens, jackets, and more! Either before or after your child's conference, PLEASE take a few minutes to see what items belong to your child. We will have the items set out on tables in the long hallway to the left of the K/1 classrooms. Just follow the LOST & FOUND signs. Sugar Creek also has 2 Lost and Found areas that you can check. One is on the way to the lunch room and one is across the hallway from the lunch room. Please also check there!



**JOIN US FOR A BABY SHOWER ON
MARCH 4TH FOR MR. GUNDLACH'S
EXPECTED LITTLE ONE!!**

All NCS families are invited to share in the celebration with Mr. Gundlach as he is expecting his first baby!!

WHEN: Wednesday, March 4th

TIME: 2:45 pm

WHERE: At NCS in Mr. Gundlach's classroom

Please join us in our celebration!
For more information, email Abby Jakowski at abby.jakowski@gmail.com.



**COME AND JOIN US FOR AN NCS
FAMILY DANCE PARTY
ON FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH**

On Friday, March 6th, join other NCS families for an early evening family dance event with DJ Andrew Larson of Saturns8 Entertainment at the Sugar Creek Gym from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. A simple snack will be provided. This will be a free, fun activity for our NCS families. Don't miss the fun! Please note - parents are expected to stay with their students for the duration of the event! Thank you for your understanding. Please contact Sarah Gaskell at sjgaskell@yahoo.com for more information. Hope to see you there!



SPRING PICTURE DAY: MARCH 18TH

Spring Picture Day is on Wednesday, March 18th. Brochures with picture packages and prices will be included in your child's Friday folder on March 13th. All students will have their individual picture taken and be photographed with their entire class. It is suggested that you pay for your package before photos are taken, however there will be the option of purchasing after you see a proof of the photo sent home in your child's Friday folder several weeks later. Purchase of any school photos is entirely optional.



**COME AND JOIN US FOR AN NCS
FAMILY ICE SKATING PARTY
ON SUNDAY, MARCH 29^T**

This year, NCS will have a Family Ice Skating Party, not a Skate-a-thon as in past years. It will be held on Sunday, March 29th, at Verona Ice Arena (formerly called the Eagle's Nest). Skate time is from 1:00-2:30 pm and we have the party room until 3:00 pm. Come and join us for a really fun afternoon together!!



VERONA LACROSSE: GRADES 2-8

Verona Lacrosse Spring 2015

Registration is still open!

Boys & Girls Grades 2nd-8th – New players welcome!

Indoor Practice Begins March 9th

Registration and Information online at veronalacrosse.com



**NEW NCS PROCEDURE FOR FAMILY
VACATIONS OF 3 DAYS OR MORE**

Do you plan on taking a family vacation where your child will miss 3 or more days of school? NCS now has a Request for Excused Absence for Family Vacation Form for you to complete PRIOR to your vacation. A copy is posted on the district NCS webpage (www.nccs.verona.k12.wi.us) for your review and we have paper copies in the office for your convenience too.



**VERONA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATTENDANCE POLICY INFORMATION**

Important Points:

A parent may excuse up to ten days during each school year. This includes reasons of illness, vacation, tardiness, and family emergencies.

A medical professional may provide excuses for a child for up to thirty days per school year.

Attendance Letters:

Letters stating the school's concern are sent to parents when a child has been absent or tardy five or more days. A second letter is sent after about eight days absent/tardy. A third letter is sent after about ten total days absent/tardy and a meeting is scheduled to discuss the concerns with school staff. (If a child is absent due to a medical reason and provides a written excuse from the medical provider, the absence is not included in the ten days.) If absences/tardiness persists after a school-parent meeting, the family may be referred to the Truancy Review Board.

Truancy Review Board:

The Truancy Review Board (TRB) meets monthly to assess family situations related to student's absence from school. The TRB is composed of school officials, a community social worker, and law enforcement officers, along with a parent/guardian of the student. The TRB will request the parent (and possibly student) sign a contract regarding an attendance plan. The TRB may also determine that the case needs further intervention and refer to the municipal court and/or refer to Dane County Human Services.

Appointments:

If your child is absent from school due to a medical reason please request an excuse on clinic letterhead that the child was seen on the specific date. The following types of providers are *examples* in this category:

- Medical doctor
- Dentist
- Orthodontist
- Chiropractor
- Physical/Occupational Therapist
- Mental Health Provider

A medical professional may provide excuses for a child for up to thirty days per school year, so please be sure to ask your medical professional for a medical excuse letter each time your child has an appointment.

Supervision before School:

In an effort to assist families in getting students to school in a timely manner, NCS provides supervision prior to the start of the school day. The supervision and school start times are as follows:

Mondays:

Before School Supervision is from 9:00 am-9:15 am. Then the First Bell is at 9:15 am for students to enter school and get settled into their seats before the Second Bell at 9:25 am after which they are considered "Tardy."

Tuesdays through Fridays:

Before School Supervision is from 7:20 am-7:35 am. Then the First Bell is at 7:35 am for students to enter school and get settled into their seats before the Second Bell at 7:45 am after which they are considered "Tardy."

Vacation:

It is a parental choice to take a vacation. We strongly urge parents to take family vacations concurrent with school breaks such as winter break, spring break, and

summer break. If you choose to take vacation days while school is in session, keep in mind that parents can only excuse up to ten days total per school year. Absences (including tardiness) in excess of ten days may be considered truant.

Absent/Tardy for any reason:

Call the attendance line[☎] (available 24 hours) OR Send a note with your child if he/she is absent for any reason.

NCS Attendance Line: 608-845-4903



NCS SPRING CONCERT, ART SHOW, AND BASKET RAFFLE ON THE EVENING OF MAY 5th

Our annual NCS Spring Concert, Art Show, and Basket Raffle will be held on Tuesday, May 5th, in the evening at the Performing Arts Center at the Verona Area High School. This is a wonderful way to celebrate our students and the special things they are doing in our integrated arts program.

Stay tuned for more specifics about Basket Raffle donations and themes for each class!



SAVE THE DATE: MAY 6TH IS AN ALL SCHOOL FIELD TRIP TO THE NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM AND AQUARIUM



FUNDRAISING UPDATES

The Gymfinity Fundraiser was a fun family event and it raised \$500 for our school, including \$175 from the bake sale and \$325 from admission. Many thanks to all of the families who came to support the event, to those who contributed to the bake sale, and to Abby Jakowski for organizing this fun time for our NCS families!

Boxtops Coordinator Needed for Next School Year: We are looking for a new BoxTops Coordinator for next school year. It is a great volunteer position for someone who is unable to be in school during school hours yet wants to make a difference in the school. If you are interested, please contact Leigh Schmidt at leighanneschmidt@gmail.com to learn more about this important volunteer position.



MEASLES OUTBREAK

The CDC has reported an outbreak of measles in the U.S. currently involving eleven states. The Verona Area School District would like to take this opportunity to provide some information about measles and how to prevent it. Measles is the most deadly of all childhood rash/fever illnesses. It is a serious infection that causes fever, cough, a rash, sore eyes, and occasionally dangerous complications. Measles spreads very easily, so it is important to protect

against infection. Getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent measles. Specifically, to have the best protection against measles, two doses of MMR vaccine are required. As part of the childhood immunization program the first dose of vaccine is required between 12 - 15 months and the second dose before entering school, at 4 - 6 years.

It is important for you to check your child's immunization records to make sure he/she has received two doses of MMR vaccine. Measles can spread easily to and from unimmunized children. In addition to being at risk for getting sick if exposed to measles, children with one or zero doses of MMR will not be able to come to school for two weeks if exposed. If you believe that your child needs the MMR vaccine, please call your health care provider or local health department. A fact sheet about measles is available in our school office. If your child does develop a rash with a fever, they should not attend school and you should call your health care provider. Please tell the clinic you suspect your child may have measles. It is important to call the clinic or hospital before taking your child in. Please remember - the best way to protect your child is to ensure they have had two doses of MMR.



HAVING TROUBLE ACCESSING THE NCS WEB PAGE FROM YOUR PHONE?

Go directly to the NCS page without involving any drop down menus through: www.nccs.verona.k12.wi.us