

# Vernon School Newsletter

February, 2012

Tina Acker- Principal  
Gina Roletto- Assistant Principal

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ 1/27 SUN School Craft Night 6:00
- ◆ 2/1 PTA Mtg @ 5:45
- ◆ 2/2 8<sup>th</sup> grade Family High School Info Night @ 5:30
- ◆ 2/3 NO SCHOOL - GRADING
- ◆ 2/15 Late Start Day
- ◆ 2/16 Kindergarten Round Up @9:30 AM
- ◆ 2/20 NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day
- ◆ 2/23 Black History Event - TBA
- ◆ 2/29 - Passport Club
- ◆ LEAP YEAR

**Vernon School-  
Every day, every  
child, a success!**

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## Principal's News

### Chess Club Tournaments



Thanks to Mr. De Nevers and Mr. Mak have been working with our Chess Club this year.

- Middle School has a tournament February 4<sup>th</sup> at Park Rose Middle School until 3:00
- 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade have their tournament at Alameda, February 11<sup>th</sup> all day until 3:00

**GO OWLS!**

### Time to think 8<sup>th</sup> grade Transition

Believe it or not, we are in full swing for 8<sup>th</sup> grade transition to high school. Here are the following dates of things coming:

- *January 31<sup>st</sup>* Madison HS visiting Vernon
- *February 2<sup>nd</sup>* 8<sup>th</sup> grade Family High School Family Info Night
- *February 9<sup>th</sup>* - 8<sup>th</sup> graders to visit Jefferson HS
- *February 22<sup>nd</sup>* - Tentative to visit Madison HS

In March, high schools will start coming back to meet with kids to do their schedule forecasting. The kids are excited and nervous at the same time!

Please check high school websites for informational nights coming up at their schools, as well.

## Principal's Message

Vernon Families,

Happy December! Ms. Acker and I are refining our goals as we head into second quarter. One goal I have is to **increase instructional time** here at Vernon and **make our schedule more efficient.** *Where parents can help me is:*

- Making sure that kids arrive on time
  - 8:35 kids go to class
  - 8:45 instruction starts
- Try to avoid early pick-ups if at all possible.
  - Our goal is for students to be in school 95% of the time or more

After this goal is reached, my next goal is to see how we can try and schedule any extra breaks in for the kids. I will be working on this with our Literacy Specialist once they are on board.



**Thanks for all of your support  
this year!**

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## Counselor's Corner

Hello Vernon families,

My name is Kylea Schmidt, and I am the half-time Vernon School Counselor. My role at Vernon is primarily in whole class instruction across all grade levels, allowing for ongoing regular student-counselor contact.

This year, there are some very positive things happening in my classes. In the pre-K - 3<sup>rd</sup> grades, I "push into" the classrooms on a weekly basis, where I deliver a curriculum called *Second Steps*. This program is composed of three units: empathy training, impulse control/problem solving, and anger management. The lessons are supplemented with therapeutic children's books. In addition, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders talk about bullying.

The 4<sup>th</sup>&5<sup>th</sup> grades also receive weekly instruction, in my classroom. Their curriculum is called *Steps to Respect*, and it is solely focused on bullying prevention. In the spring, 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades will receive the literature component of this program.

Currently 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades are receiving Middle School Second Steps, a more advanced program that covers all of the aforementioned topics, as well as adolescence topics such as drugs & alcohol, sexual harassment, and goal-setting.

I have just begun meeting with 8<sup>th</sup> graders on a weekly basis. Their program - Pathways - is unique in that it delves into career exploration. These students will be creating their electronic Pathways portfolios, which follow them all the way through high school. I really enjoy becoming equitably familiar with all Vernon students.

For questions or concerns about the program, please feel free to contact me. In addition, if you have concerns and feel that your student may need some more personalized small group or individual counseling, contact me. I would be happy to review with you, some off-site options, and seek out a best-fit for your family's circumstances.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Schmidt  
[kschmidt@pps.net](mailto:kschmidt@pps.net) or  
(503)-916-6415, and press "7".



