



November, 2014 Family Newsletter

Hello NCS Families,

Thank you very much for participating in Parent/Teacher/Student conferences and with your help in establishing learning goals for your children. Your role as parents is critical in supporting the action steps students will be taking in order to reach their goals by the end of the school year. Thank you.

As many of you are aware, we are sad to have Ms. Tolleson take a medical leave at this time. Ms. Tolleson has long served NCS students with great compassion and skills in Kindergarten and First Grade. We wish her the best in her recovery and look forward to her eventual return. We are extremely fortunate to have Ms. Tara Gilbert available to long term substitute in K/1. Ms. Gilbert had done a terrific job as a daily substitute teacher at NCS and is a recent graduate in Early Childhood Education. Please help me welcome Ms. Gilbert to our NCS community.

Please know that NCS is due for our 5 year recharter agreement with the Verona Area School Board. We are on the agenda to propose our renewal agreement with the School Board next Monday, November 17th. We anticipate the Board to favorably receive our renewal agreement. We are adopting a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) focus with an environmental emphasis.

I hope your family will enjoy the next couple of weeks together. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as Director

of NCS with such a great staff, amazing students, and a supportive school community.

With Warm Regards,
Jim Ruder, NCS Director



UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 26-28	<u>NO SCHOOL</u> (THANKSGIVING)
Dec. 3	Diversity and Equity Committee Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at NCS
Dec. 8	Pick-up Equal Exchange, REAP, and Holiday Greenery Orders from 2:30-5:30 p.m.
Dec. 16 & Dec. 17	Pick-up Online Auction Items from 2:30-7:00 p.m.
Dec. 23	Early Release at 12:20 p.m.
Dec. 24-Jan.2	<u>NO SCHOOL</u> (WINTER BREAK)
Jan. 5	School Resumes
Jan. 31	Gymfinity Open Gym and Bake Sale from 1:00-3:00 p.m.
May 5	Spring Concert and Art Show in the evening



OUTDOOR CLOTHING

Now that the cold weather is upon us, all students need to be wearing winter coats, hats, and waterproof snow gloves.



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.

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!



SAVE THE DATE: GYMFINITY OPEN
GYM AND BAKE SALE ON JAN. 31ST.

No one wants to think about the winter doldrums and cabin fever just yet, but mark your calendars because our annual Gymfinity Open Gym & Bake Sale is scheduled for January 31st from 1-3pm. More information on that as it gets closer!



STUDENT COUNCIL LUNCH BUNCH
WITH MR. RUDER

Representatives from 2/3 and 4/5 classrooms have been meeting with Mr. Ruder twice a month for a lunch bunch to talk about how students believe things are going at school. Discussions include a review of recent special programs like Fall Festival of Learning, the Zoo to You program, monthly NCS Community Gatherings, etc. We also talk about ways to make NCS an even greater school. Helpful suggestions regarding starting up the Golden Lunch Tray awards to acknowledge positive behavior in the lunch room and updating playground equipment have been shared. Most classes rotate representatives so that many students have a chance to participate.



DIVERSITY AND EQUITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The new Diversity and Equity Committee had its first meeting on Nov. 6th to begin planning a new Diversity and Equity Learning Series. We are planning two events... one in February and one in April or May. These lively, interactive events will bring in experts to teach the kids about such things as music, games, environment, food, dance, and art from different cultures, countries, continents, and abilities. They are designed to broaden our students' understanding and appreciation of how people are different and how people are the same.

How can you help?

1. Come to our **next Meeting Wed. Dec. 3rd at 6:30 pm** at NCS.
2. Be on our **planning committee** to help develop, plan for and implement the events.
3. Tell us who you know that might be a **good resource or guest speaker** for any of the events.
4. Help us on the day of the events. Mark your calendar for the first event on **Monday, Feb. 9th from 12:30 - 2:20 pm.**

Please contact Marti Fechner at mmf@tds.net or [\(608\) 279-4491](tel:(608)279-4491) for more information or to let us know we can count on your involvement. Thanks!



FALL FESTIVAL PICTURES ON NCS WEBPAGE ON DISTRICT WEBSITE!

Our Fall Festival on Oct. 29th was so much fun and very educational as well! We thank Beth Junge for coordinating such a great event and staff and parent volunteers for helping to make it happen! If you would like to see pictures from the Fall Festival, go to the district website at www.verona.k12.wi.us. Then go to the NCS page by hovering your cursor over the words, "ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS" and clicking on "New Century Charter School" in the drop down menu. Some of the photos are under "What's Happening" and there are many more under those 4 posted photos if you scroll down and click on the "CLICK HERE TO VIEW MORE FALL FESTIVAL PICTURES." Enjoy the photos and see the fun our students had learning that day!



INTERESTED IN PARTICULARS ON THE NCS CHARTER CONTRACT OR NCS BYLAW REVIEW? HOW ABOUT SITE COUNCIL MINUTES?

Details on the following can be found on the NCS webpage on the district website:

- *SITE COUNCIL MINUTES
- *NCS CHARTER CONTRACT UPDATES
- *NCS BYLAW REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS
- *THIS NEWSLETTER
- *MUCH MORE

To view each of these, use the directions above to go to the NCS webpage on the

district website. Then, click on the "For Parents" small circle, which is one of the 8 small circles lined up across the page. Then just click on what you are interested in viewing. It's easy!

Also check out our [NCS CALENDAR of Upcoming Events](#) to the right of the Fall Festival pictures. It is continually being updated as new events arise!

We have been adding information to the website that we think you would find informative and interesting. So, take some time to explore the website! If there is something that you would find helpful that is not on the website, please email or call Mrs. Stump in the office to make a suggestion. She can be reached at stumpt@verona.k12.wi.us or (608) 845-4905.



FUNDRAISING UPDATES



ONLINE SILENT AUCTION **COMING SOON!**

Just in time for holiday gift giving, NCS will be conducting our 3rd annual **Online Silent Auction**. This has quickly become NCS's biggest fundraiser, but **we need YOUR help in gathering auction items!** Here are some ideas for donations:

*Purchase an item for donation, such as gift certificates, jewelry, local goods/services.

*Contact area businesses to ask for a donation.

*Create your own donations (knitted items, quilts, baked goods, jewelry, holiday decorations, etc.)

*Please consider donating big ticket items... have some time share points to share? Theater tickets? Tickets to a sporting event?

You've got talent... be creative!

Timeline:

NOW until Dec. 5th: Donate your items in the collection bin near the office.

Dec. 8th: View auction items in person at NCS during REAP/Equal Exchange pick up.

Dec. 8th - 14th: **BID!** Make your bids online at the NCS website or with Marti Fechner at [\(608\) 279-4491](tel:6082794491).

Dec. 14th 9:00 pm: Bidding closes.

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

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are lots of ways you can help in addition to donating items to auction off. We need people to:

*Contact businesses after they receive donation request letters from NCS (before Dec. 5th)

*Pick up donated items from businesses (before Dec. 5th)

*Help catalog items, write descriptions & take photos to get everything on the website (Sat. Dec. 6th)

*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!



TIE-DYE T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER **A SUCCESS!!**

This week was an especially colorful week here at NCS as there were so many NCS students showing school spirit by wearing their new NCS tie-dye shirts! Thanks to those who participated in our NCS tie-dye t-shirt fundraiser! We raised \$548.60 for our school! We give a special thank you to Rachel Otremba for organizing this and for Sarah Bowman for her skills in doing such a wonderful job tie-dying for us!! Enjoy wearing your school t-shirts!!



EQUAL EXCHANGE, REAP, and HOLIDAY GREENERY items will be available for pick-up at school on Monday, December 8th, between 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. in the Integrated Arts Room.

ONLINE SILENT AUCTION items that will be available for bidding will be on display to **PREVIEW on December 8th** when you pick up your Equal Exchange, REAP, and Holiday Greenery orders.



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!



VERONA LACROSSE - ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Spring 2015 Registration opens on November 15, 2014
Register online at veronalacrosse.com
Boys & Girls Grades 2nd-8th - New players welcome!
"Learn to Play" Winter Clinic on December 29 & 30
Parent/Player Kick - Off Meeting on January 20th -Badger Ridge Commons
Open Gym Practices Start January 26th



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**. 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.



NCS HAS THE HIGHEST % OF PARTICIPANTS IN PUMPKIN RUN!

NCS had the highest percentage of participants in the Pumpkin Run of any school in the VASD. In fact, 1 of every 4 students did the race! Mr. Pedretti, the Phys. Ed. Teacher, says, "It's the first time NCS has had the highest percentage - pretty cool!" Congratulations to all who participated in the Pumpkin Run!



JINGLE BELL RUN/WALK ON DEC. 7TH

The Arthritis Foundation will be holding its annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk at the Verona Area High School on Sunday December 7th, 2014. The Jingle Bell Run/Walk is a very large event with all donations directed to finding a cure to arthritis. The goal this year is to raise \$70,000. It is also a fun and festive way to kick off the holidays as many participants wear holiday themed costumes, reindeer antlers, and of course, Santa hats.

The Arthritis Foundation would also like to inform you about their honoree for this year's Jingle Bell Run/Walk. Gunnar Oakley is a 10 year old in the in the Verona Area School District. He loves playing basketball and football and dreams of one day becoming a wide receiver for the Seattle Seahawks. He was diagnosed with juvenile arthritis about two years ago, a diagnosis that would be hard for any 10 year old to hear. The arthritis has affected Gunnar's

knees, ankles, wrists, shoulders and back. On many days his joint pain is enough to stop him from doing the things he loves like sports. Gunnar says, "The worst part of arthritis is the joint pain and the shots. The best part is that it makes me believe that I am strong."

Participants can register individually or create a team! Go to www.JBRMadison.kintera.org to register and to find more information.

The Jingle Bell Run/Walk is a fun and great way to show your support for Gunnar Oakley and be a part of the fight against arthritis. Do not hesitate to contact Megan Cooley at (608) 221-9800 or mcooley@arthritis.org with any questions you may have.



PLAY & LEARN!

What is Play & Learn?

- * A kindergarten readiness program for kids ages 0-5 with their parents/caregivers
- * Encourages exploring and learning through play, recognizing that a child's parent or primary caregiver is that child's best teacher
- * An opportunity for children to learn and recognize their name and practice early math and literacy skills
- * Free and open to all families
- * No preregistration required

When? Every MONDAY, 9:30-11:30 AM

Where? Sugar Creek Elementary School

For more information, please contact

Vanessa Cruz at 608-729-1143 or

vanessac@centerforfamilies.org

www.centerforfamilies.org

THE NURSE'S CORNER



LICE OUTLOOK

Or should we say look out for lice? 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?

1. Treat
2. Remove all nits
3. Inspect family members and other close contacts
4. Clean environment
5. Continue to inspect your child's head daily and remove all nits

Contact your school nurse with any questions about detection or treatment. A website with pictures and accurate information is: <http://www.headlice.org>.

Lice are spread by direct head to head /hair to hair contact. Talk to your child about keeping a hand's distance between their head and the heads of others. Remind them not to share hats, clothing, pillows, hair accessories, brushes, or combs with others.

VASD Nurses



IS YOUR FAMILY IN NEED OF HEALTH INSURANCE?

Open enrollment for coverage through the Affordable Care Act starts on November, 15th 2014. For more information or to sign up go to www.healthcare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596.

United Way of Dane County has up-to-date information about where to get help to sign up for health care coverage, and help to pay your premiums (monthly costs) through Health Connect. Call 2-1-1 anytime, day or night.

You can also stop in the Health Office at school for a flier with more information about where to obtain assistance with signing up for health insurance.

Anne Iverson RN, BSN
Verona Area School District
Sugar Creek Elementary/New Century
Charter 845-4715
Glacier Edge Elementary 497-2115