



March, 2015 Family Newsletter

Greetings NCS Parents/Families,

Thanks so much for participating in recent parent-teacher-student conferences at NCS. Your support and involvement is greatly appreciated. Thanks for carving out time each day to talk about school with your children, to support their efforts to complete homework, and to encourage them to read 15-20 minutes at home each day as part of their regular routine. It has also been fun to have your involvement at the NCS School Dance. Perhaps we will see you at the upcoming Ice Skating event also. We have been learning more about the state-wide Badger Assessment Reading/Language Arts and Math tests to be given to all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students after Spring Break. Please see more details about specific times and days in this newsletter. Thanks again for avoiding any appointments during these days which may interfere with their participation. As with any day of school, thanks for sending your children well rested.

Enjoy the Spring Break ahead!

Jim Ruder
NCS Director



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 23	Last 8-week STEM session begins and runs through May 18th
Mar. 25	Diversity/Equity Committee meeting 6:30 pm
Mar. 26	"Wear Purple Day" for Epilepsy awareness
Mar. 29	Ice Skating Party 1:00-2:30 pm skating (party room until 3:00 pm)
Mar. 31	BUTTER BRAID ORDER PICK-UP after school until 3:30 pm
April 3-10	SPRING BREAK (NO SCHOOL)
April 7	VOTE on Referendum (Vote early if you will be on vacation)
April 15-16	Badger Assessment Test (Grades 3-5) Language Arts/Reading Exam
April 20-24	Badger Assessment Test (Grades 3-5) Math Exam
May 1	Diversity Equity Event on Down Syndrome (during school)
May 5	Spring Concert (6:30 pm), Art Show (6:00 pm), and Basket Raffle (6:00 pm)
May 6	All school field trip to the Nat'l Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
May 22	Diversity Equity Event on South America (12:30-2:20 pm)
May 25	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
June 10	Last full day of school, Goodman Center Field Day
June 11	Last Day of School (Early dismissal at 12:20 pm)



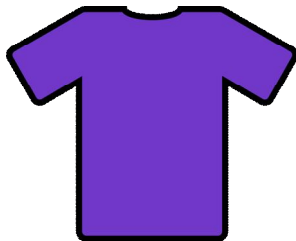
BUTTER BRAID PICK-UP

AFTER SCHOOL ON MARCH 31ST

Your Butter Braid orders will be ready for you to pick-up right after school from 2:35 pm-3:30 pm in the NCS Integrated Arts Room.

If you are NOT able to pick-up your items at that time or want them sent home with your student, contact Melissa Albright at melissa1974@gmail.com

The breads arrive frozen, so plan on keeping them cold; they will start to rise if they get warm and thaw.



JOIN IN "WEAR PURPLE DAY" TO EXPAND AWARENESS OF EPILEPSY ON THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH

"Wear Purple Day" will be on March 26th and is a special day set aside to expand awareness and support of kids and adults living with Epilepsy. We will be handing out flyers with information on Epilepsy on that day. Schools in Middleton, Verona and other areas are participating by encouraging students to wear purple on that Thursday and providing information on Epilepsy and the reasons and the need for support.



NCS IS THE BEST SCHOOL EVER

Which school do you think is the best school ever? Well, the Klawiter Kids believe that New Century School is the best school ever! To begin with, there are many events to attend throughout the school year. For example, we have Community Gatherings where the whole school meets in the Step Room to celebrate our learning. We also have after-school STEM programs and special cultural events like learning about Africa. Second of all, at New Century the teachers teach us great math strategies. In particular, we learn how to use the algorithm, the empty number line, the split strategy, and the triangle fact families. Third, we are a STEM school so we get to be engineers! We use all the steps in the Engineering Design Process: We Ask, I imagine, Plan, Create, and Improve to design things. Finally, New Century has the best teachers in the world! Specifically, Mr. Ruder, our principal, takes us on power walks during indoor recess. Ms. Austen has a good sense of humor. Ms. Tolleson is friendly and caring. Ms. Gilbert makes learning fun. Mr. Gundlach is encouraging and funny. Mrs. Klawiter has a loving heart and she reads to us all the time. Mrs. Konop does tons of science experiments. And, Mr. Lohr loves nature and has the best beard. As you can see, New Century is the best school ever! Now don't you want to be a New Century School kid?

**HAVE QUESTIONS ON THE
REFERENDUM?**

Visit verona.k12.wi.us for information on the referendum

**LEAVING FOR SPRING BREAK? MAKE
SURE TO VOTE BEFORE YOU LEAVE...**

Get your absentee ballot ahead of time by visiting <http://gab.wi.gov/forms>

OR

Vote early at your polling location (check with your local municipal clerk for hours)

For information on how to vote absentee, please visit

<http://gab.wi.gov/voters/absentee>

(Hold down the Ctrl key and click on any of the links above, including the "Click to learn more" in the Referendum 2015 box and you will go directly the given website.)

**SMILE NCS!**

The next day we have ALL students and staff in attendance at NCS, we will take a picture of our entire school body together. We will celebrate a PERFECT ATTENDANCE DAY with taking a picture from a 2nd floor window of everyone gathered together outside. We wish for perfect attendance each day, but if your child is sick or has been sick within the last 24 hours, the best place for them to recover is at home. Thanks!

**NCS ICE SKATING FUNDRAISER AND
CHILI CHOOK OFF
ON SUNDAY, MARCH 29^T**

Join us for a NCS tradition: the annual Ice Skating Fundraiser. Bring your family and friends and have some fun on the ice, enjoy some great food, and help support our school community!

This year, we are featuring a chili cook off! We have 3 chili contestants: Sarah Gaskell, Roshni Chowdhry, and Jennifer Johncox will wow us with their yummy chili recipes. Taste them all and cast a vote. The chili with the most votes wins a prize! We will also have mac and cheese and sandwiches for the chili-averse.

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. Tickets are \$5 at the door (includes skate rental).

This is one of our most fun events of the year, so come and join us for a really fun afternoon together!! Rumor has it- there will be a chance to race Mr. Ruder! So, mark your calendars, invite your friends, and join us!



BADGER ASSESSMENT TEST DAYS

To complete the Badger Assessment, we plan to have 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders use two time periods on the same days in the coming weeks to complete Practice, Language Arts/Reading, and Math exams. We have scheduled 4th and 5th graders for 10:30-11:30 am. We plan on 3rd graders using the time of 12:30-1:30 pm. Our schedule includes: Practice Test on March 31; English/Language Arts/Reading Exams on April 15 and 16; Math Exams each day the following week, April 20-24. Thanks for reassuring your child to simply give their best effort with the tests. We have spread the test sessions out to provide plenty of time and a routine schedule to complete the test sessions.



NCS STEM ENRICHMENT CLUB INVENTION AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM STARTS ITS 3RD SESSION

Our Club Invention After-School Programs have been a resounding success and have given many students the opportunity to learn, be challenged, and work together. This Monday, we begin our third and last 8-week session. In this session, Trash Island, students hear of the extreme build-up of trash in the North Pacific Central Ocean Gyre. They will face ocean research challenges along the way that will require creative thinking skills, problem solving, and teamwork. Many thanks to Kaitie Smith and many staff & parent volunteers who make this learning experience possible.



DIVERSITY/EQUITY EVENT A SUCCESS...MORE EVENTS TO COME!

We had a great first event to kick-off the revival of the Diversity & Equity committee at NCS. On February 16th, the kids experienced four different aspects of life in Africa through presentations, demonstrations and hands-on activities.

*Yorel Lashley and his group of students from [Drum Power](#) welcomed the students at an all-school assembly to kick off the event in our Step Room. Then the students separated into four groups to begin four rotations. Mr. Lashley's group demonstrated African drumming while talking about youth leadership. The students also got a chance to try the drums first-hand as we had some African drums on loan from Sugar Creek.

* Kaitie Smith, mother of NCS student, Mado, taught the kids about the Maasai tribe in Kenya, where she lived for a year during college as part of a grant to study certain activities of the tribe (fascinating story if you get to talk to her!). She led the kids in a traditional Maasai beaded craft, which they finished up in Art class with the help of the incredible Bonnie Tuttle.

*Luke Stuttgen, a project manager from the UW-Madison Engineers Without Borders program, talked about the water crisis in Africa and the project he is leading in Uganda. He did some hands-on activities with the kids related to water usage in the US vs. Africa.

*Sidiki Bitie, father of a NCS student, Naomi, was interviewed by I sabel Agasie and told the students about his experience growing up in Burkina Faso and what it would be like to be a child there today. The kids saw pictures to help them understand what school is like there and they saw what kinds of toys kids would typically play with there. They also learned how to carry water jugs on their heads.

Thank you to the approximately 18 volunteers we had helping at this event, as well as to all the teachers and staff who supported this event. What a great testament to the value this school puts on Diversity and Equity!

UP NEXT...

- The committee is bringing on May 1st a presenter who will talk about **Down Syndrome**. She has age-specific presentations to explain to children what Down Syndrome is. She will answer any questions children have and she will mention how we can relate better to individuals who have Down Syndrome.
- Similar in format to the event on Africa will be an event focusing on **South America**. This event is scheduled for Friday, **May 22nd** from 12:30 - 2:20. All are welcome in the planning of this event or at the day of the event.
- Next committee meeting:** Wednesday, March 26 at 6:30 pm in the Integrated Arts Room. All are welcome.

Questions? Contact Jim Ruder or Marti Fechner (mmf@tds.net or 279-4491).



CHAPERONES NEEDED ON MAY 6th FOR OUR ALL-SCHOOL FIELD TRIP TO THE NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM AND AQUARIUM

Please consider marking May 6th as a day to join NCS on our all-school field trip to the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, IA! This has been a very rich experience in the past and we are pleased to head back for a return trip this spring. We will depart from NCS at 7:45 am and return at 2:15 pm. At the museum, K-3 students will be led on a guided tour and 4/5 students will participate in a self-guided tour. We will be glad to have any number of chaperones join us, but there are a couple of catches. We will not have room on the buses for any chaperones, so we hope to establish a car pool system for adult chaperones. Also, the museum only allows for one complimentary adult ticket for every 15 students and we are likely to meet that number with staff members. So parents will be asked, if they are able, to contribute to \$11.50 for the additional admission to the museum. We would not want the fee to limit anyone's interest in chaperoning, so please check the box on the Field Trip Permission Slip if you would like NCS to assist in covering the chaperone admission fee. Please note that all students will be required to ride the school bus to and from the field trip. For those parents who might be tempted to bring a younger family member, each additional child is \$6.00. We will ask for additional fees to be sent in with your child's returned Field Trip Permission Slip. The museum asks that our group makes a single payment upon

arrival in order to avoid lines at the ticket center. More details will be on the Field Trip Permission Slip. Please expect a Field Trip slip to come home soon.



NCS SPRING CONCERT, ART SHOW, AND BASKET RAFFLE
STARTING AT 6:00 PM ON MAY 5th

Our annual NCS Spring Concert, Art Show, and Basket Raffle will be held on Tuesday, May 5th. At 6:00 pm, the Basket Raffle and Art Show will begin, followed by the Spring Concert at 6:30 pm. All of this excitement will take place 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.



NCS BASKET RAFFLE STARTS AT 6:00 PM AT THE NCS SPRING CONCERT & ART SHOW ON MAY 5th

The NCS Basket Raffle will take place at the annual NCS Spring Concert and Art Show. Tickets will be sold on May 5th and the winner will be chosen right after the Spring Concert. You must be present to win a basket. Stay tuned for more specifics about donations and tickets in the Friday Folders on Thursday, April 2nd. Please contact Brandi Mueller at brandi@bloomsbybrandi.com if you have any questions or want to help.

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

NCS DANCE PARTY A SUCCESS!

About 75 students and their siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles came out to enjoy a fun time at our NCS Family Dance Party! Much thanks to Sarah Gaskell for organizing this fun family event and to DJ Tim Schmidt and Saturns8 Entertainment for a lively time!!

Hats off to 5th graders, Julia Fechner, Hanna Miller, Ellen Morrison, Audrey Junge, Lexi Beske, and Will Leuer for organizing and successfully hosting a 5th grade Craft Bazaar during the dance. Thanks to participation from many of you, over \$100 was raised to cover costs of the 5th grade end-of-the-year celebration.



FUNDRAISING UPDATES

Announcing our new Boxtops

Coordinator for next school year:

Melissa Albright!! Thank you, Melissa, for volunteering to make a difference in our school.



SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 10TH IS THE NCS ALL-SCHOOL FIELD DAY AND YEAR END CELEBRATION AT GOODMAN COMMUNITY CAMPUS & AQUATIC CENTER

Chaperones will be needed. So consider being a chaperone and spending the day enjoying various outdoor activities with our students. Stay tuned for more information.