



December, 2015 Family Newsletter



UPCOMING EVENTS

Hello New Century Families,
 A hearty thank you and resounding set of appreciations are extended to many of you who have contributed to and participated in recent NCS happenings. So many days at school are filled with parents volunteering their time and skills in classrooms, supporting our NCS learners and teachers. Our various December fundraising events had something for everyone. Our Silent Auction initial results indicate we raised nearly \$5,000! Thanks for your generous support. Our Diversity and Equity Committee organized a super session this week exploring the continent of Asia with specific learning about China, India, and the Hmong culture. A general set of thanks go to all of you for keeping a good night's sleep, square meals, and some time each night reading or completing homework a priority for your children in this busy time of year. On behalf of the NCS staff, we wish you and your family a nice Winter Break and look forward to 2016 with you. Please take note of the enclosed information regarding upcoming Free Nurtured Heart Sessions specifically designed for parents. Thanks for spreading the good news about the great things going on at NCS when you may interact with families considering school options in Verona next year.

With Warm Regards,
 Mr. Jim Ruder, NCS Director

Dec. 19	Gift Wrapping Fundraiser at Barnes & Noble(2:00-10:00 pm)
Dec. 23- Jan. 3	<u>NO SCHOOL (WINTER BREAK)</u>
Jan. 4	School Resumes
Jan. 4	1 st day of Session 2 After-school STEM Program (Recycled Racers), Cursive Writing Club, and Homework Club
Jan. 11	NO AFTER-SCHOOL STEM, CURSIVE, OR HOMEWORK CLUB
Jan. 12	Equity/Diversity Committee meeting (6:00-7:00 pm) at NCS
Jan. 14	NCS Community Gathering 7:45 am in the Step Room
Jan. 18	NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
Jan. 19	K/1 Field Trip to Aldo Leopold Nature Center (8:15-11:30 am)
Jan. 21	2/3 Field Trip to Aldo Leopold Nature Center (8:15-11:30 am)
Jan. 21	NCS Open House and Tours 8:30-10:30 am at NCS
Jan. 22	4/5 Field Trip to Aldo Leopold Nature Center (8:15-11:30 am)
Feb. 2	Incoming Kindergarten Informational Meeting, 6:00-7:00 pm at the Boys & Girls Club
Feb. 6	NCS Open House and Tours 9:00-11:00 am at NCS

Feb. 6	Open Gym at Badger Gymnastics (3:00-5:00 pm)
Feb. 9	4/5 Field Trip to the Overture Center for a tour and to see a play on Rosa Parks (Exact Times Still To Be Determined)
Feb. 11	NCS Open House and Tours 8:30-10:30 am AND 6:00- 7:00 pm at NCS
Feb. 16	NCS Open House and Tours 8:30-10:30 am at NCS
Feb. 19	K/1 Field Trip to Cave of the Mounds (8:15-11:30 am)
April 21	All School Terrace Town Field Trip to the Monona Terrace (11:15 am-2:15 pm)
May 3	NCS Art Show (6:00 pm) and Spring Concert (6:30 pm)
June 2	5 th Grade Graduation (5:45- 6:30 pm) in the Step Room
June 2	NCS Family Ice Cream Social (6:30-7:15 pm)
June 3	5 th Grade Evening Party at NCS
June 8	All School Field Trip to Goodman Center and Pool (9:00 am-2:15 pm)

PLEASE CONTINUE TO REFER TO THE NCS PARENT GOOGLE CALENDAR AND THE NCS WEB PAGE ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE (nccs.verona.k12.wi.us) FOR INFORMATION ON WHEN CLASSES HAVE GYM, LIBRARY, FIELD TRIPS, AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND FOR OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS AND MEETINGS AT NCS.



**NO EARLY RELEASE BEFORE
WINTER BREAK**

WINTER BREAK begins on Wednesday, Dec. 23 for all Verona Area School District schools. There will be NO early release the day before Winter Break as they have done in past years.

We will look forward to seeing students when **SCHOOL RESUMES** at **9:25 AM** on **Monday, January 4, 2015**.



**NO SCHOOL JAN. 18 ON MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**

There is NO SCHOOL on Monday, January 18, 2016 in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Please make arrangements for your child care.



**GIFT WRAPPING FUNDRAISER ON
DEC. 19TH AT BARNES AND NOBLE
NEEDS NCS VOLUNTEERS**

New Century has the Gift Wrap table at Barnes and Noble at West Towne Mall in Madison.

Date: 12/19/2015 (Saturday)

Time: 2:00pm - 10:00pm (2 Hour shifts)

Location: Barnes and Noble, West Towne Mall, Madison

Questions? Contact Abby Jakowski at abby.jakowski@gmail.com

It's a great way to help out fellow shoppers and spread some holiday cheer! Grab some friends and pick up a 2-hour shift and WRAP! We wrap the gifts for free, but accept donations. All proceeds go to New Century School.



NCS HAS ITS OWN POETRY POLE

Mrs. Klawiter shared an idea she saw in a Madison neighborhood. We were able to get our version of a Poetry Pole up in front of our school. Anyone is welcome to read student poems from the box, return them, and get copies from the office if you would like. Teachers will take turns each month or two stocking the box with fresh poems.



CHECK OUT WHAT OUR STUDENTS HAVE BEEN DOING IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASS

NCS Phys Ed teacher, Mr. Pedretti, has a NCS-Physical Education website that he just updated with videos of NCS students during swimming and PE classes!! The website also provides information on PE units through the rest of the school year. Take a few moments to enjoy these fun videos with your child. Go to: <https://sites.google.com/a/verona.k12.wi.us/ncs-pe/fall>

Joff says there will be more videos to come! Thank you, Mr. Pedretti, for taking hours of clips this fall and making time to put them into short videos with music for us to enjoy!!



SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT NCS TO YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS SO THEY CAN REQUEST SPOTS AT NCS AT ALL GRADE LEVELS FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR BY MID-FEBRUARY

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 2016-2017! The deadline for district residents to submit their School Choice Form is in mid-February. Word of mouth is the best outreach! In January, the district will be mailing a letter to all incoming K families with information regarding this school choice. You will be able to submit your form either ONLINE or by PRINTED COPY BY MID-FEBRUARY. (The exact date has not yet been released by the district.)

Also, for incoming kindergarten SIBLINGS of current NCS students, make sure you get your School Choice Form in by the MID-FEBRUARY 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 MID-FEBRUARY.

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 mid-February. (The exact date has not yet been released by the district.)

Kindergarten

2016-2017 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, 2016 are invited to attend a Parent Information Night on:

*Tuesday, February 2nd, 6:00-7:00 pm at the Boys and Girls Club (4619 Jenewein Rd, Fitchburg).



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

In late January and February, 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:

Thursday, Jan. 21st, 8:30-10:30 am

Saturday, Feb. 6th, 9:00 am-11:00 am

Thursday, Feb. 11th, 8:30-10:30 am AND 6:00-7:00 pm

Tuesday, Feb. 16th, 8:30-10:30 am



STEM UPDATE

AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS:

Forty-four NCS students were excited to spend 8 weeks this past fall in our After-school STEM Program, Chess Club and Homework Club!!

In particular, our Session 1 STEM After-school Program inspired students to consider their environment, learn about invasive species and explore the impact of as well as come up with creative ideas for the safe removal of invasive species.

Many thanks to: Jennifer Bradley and Deb Pleuss for coordinating these After-school sessions; Mr. Pelton, Abby Jakowski, Ms. Austen, and Mrs. Schneider for teaching/leading the programs/clubs; and also to the parent volunteers for assisting in many ways. You all made it an amazing learning experience for our NCS students!!

Our NEXT 8-week After-school session (Session 2) STARTS JAN. 4th, the first day we return from Winter Break. It does NOT meet for the next 2 weeks (Jan. 11th and Jan. 18th) and resumes on Jan. 25th for another 7 consecutive Mondays. Again this session, there is a STEM Program offered as well as a Homework Club and, this time, a Cursive Writing Club. It will be an exciting time of learning at NCS on Mondays after school when we return from Winter Break!

Those students in this upcoming session's After-school STEM program will discover the way people recycle items that would ordinarily be discarded to turn them into toys, sculptures, and household objects. Students will be challenged to use recycled materials to create their own toy cars! These types of enrichment classes inspire children to be confident in their natural ability to dream and build and they have a lasting impact on the lives of our children every day.



**PROJECT LEAD THE WAY JUNIOR
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING NIGHT:
JAN. 14TH**

The Verona branch of Project Lead The Way would like to invite you to:

WHAT? Project Lead the Way Junior Science and Engineering Night with Displays and Demos of student STEM Projects and Keynote Speaker

**WHEN? Thursday, January 14th
6:00-8:00 pm (Doors open at 5:30 pm)**

**WHERE? BTCI at Promega Corporation
5445 E Cheryl Pkwy, Fitchburg, WI**

This event will include a raffle, vendors, students enrolled in PLTW presenting their projects, activities for elementary and middle school children, and special keynote speaker Bas Rokers, Assistant professor of psychology and contributor to National Geographic "Brain Games" TV series. The event is free for everyone to attend.

Project Lead The Way is the top program in the country for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) classes and education. The innovative,

hands-on approach prepares students for possible career paths and for the world's ever-changing economy. Their primary goal is to promote STEM education to the younger generation of learners in the Verona Area School District and encourage those who are considering a medical and/or engineering occupation to take the PLTW courses.

If you have any questions, please go to: veronaplwtw.weebly.com or contact PLTW Biomedical Science Educators: Hope Mikkelson: (608) 845-4666 Angie Midthun-Hensen: midthuna@verona.k12.wi.us



**DIVERSITY AND EQUITY
COMMITTEE UPCOMING EVENTS**

Many thanks to our presenters and coordinators of our "Celebrating the Continent of Asia" Event on Dec. 16! During this event, the Madison Hmong Cultural Center shared about the Hmong culture, Roshni Chowdhry, Mihika's mom, presented on India, LeiLei Song and Barb Drake, a VAIS teacher and Director, presented on China. It was an interactive and informative afternoon for our students and adults too!! Thank you to our presenters, parent volunteers and Diversity/Equity coordinators of this event, Jen Polglaze and Jim Ruder, for making it possible!

We would love your input and help on future events, so please consider joining the Diversity & Equity Committee and help make our mission a success! Our

next meeting is on: Tuesday, Jan. 12th, from 6:00-7:00 pm at NCS in the Integrated Arts Room. We hope to see you! If you are available to join us, please talk to Isabel Agasie isabel.agasie@gmail.com, Karen Pings kpings@live.com or Jen Polglaze jpolglaze@gmail.com.



BADGER GYMNASTICS FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY, FEB. 6th 3:00-5:00 PM

Join other NCS families for lots of fun at an Open Gym Fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 6th, from 3:00-5:00 pm at Badger Gymnastics (NOT Gymfinity as in previous years)! Admission is \$8. Non-school aged kids should be tailed by a parent for safety! Badger Gymnastics is located at: 6901 Schroeder Rd in Madison. Questions can be directed to Abby Jakowski at: abby.jakowski@gmail.com.



NCS SPRING CONCERT & ART SHOW
SAVE THE DATE: EVENING OF MAY 3rd

Here is some advanced notice for our annual NCS Spring Concert and Art Show. It will be held on Tuesday, May 3rd, 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. The Art Show will begin at 6:00 pm followed by the Spring Concert at 6:30 pm.



SAVE THE DATE:
5th GRADE GRADUATION
ON JUNE 2ND AT 5:45 pm
FOLLOWED BY THE ALL SCHOOL
NCS FAMILY ICE CREAM SOCIAL
AT 6:30 PM

NCS will hold its graduation ceremony to congratulate its 5th graders on Thursday, June 2nd, at 5:45 p.m. All NCS parents and students are invited to attend the ceremony in the Sugar Creek Step Room. It will be followed by the All School NCS Family Ice Cream Social Night at 6:30 pm at NCS. Come join us in celebrating!

Field Trip!



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Aldo Leopold Nature Center:

Jan. 19: K/1 "Winter in WI" Hike

Jan. 21: 2/3 Snowshoeing on the trails

Jan. 22: 4/5 Snowshoeing on the trails
(All are from 8:15-11:30 am)

Rosa Parks Play and tour at the Overture Center: Feb. 9: 4/5 only

Cave of the Mounds:

Feb. 19: K/1 only (8:15-11:30 am)

Terrace Town at the Monona Terrace:

April 21: all grades (11:15 am-2:15 pm)

Goodman Campus and Pool:

June 8: all grades (9:00 am-2:15 pm)



NURTURED HEART PARENTING CLASS

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!** Through the methods recommended in this class, you will see your children develop "inner wealth" and make choices that reflect the values and character you believe in. Your child comes to identify with success!

This class is applicable to parents of children/teens of all ages and is offered through the Verona Area School District.

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.*
- *Learn powerful strategies on how to see what is great about your children and change the way they see themselves.*
- *Learn how to become more proactive and feel more in control.*
- *Gain the opportunity to meet others in similar situations and share your experiences with*

introducing the approach in your home.

- *Gain the opportunity to have time between sessions to practice different strategies and then have a teacher be able to assist you with questions.*

WHEN/ WHERE Two 4-week sessions will be offered:

Fitchburg 6-8 PM Savanna Oaks LMC

1. Tuesday, January 5
2. Tuesday, January 12
3. Tuesday, January 19
(skip a week)
4. Tuesday, February 2

Verona 6-8 PM Sugar Creek LMC

1. Thursday, February 11
2. Thursday, February 18
(skip a week)
3. Thursday, March 3
4. Thursday, March 10

Taught by: Gail Anderson, an Advanced Nurtured Heart coach and trainer. Gail received a doctorate from the UW-Madison and worked as a school psychologist in Verona for 17 years. Gail is passionate about empowering parents to help their children find success. She is a fun, encouraging, and engaging speaker! Other trained Verona staff members will be facilitating.

HOW to REGISTER for CLASS and CHILDCARE:

Please go to: <https://goo.gl/HsCikd> to register. Register by December 22, 2015.

Questions?

Contact Gail Anderson at andersgk@verona.k12.wi.us.



FUNDRAISING UPDATES

Many thanks to the coordinators of our November and December fundraisers and NCS families who participated in them! We earned quite a bit of money for our school:

REAP: \$1,152.41

Wreaths and greenery: \$246

Equal Exchange: \$730.60

School Spirit Wear: \$478.54

Online Silent Auction: \$4,946 (WOW!!!)

The money earned for our school from these fundraisers goes toward STEM-related purchases and professional development, Equity/Diversity events, and to supplement our field trips.



DISTRICT-WIDE FOOD DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS!

This year's food drive collected a total of 19,209 pounds of food as high schoolers worked overtime to gather donations from all the schools to load on the truck for the Badger Prairie Needs Network! Thank you to all families, students and staff who donated in this season of giving for those less fortunate!



GO ONLINE NOW TO SEE UPCOMING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

There are lots of fun things happening in Verona/Fitchburg for your families in the next month:

visit <http://www.verona.k12.wi.us/communityactivities> to fill your calendar with fun!



HOLIDAY BASKETBALL SKILLS CAMP

WHO? Coed - Grades 1-6

WHAT? Shooting & Offensive Basketball Skills

WHEN? Dec 28th, Dec 29th, Dec 30th (Mon-Wed)

TIMES? Grades 1-2 (9:00-9:50am)

Grades 3-4 (10:00-10:50am)

Grades 5-6 (11:00-11:50am)

WHERE? Savanna Oaks Middle School (5890 Lacy Road, Fitchburg)

COST? \$25/player

INSTRUCTORS? Doug Stampfli & Chris Benetti (Teachers at SOMS)

All registrations are done through the Fitchburg Rec Dept.

TO REGISTER, click on or go to appropriate link below:

9:00-9:50am - Coed Grades 1-2:

https://apm.activecommunities.com/fitchburg/Activity_Search/basketballholiday-skills-camp-1st-2nd-grade/2940

10:00-10:50am - Coed Grades 3-4:

https://apm.activecommunities.com/fitchburg/Activity_Search/basketballholiday-skills-camp-3rd-4th-grade/2941

11:00-11:50am – Coed Grades 5-6:

https://apm.activecommunities.com/fitchburg/Activity_Search/basketballholiday-skills-camp-5th-6th-grade/2942

QUESTIONS? Please contact Doug:
coachstampfli@hotmail.com Hope to see you there!

THE NURSE'S CORNER



LICE OUTLOOK

One of the best things you can do for prevention of or early detection of lice is inspection of your child's head daily for signs of lice or nits. Other symptoms to be on the lookout for are itching and scratch marks on your child's head.

What are you looking for? Live lice are shades of brown, small with legs and they move very quickly on the scalp (they don't like light). Nits are the eggs. They range from clear to whitish gray to brown and are close to the scalp and stick to the hair shaft (you can't flick them away or wash them out).

What should you do if you find lice or nits and have never been treated?

THE HEAD:

1. Check each family member's head. You can see lice best in a well lit room or outside.
2. Treat everyone who has nits or lice:
 - *Buy special lotion or shampoo to kill the lice. Follow directions exactly.
 - *Have the person lean over the sink so the lotion is only on the head.
 - *Wear rubber gloves.
 - *Cover the eyes with a towel.

***Do Not** use the lotion or shampoo on babies. Take the lice and nits off of baby's hair by hand and check with your baby's doctor.

Do Not use the lotion or shampoo on anyone with cuts or sores on their head.

Do Not use the lotion or shampoo in the shower or tub.

Do Not use the lotion or shampoo if you are pregnant or breast feeding unless your doctor says it is okay.

3. Remove all nits with tweezers or finger nails. **It is important to remove all nits.**

Cutting the person's hair can make it easier to remove the nits.

4. Put on clean clothes that have been washed and dried on hot.

5. Do daily head checks for 2 weeks to be sure there are no new lice or nits.

6. If you notice new live lice, you may want to talk to your doctor about other kinds of treatment.

THE HOUSE:

1. Wash & dry all bedding & towels on hot.

2. Wash and dry on hot all clothes that have been worn for the last 3-4 days. Don't forget jackets, hats, scarves, backpacks and hair ribbons.

3. Vacuum carpets, upholstered furniture, mattresses & seats in your car.

4. Put pillows, stuffed animals and other non-washable items in a hot dryer for 30 minutes or seal in a plastic bag for 14 days.

5. Soak combs and brushes in **hot** water (150 degrees) for 10 minutes, or in lice lotion for one hour.

THE COMMUNITY:

1. Report head lice to your child's school or day care and tell anyone (neighbors, friends, ...) who has had contact with your child.