



# Core Knowledge® Courier

## *Mission Statement*

Verona Area Core Knowledge® Charter School will be a public education option for parents and teachers in the Verona Area School District where students will develop strong learning skills and a broad base of knowledge through the use of proven educational materials and programs, in a safe and structured environment.

## **Problem with Students at the End of the Day !**

Please be aware that we are having a problem with students, at the end of the day, being “left” in the office because they think or say that they are going to be picked-up by a parent, going home with a friend, etc. Our policy is that all students who normally ride the bus home **MUST** ride the bus home unless the CKCS Office or a teacher has had a direct personal contact (phone call, written note, etc.) from a parent saying that the child does not ride the bus home that afternoon.

December 2005

Volume 10, Issue 11

**Core Virtue for  
December:  
Charity**

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## Core Calendar

Dec 5	CKCS 6-8 Late Start	10:00 a.m.
Dec 9	5th Grade Economic Bazaar 7 & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Holiday dance	3:45-5:30 p.m.
Dec 12	PRT Meeting Governing Council Meeting	LMC 6:00 p.m. LMC 6:45 p.m.
Dec 19	CKCS 6-8 Late Start	10:00 a.m.
Dec 22	Winter Parties and last day of school before break. Mid-day dismissal	1:15 p.m.
Dec 23-30	Winter Break	
Jan	Governing Council (GC) and Parents Advocating Students Success (PASS) Board Elections Process Begins	
Jan 2	School resumes for <b>CKCS 6-8</b> Late Start 10:00 a.m. NO SCHOOL for CKCS K-5	

## *Director's Corner*

School financing is a current hot topic in Wisconsin as well as many other states, including California, Oregon and Colorado. The current Wisconsin model is confusing and, according to some people, very unfair and imbalanced. There are currently several commissions in Wisconsin studying the problem and developing recommendations.

In my opinion it will be safe to assume that the issue will not be going away in the near future and that the current model will be changed to some degree within the next 2 to 3 years.

I have seen some of the tentative solutions being discussed. Some of the solutions are very different than the current model. It does appear that most of the solutions realize the need to emphasize "fairness" or a basic amount of funding per pupil per school. It is hard to react to them at the current time because how they impact CKCS or the Verona Area School District is not revealed or not known.

The main point I want to make is the need for your close review of the models and for your input of how the funding will impact your children. How schools, including CKCS, are funded will greatly impact the quality of education and that needs to be reviewed and discussed not only by educators but also by parents whose children will be receiving the funded educational services.

Please review the various funding models when they are revealed and give your feedback to your local and state politicians.

## ***CKCS Grades 6-8***

CKCS students, grades 6-8, will receive the Badger Ridge Middle School newsletter in the mail. Please look over the BRMS newsletter for subjects pertaining to all CKCS and BRMS students. Things to look for this month are

# **Middle School Extra-Curricular Events**

## ***Boys Basketball***

### **DECEMBER**

**1 BR @ Winnequah**

**5 BR @ Glacier Creek**

**8 BR @ Monroe**

**13 BR @ Stoughton**

**15 Mt. Horeb @ BR**

## ***Wrestling***

### **December**

**8 Middleton @ Verona**

**13 Middleton @ Verona**

### ***VERONA YOUTH WRESTLING CLUB***

The Verona youth wrestling club will have sign up to join the club at the first High School home wrestling meet, at the Verona High School, on Thursday Dec. 15th from 6:00-8:00. There will be many current members on hand to answer any questions. If you'd like to learn more about wrestling, please feel free to join us at a free wrestling camp on Monday Dec. 12 in the high school wrestling room from either 3:45 to 5:00 or 6:00 to 7:15. For more information, please watch for fliers in your mailbox, or look for posters which will be located in many Verona area businesses and schools. Any other questions, feel free to call Len Daniels 845-6255, Jenny Hansen at 276-8701, Steve Hagens 848-1152, or Sara Schmid at 845-8030. [www.veronawrestling.com](http://www.veronawrestling.com) for more details.

### ***SKI/SNOWBOARD CLUB***

Our mandatory meeting for all 6th graders and students new to the club is Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. The BRMS commons. You do not need to know how to ski or snowboard to participate. Many students have been introduced to these exciting sports through this club.

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## *Guidance Counselor Corner*

### Counselor's Corner

On Oct. 3, 2005, I attended a conference called "The Bully, The Bullied and the Bystander" presented by Barbara Coloroso. I found this conference especially helpful as the Guidance Curriculum is based on "Bully Prevention." I wanted to share some important points Barbara made for parents *if your child is being bullied*.

#### **Don'ts**

- Don't minimize, rationalize, or explain away the bully's behavior.
- Don't rush in to solve the problem for your child.
- Don't tell your child to avoid the bully (makes the bullied child feel they did something wrong...)
- Don't tell your child to fight back.
- Don't confront the bully or the bully's parents alone.

#### **Do's**

- Say, "I hear you; I am here for you; I believe you; you are not alone in this."
- Tell the child it is not their fault.
- Know that there are things you can do to help solve this.
- Report the bullying to school personnel.

#### **How to Report**

- Arrange a meeting for you and your child with the appropriate person at the school.
- Bring to the meeting the facts in writing-the date, time, place, kids involved, any specifics or incidences-and the impact the bullying has had on your child as well as what your child has done to stop the bullying that didn't work.
- Work with your child and school personnel on a plan that addresses what your child needs right now to feel safe, what she can do to avoid being bullied and to stand up to any future bullying, and whom she can go to for help.
- Find out what procedures the bully will be going through and what kind of support the school is expecting from the parents of the bully. If you feel the problem is not being adequately addressed

*(Continued on page 11)*

## *Parent Round Table*

Several requests for mini-grants were presented to the PRT over the past couple of months. You will find that a lot of your donations, monies earned through fundraising and PRT dues have been put to good use to help the teachers, children and the school as a whole. PRT appreciates the parents and staff who took time to research and identify areas where help was needed and PRT appreciates all of your comments and ideas for grants that required discussion and voting by parents and staff.

### **TARGET**

- Take Charge of Education program

We've discovered a terrific way to raise funds for our school. It's super easy, and all you have to do is use your Visa or Target Card. We will receive a percentage of the amount of each purchase in the form of a cash donation from Target through the Take Charge of Education program. It's easy. Just visit [target.com/tcoe](http://target.com/tcoe), or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school. So if you're going to Target anyway, please consider using your Target Visa or Target Card. A big thanks to those who are already doing their part to make a great school even better.

Find out how much money our school has already received at [target.com/tcoe](http://target.com/tcoe). Grandparents, alumni, neighbors and friends can take part, too.

### **Fall Fundraiser Update**

Another successful Fall Fundraiser is behind us. We made almost \$6,500 in profits from this fundraiser. Thank you to all students, parents, teachers, and volunteers for another great year. Many thanks to the parents who helped on pick up day November 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Scholastic book fair chairs thank YOU**

Thanks everyone for supporting our fall bookfair. Chairs Nancy Kusch, Roberta Garvey and Rebecca Zervas would like to specifically thank the many volunteers who make this event such a success. This year the bookfair raised nearly \$2,000 with your help. Thank you volunteers for your time...Kathy Biesmann, Lisa

*(Continued on page 7)*

## *Parent Round Table Con't.*

*(Continued from page 6)*

Bukolt, Rebecca Collaer, Stevie Conlon, Linnae Fish, Cindy Gabourie, Stephanie Giese, Vince Gonsalves, Val Grittinger, Becky Heiking, Lisa Hindle, Sheri Holthe, Karen Johnson, Dian Larson, Pam Lokken, Sheila Long, Hattie McLean, Jean Meschner, Kathy Ochowski, Denise Rakel, Kim Rankin and Connie Upchurch.

### **HOLIDAY SHOW**

December 16<sup>th</sup> is the Winter Conert for K-2 at 2pm. Come and see the amazing talents of the students at CKCS. You'll love it and the goodies available the day of the show.

To see minutes from our recent meetings go to our website or ask CKCS for a hard copy.

Co-President - Karen Christianson mailto: KChris5853@aol.com

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Secretary - Annita Wozniak mail to: abwozniak@skogen.com

Verona Area Core Knowledge Charter School Parent Round Table

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mailto:prt@veronackcs.com <http://www.veronackcs.com>

Winter is coming and with it comes cold and flu season. Since children who come to school are expected to participate fully in school activities, parents need to decide if their children are well enough to be in school.

Here are some guidelines to help parents make the right decisions...

**Vomiting, severe stomach pain or diarrhea:** Children with these symptoms need to stay home until they can tolerate a normal diet, both the night before and the morning of school.

**Fever:** Any student with a fever of 100 degrees or more should be kept at home. Illnesses that cause elevated temperatures can make it difficult for a student to function in school and generally indicate an illness that could spread to classmates.

**Infectious Diseases:** Some diseases, such as strep throat, whooping cough, impetigo and pneumonia, require a doctor's exam and prescription for medication. Once the medication has been taken for the recommended amount of time, and the child is feeling well enough to participate fully in school activities, he/she may return to school. If your child needs to take medication in school, please stop by the school office to drop off the medication and fill out a medication administration permission slip.

Some of the things the whole family can do to stay healthy are:

**Get plenty of rest.** The recommended amount is 9-10 hours for school-age children.

**Drink at least eight- 8 oz. glasses of liquid each day.** Drink water and juice. Avoid caffeine.

**Wash hands frequently!!!** People who wash their hands at least 4 times a day are less likely to get sick. Encourage your children to wash their hands before they eat and whenever they go to the bathroom.

**Regularly disinfect surfaces at home:** Wipe down telephones, TV remotes, doorknobs and light switches. Throw away toothbrushes after colds and flu.

**Eat nutritious foods and snacks.**

**Dress appropriately for the weather.**

If you have any questions, please call Anne Juzwik, RN, at 845-4115



## The Choking Game: A Game of Deadly Consequence

By Stacie M. Molitor

While it has been splashed across national media, there are still many parents unfamiliar with the “choking game.” I recently read an article about a young boy dying in Appleton because of this game. In the article it sounded as if adults were surprised that so many children know about this “game” and how to “play” it. We shouldn’t be surprised. Versions of this so-called game have been practiced for generations. Unfortunately it has gained popularity recently while the way to play has gotten more dangerous. In the past the game was always done with at least one other person and usually not to the point of passing out. It appears that this is most dangerous when teens practice this activity alone with the use of a rope or something similar placed around the neck.

The age range where this behavior occurs most frequently is from nine to fourteen. Older or younger kids also may practice this game, but it tends to be a little less common. Forcing oneself to pass out in this way is a high-risk behavior on par with smoking, drinking, and using drugs. It is important that parents discuss with their children the danger of this game.

The choking game is played in this way: a child hyperventilates and another child uses hands or a cord to choke him/her to the point of passing out. The experience includes a light-headedness caused by reduced blood flow to the brain, followed by a rush as the choking mechanism is removed and blood flow surges back to the brain. This game should not be confused with autoerotic asphyxia that is sometimes used in sexual behavior. This choking game is separate and is considered an asphyxial game that usually is played by pre-pubescent youth or children in early puberty. Some young people consider this as an alternative to using drugs for a high. They need to know that the results are just as dangerous, resulting in loss of brain cells, headaches and even death.

Signs/symptoms to watch for include: scrapes or bruises circling the neck; tiny red spots of the skin, especially around the eyes; wearing high-necked shirts even in warm weather; occasional hoarseness without other explanation; and unexplained presence of dog leashes, bungee cords, etc. It is also important to check the computer for web-site history. Some of the web-sites may include words such as passout, blackout, space monkey, space cowboy, knockout, gasp, rising sun, or airplaning. As adults who care about children we must be vigilant in keeping them safe, secure and most importantly alive.

## ***Volunteers Needed***

CKCS is always in need of volunteers to help in the school. One area of volunteering is in the classrooms. If you are available to help during the day in the classroom, please contact your child's teacher. Volunteers are needed in the classroom on a regular basis to help with correcting and assisting the classroom teacher with different activities.

Volunteers are also needed throughout the year for various committees and events. If you have a particular area you like to volunteer in and have not signed up yet to be a volunteer, please contact the CKCS office at 845-4130

## ***Governing Council***

We have had an overwhelming response to the call for assistance on various CKCS Committees. Thanks to all for offering your time and expertise. We will be in contact soon to move forward with the individual committees. Thanks again for your willingness to help!

Whitney Schorr  
President  
CKCS Governing Council"

## ***Girl Scouts***

Girl Scout troops are now forming! Explore the Fun, Power and Friendship of girls together! For more information on joining, please contact Sarena Krogman at 608-848-8241 email at [slkrogman@charter.net](mailto:slkrogman@charter.net). Troops also need adult leadership to form so please consider being a role model for the girls in your community.

## *Guidance Counselor Corner continued!*

by this meeting, know that there are other teachers, administrators, counselors, etc. that will listen and help you stop the bullying.

Core Knowledge Charter School is committed to preventing bullying in our school. If you have any questions about this material, or would like to speak with me personally, feel free to call or stop in during my office hours.

Thank you,  
Erin Enright, M.S.  
School Counselor K-5

## *P.R.O. Awards*

The October P.R.O. Awards were handed out on Wednesday, November 9, 2005. P.R.O. stands for "People Respecting Others". Each month, one student is nominated from each class by their teacher to receive one of these awards. This year, the P.R.O. awards will tie into the Monthly Core Virtues. For October, the Core Virtue focused on **self-control** and **self-discipline**. Congratulations to the following students who showed outstanding self-control and self-discipline:



*Noah Goth, Maggie Nunn (K), Claire Peterson, Rory Johnson (1), Elise Gonsalves, Tommy Cramer (2), Emily Toboyek, Ben Lokken (3), Kelli Krueger, Alexander Kramer (4), Jamie Hintz, Cassidy Schorr (5).*

For November, the P.R.O. Awards will be given to students who display appreciation and wonder for the beauty of the world.

## **Ready...Set...R.E.L.A.X.**

A Research-Based Program of Relaxation,  
Learning  
and Self-Esteem for Children

Attention Parents! There is a critical need for stress management programs at all levels of education. Relaxation programs have been reported to improve student's achievement scores, decrease levels of anxiety, and increase self-concept.

In response to the importance of providing tools for children to use in a variety of settings to combat the negative effects of stress and anxiety, Core Knowledge Charter School will begin implementing the Ready...Set...R.E.L.A.X. program in January 2006. This fully researched program is used across the country by teachers, counselors, parents, and medical professionals as a preventative tool and intervention strategy.

The program will teach students to learn strategies to overcome anxiety through the use of music, muscle relaxation, and storytelling to promote learning, imagination, and self-esteem. Look for more information coming soon regarding a scheduled parent night to learn more about Ready...Set...R.E.L.A.X., as well as the effects of stress and anxiety in children. If you have any questions, please contact Marlene Koch, School Psychologist, at 845-4116, or Erin Enright, School Counselor, at 845-4978.

## 2005-2006 CKCS GOVERNING COUNCIL

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For attendance press 1

For school nurse press 2

For staff directory press 9

Secretary press 0



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[WWW.VERONACKCS.COM](http://WWW.VERONACKCS.COM)

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### Core Knowledge Courier

The Core Knowledge Courier is published regularly throughout the school year for families of students in the Verona Area Core Knowledge® Charter School (CKCS) and administrators of the Verona Area School District. It is written by CKCS staff members and parent volunteers. Copies are mailed to CKCS families. Material for the Courier may be dropped off at the CKCS office or through e-mail at [ckcs@veronackcs.com](mailto:ckcs@veronackcs.com) by the **12th of each month**. For more information about the Courier or CKCS, please contact Ingrid Beamsley at 608-845-4129.

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