



December, 2014 Family Newsletter



Hello NCS Families,

It has been a very exciting month, highlighted by the VASD School Board renewing the New Century School 5-year Charter School Contract. The School Board was very supportive of our direction towards offering STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). We will continue to also focus on environmental studies. We believe the two emphases will complement each other well. It will be a five year journey toward STEM implementation. We will continue with the many other great things happening at NCS, such as our Integrated Arts program, Nurtured Heart Approach, multi-age grouping, the evolution of Personalized Learning, etc. Thanks to the many site council members for their leadership through the Charter Contract renewal process.

Here is wishing you and your family a terrific winter break. We are looking forward to celebrating the greatness of our NCS school community in 2015!

With Warm Regards,

Jim Ruder, NCS Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 14	Bidding ENDS for the NCS Online Silent Auction at 9 pm
Dec. 19	Barnes & Noble Giftwrapping fundraiser 5:00-10:00 pm
Dec. 23	Early Release at 12:20 p.m.
Dec24-Jan2	<u>NO SCHOOL</u> (WINTER BREAK)
Jan. 5	School Resumes and New School Visitor System Begins
Jan. 19	NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
Jan. 20 and 22	Incoming Kindergarten Informational Meeting, 5:30-6:15 pm & 6:30-7:15 pm
Jan. 27	Incoming Kindergarten Informational Meeting, 6:30-8:15 pm at Badger Ridge Middle School
Jan. 31	Gymfinity Open Gym and Bake Sale from 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Feb. 3	NCS Open House and Tours 8:00-10:00 am at NCS
Feb. 7	NCS Open House and Tours 10:00 am-12:00 pm at NCS
Feb. 13	LAST day to submit School Choice Forms (including incoming K siblings) for the 2014-15 school year
May 5	Spring Concert and Art Show in the evening
May 6	All school field trip to the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium



BID NOW!

ONLY 2 DAYS LEFT TO BID ON THE ONLINE SILENT AUCTION!

Just in time for holiday gift giving, NCS is conducting our 3rd annual **Online Silent Auction**.

Timeline:

BID Before Sunday, Dec. 14th

at 9:00 pm!! Make your bids online at the NCS website or with Marti Fechner at [\(608\) 279-4491](tel:6082794491).

Pick up your items at school on Dec. 16th & 17th, 2:30 pm - 7:00 pm

MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL

NEEDED! There are lots of ways you can STILL HELP. We need people to:

- *Match items to winning bids (Dec. 15th)
- *Work the pick-up table Dec. 16th & 17th (anytime between 2:30 - 7:00 pm)
- *Help deliver items (Sat., Dec. 20th 10am - 2pm)

With your help, this fundraiser can be bigger and better than ever! Let's help NCS raise needed funds for our kids. Please contact Marti Fechner at mmf@tds.net or [\(608\) 279-4491](tel:6082794491) to help. Thanks!



ORDER NOW!! YOUR SPECIAL ARTSONIA MUGS, MAGNETS, MOUSE PADS,... MUST BE ORDERED BY DEC. 15TH!

ARTSONIA.COM is a great idea for holiday shopping! Your child's artwork can be put on magnets, mugs, mouse pads, and more! These make perfect gifts for grandparents, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit our fantastic Integrated Arts program!



HELP NEEDED TO WRAP PRESENTS FOR DONATIONS AT BARNES & NOBLE ON DEC. 19TH

Once again NCS will be wrapping presents at Barnes and Noble for donations. They supply the paper. We supply the man power.

Kids are welcome to join us!!

We are signed up for Friday, Dec. 19th from 5 pm - 10 pm.

Please contact Charyn Grandau at charyng@yahoo.com or (608) 848-1211 or (608) 216-6190 if you can make any part of the shift.

Free beverage from the cafe for all who volunteer! Happy holidays!



**SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT NCS TO
YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS SO
THEY CAN REQUEST SPOTS AT NCS
AT ALL GRADE LEVELS
FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR
BY FEB. 13**

Do you have a friend, neighbor, or acquaintance who has an incoming kindergartener for next school year? Or do you know someone who might be interested in transferring their elementary school child to NCS? Now is the time to spread the word that NCS has spots available at kindergarten and other grade levels for 2015-2016! The deadline for district residents to submit their School Choice Form is Friday, Feb. 13. Word of mouth is the best outreach! The district will be mailing a letter to all incoming K families with information regarding this. You will be able to submit your form either ONLINE (new this year!) or by PRINTED COPY BY FEB. 13, 2015.

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.

All School Choice Forms must be submitted online or received at the Verona Area School District Administration Office at 700 N. Main Street in Verona by Feb. 13th.

Kindergarten

**2015-2016 VASD INCOMING
KINDERGARTEN INFORMATIONAL
MEETING**

All families who live in the Verona Area School District and have children who will be 5 years old before September 1, 2015 are invited to attend a parent information night on:

*Tuesday, January 27th, 6:30-8:15 pm at Badger Ridge Middle School in the gym

If you cannot attend this Parent Information Night, there are other locations and dates listed below that may be more convenient that you can attend:

*Tuesday, Jan. 20th, 5:30-6:15 pm at Stonecrest Apts (5673 King James Ct.)

*Tuesday, Jan. 20th, 6:30-7:15 pm at the Boys & Girls Club (4619 Jenewin Rd.)

*Thursday, Jan. 22nd, 5:30-6:15 pm at Nakoma Heights(4929 ChaletGardens Rd)

*Thursday, Jan. 22nd, 6:30-7:15 pm at the Fire Station (5445 King James Way).

NCS will be at each of these Parent Information Nights to introduce families to our school.

We can use your help either with babysitting, which is provided for any family who needs it, and we can use help sharing about your experiences at NCS. If you have not already contacted someone about helping, please call the school office to let us know of your availability. (845-4905).



**UPCOMING NCS OPEN HOUSE
SESSIONS & TOURS FOR INCOMING
KINDERGARTENERS AND TRANSFER
STUDENTS**

In late January, NCS will host Open House sessions with tours of NCS for families of incoming kindergarteners or transfer students who are interested in learning more about NCS. Tours last about 30 minutes depending on the number of questions people may have. These are for families of any grade level. The dates and times of these upcoming Open House sessions and tours are: Tuesday, Feb. 3rd, 8:00-10:00 am & Saturday, Feb. 8th, 10:00 am-12:00 pm.



**NEW SCHOOL VISITOR PROCEDURE
STARTING MONDAY, JAN. 5TH**

VASD will be implementing a new school visitor procedure at all of the district schools starting, Monday, Jan. 5th, to better enhance the safety of our students and staff. For identity verification, this new system, called Raptor, accepts all state drivers' licenses as well as other state and federal ID cards and checks visitors against known sexual offender databases and school-created alerts. So, if you have not already given the NCS office your state license to scan into the new Raptor system, you will be asked for it in the coming weeks as Jan. 5th approaches and NCS prepares for the new system. Once your license is scanned, you do not need to bring it again, as your identity is saved

in the system. Please note that the use of Raptor is not required if you are only dropping off or picking up your child or invited to an all-school performance. The letter from the VASD Security Coordinator is on the NCS web page under the "Announcements" section on the district website (www.verona.k12.wi.us).



**WANT TO GIVE YOUR CHILD'S
TEACHER SOMETHING THEY REALLY
WANT? CHECK OUT THE IDEAS ON
THE NCS GIVING TREE!**

The holiday season is upon us! If you are looking for ideas for a special gift for your child's teacher - please check out our **Giving Tree** next to the front entrance doors at school. Each snowflake lists a teacher's gift wish along with a QR code that can take you straight to the item! There are snowflakes for Integrated Arts, Special Education and also a few playground wishes. **Just grab one!**

You can also see the entire Wish List by going online and visiting www.amazon.com. Click on the *Wish List* link in the upper right hand corner. Select *Find a Wish List* from the drop down menu. Type *New Century School* in the search bar. Then click on the *New Century Logo* and it will take you to our school's web page. Each teacher's list can be selected from the left hand side of the page.

If you have any questions about the Amazon Wish List, please contact Abby Jakowski at abby.jakowski@gmail.com. Thanks you so much for supporting NCS in this way!



EARLY RELEASE

WINTER BREAK begins at mid-day on Tuesday, Dec. 23 for **all** Verona Area School District schools. New Century School students will be **dismissed at 12:20 PM on Dec. 23rd**. Please make sure you've made arrangements for your child's care at that time. Have a wonderful break!

We will look forward to seeing students when **school resumes at 9:25 AM on Monday, January 5, 2014.**



NO SCHOOL ON MLK DAY, JAN. 19TH

This year, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is celebrated on Monday, January 19th, and we have no school! Please make sure your calendar is marked for NO SCHOOL on this day and that you have made arrangements for your childcare.



LETTER REGARDING WEATHER RELATED DELAYS/CANCELLATIONS

A letter about weather related delays and cancellations from our superintendent, Dr. Gorrell, has been posted on the NCS web page under the "Announcements" section on the district website (www.verona.k12.wi.us). Please take a few minutes to read this so you are informed about district policies during the winter months. If you need a paper copy, please contact the NCS school office and we will send a paper copy home with your child.



MISSING YOUR CHILD'S GLOVES, BOOTS, HATS, SWEATSHIRTS,..? CHECK OUT OUR LOST AND FOUND!

The NCS Lost and Found bench is overflowing with pants, sweatshirts, hats, mittens, jackets, and more! PLEASE take a few minutes to see what items in there belong to your child. We have everything from socks to winter coats! The NCS Lost and Found bench is located right in front of the NCS office.

Sugar Creek also has 2 lost and found areas to check. One is on the way to the lunch room and one is across the hallway from the lunch room. Please also check there!



HAPPENINGS IN THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPT.

Thank you to all of the parents who encouraged their child to participate in the Tri 4 Schools mud run or triathlon events this past summer and fall. New Century raised \$309.80 for our physical education program because of those who participated. That's even more than last year and is triple my usual annual budget, so that will be a huge help! I'll be sending updates about next summer's events in the spring.

~Mr. Pedretti



GYMFINITY FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, JAN. 31ST 1:00-3:00 PM

Join other NCS families for lots of fun at an Open Gym Fundraiser at Gymfinity for ages 5 and up!! Admission is \$5 for Gymfinity members and \$7 for nonmembers. Gymfinity is located at: 6300 Nesbitt Road, Fitchburg.

We'll be holding a bake sale during the Open Gym. We need volunteers to contribute baked goods and drinks and to set up and work at the sale. If you are able to help out at the event and/or contribute baked goods, please be on the look-out in January for our Sign-Up Genius. Other questions can be directed to Abby Jakowski by emailing her at: abby.jakowski@gmail.com.



NCS SPRING CONCERT & ART SHOW SAVE THE DATE: EVENING OF MAY 5th

Here is some advanced notice for our annual NCS Spring Concert and Art Show. It 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 the exact time of the event.



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



VERONA PUBLIC LIBRARY FOOD FOR FINES: A FOOD DRIVE OVERDUE FINE AMNESTY NOW UNTIL DEC. 31ST

This is your opportunity to get rid of your overdue fines and do something good for your community. For every non-perishable food item patrons bring to the library they will receive \$1.00 off their overdue fines. The amnesty does not apply to lost or damaged item fines or toward other fees. To use food to pay for their fines, patrons must come to the library service desk with their library card and the food donations. The amnesty runs from NOW UNTIL December 31, 2014. All food donated goes to the Verona Area Needs Network Food Pantry.



OUTDOOR CLOTHING

Now that the cold weather is upon us, all students need to be wearing winter coats, hats, and waterproof snow gloves. Once it starts snowing, winter boots and snow pants are mandatory for K-3 students and suggested for 4-5 students. Once it begins snowing, ***all students must wear outdoor boots for recess. In order to keep our school clean and safe, outdoor boots cannot be worn in the school building. Students will need to change to shoes when returning from recess.***

If your family needs assistance with winter clothing, please contact our social

worker, Ms. Wagner at 845-4141 or Mr. Ruder at 845-4910.



WATERPROOF SNOW GLOVE/MITTEN DONATIONS NEEDED

We have a need for extra waterproof snow gloves/mittens for use at recess. If you are able to donate some, that would be very helpful. Thank you!



FUNDRAISING UPDATES

The Holiday Wreath Fundraiser raised about \$300 for NCS! Brandi Mueller and her family have spent much time and creative energy to make our homes festive for us through their beautiful wreaths! Brandi creates other beautiful items through "Blooms by Brandi", so keep her in mind for the future!

The REAP and Equal Exchange Holiday Fundraisers were a great success. We raised \$853.16 through Equal Exchange and \$508.82 through REAP "Taste of Wisconsin" fundraisers! Thank you Tim and Lynn Volk, Kristin and Bryan Yeager, and Wendy Broekema for all of the time and effort you put into these!

Target REDcard:

As you do your last minute holiday shopping, make sure you are using your **Target REDcard** and have NCS as your designated school. The **Target REDcard** is an ongoing fundraiser for our school where Target sends NCS a check for up to 1% of your purchases if you

register your REDcard to New Century. This fall, Target sent NCS a check for \$1,864.75!! Thanks to all of you who use your **Target REDcard** and have it registered to our school!!! If you don't have a **Target REDcard**, you may want to consider getting one to contribute in an easy way to our school!

<http://www.target.com/redcard>.

As you can see, our fundraising committee has been creative in the many different ideas they have brought to us for fundraisers! Thank you to our fundraising committee and chairpersons for all of your dedication to our school! Thank you to NCS families for your participation in the fundraisers!!



VERONA LACROSSE- ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Verona Lacrosse Spring 2015

Registration is NOW OPEN!

For Boys & Girls in Grades 2nd-8th

New players welcome!

"Learn to Play" Winter Clinic is on December 29th & 30th

Parent/Player Kick - Off Meeting is on January 20th 6:00 PM in the Badger Ridge Commons

Open Gym Practices Start January 25th

Registration and Information online at veronalacrosse.com