

Connor Connection

Veronica E. Connor Middle School

1100 Ransom Road
Grand Island, New York 14072
(716) 773-8830

Website:
www.k12.ginet.org

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Calendar of Events:

PTA Membership Drive

Ongoing – memberships
can always be purchased!!

Mark your calendar with
these important dates:

**June 4 Board of Education
Meeting**

**June 7 Last PTA Meeting,
6:30pm, MS Little Theatre**

**June 8 Relay For Life event
– High School Track**

**June 12 One Island/One
Dream Meeting, 4pm, HS
Small Café**

**June 15 4th Quarter Ends/
Last Day of Classes!!**

**June 18 Board of Education
Meeting**

From Our President Lisa Fabiano

Dear Families

As we approach the end of the school year, I cannot help but be so grateful to the many, many people who made this year so great! Middle School PTA was able to offer many educational programs, activities and events to ensure our children's education was greatly enriched. All of these took the generosity of our members through our membership drive, fundraising and especially the time that volunteers spent to make them possible. It is with tremendous gratitude that I thank all those chairman and committee members who volunteered in any way to help Connor Middle School PTA this year!!

This was my first year as PTA President and I was very nervous about doing a "good job". Luckily I was able to work with a PTA board, Principals, Teachers, and Administrators that have been so extremely dedicated and who have truly worked for the benefit of all of our Middle School children!

This year has not quite ended and we are already planning for next year! We are already forming committees; think about what role you may want to play. We welcome new ideas and approaches and look forward to working with another tremendous group of people who are so willing to give of their time to make this the best possible place for our children's education.

In conclusion, my biggest thank you goes out to the Parents/ Guardians & students for supporting all of our programs. Without all of us involved in some way or another we would not have a successful PTA.

Have a safe & fun summer

Lisa Fabiano, PTA President 2011-2012

PTA Officers for 2012-2013

President- Lisa Fabiano

1st Vice President/Programs (parent) Amy Samplinski

1st Vice President /Programs (teacher) Tammi VonWryeza-Ras

2nd Vice President/Membership (parent) Kim Yung

2nd Vice President/Membership (teacher) MaryJane Fonte

Recording Secretary Carrie Mesmer

Corresponding Secretary Tracy Pufpaff

Treasurer Cindy Sharpe

Council Delegates Nancy Major and Kathy Chadwick

Congratulations and thank you for your dedication to our children and for volunteering your time!

To Parents of Honors Students:

If your son or daughter is currently taking Honors Algebra and/or Honors Earth Science please help us help your children. The next few weeks are bound to be stressful and exhausting with all the scheduled testing. Two state assessments have been completed, but there are several additional tests before the end of the school year. The State Science Assessment lab portion will be during the week of May 23- 30 (your child will be tested on one of those dates) with the written portion of the State Science Assessment on Monday June 4. The Earth Science lab practical will be June 5-8 (again your child will be tested on one of those dates) with the written portion of the exam on June 15th. The foreign language final exam is the morning of June 13th and the Algebra regents exam is on the afternoon of June 14th.

Your son or daughter may certainly be worn out!

Please help each of them to stay focused on his or her school work by promoting a little studying every day instead of trying to 'cram' the day before an exam. Know that your child's teachers have assigned work to prepare them for each exam. You may wish to check teacher web sites for extra help or review dates.

Please help them limit distracting activities and see that they get enough sleep. If we all work together, your child is bound to be successful.

Sincerely,
The 8th grade teachers
our partners in education

Dear Sixth Grade Parents,

It is hard to believe that the end of the school year is already approaching. When the weather gets nice out, students tend to lose focus on their school work. It is very important to help them maintain their focus. Benchmarks in various subject areas will also be approaching (late May and early June). Please refer to teacher Web sites and your child's agenda for these dates. It is best to study for them a little bit each evening rather than "cramming" the night before the test. Students will be receiving study sheets for these benchmarks. We encourage the sixth grade students to stay organized and study so that they can finish the year strong. Summer reading information will be coming home with your child's report card. Summer reading is very important and necessary for your child to retain and improve their reading skills. Students will also be responsible for completing an assignment on their summer reading which will be due in late September. Your child will receive more details on the project when they return in September. Have a great summer!

HELP NEEDED:

Attention Volunteers: your help is needed!!

PTA Chair Positions for 2012-13:

Middle School is looking for volunteers to Chair the following committees:

Newsletter- 3 times a year

By-Laws-renewal this year

Yearbook/School Pictures

Please contact Lisa Fabiano (773-7131) or e-mail lisafabs@roadrunner.com if you are interested in any of these positions or have questions. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Don't want a chairman position but still want to help-let me know and we will find a committee that's right for you!



PTA Meeting June 7, 2012; 6:30pm

Committee Chair & Volunteer sign up sheets will also be available for next school year

A letter from our Principal Mr. Parisi

Dear Middle School Families,

As time winds down on the 2011-12 school year, I would like to share the following important reminders:

Last Day of School: Remember that Friday, June 15 is the last day of classes at VCMS

6th Grade Parent Orientation: Please join the VCMS Faculty & Administration on Monday, June 11 at 6:00 PM in the HS Auditorium for our annual orientation program for the parents of incoming 6th graders

8th Grade Parents sign up for HS E-Alerts: If you are the parent of an 8th grade student, please remember to sign up for HS E-Alerts. You will begin to receive important information from the HS this summer.

8th Grade Events:

Honors Celebration (formerly Honors Breakfast) - Will be held on Friday, June 8. Honor's students will report to Mod 1 for attendance and then to the cafeteria for a 'light snack' (muffins/bagels/ juice...). Students will receive a certificate and group photos will be taken. Invitations to the celebration were given directly to the students last week.

Field Day - Events will be held on Friday, June 8 throughout the school day. Activities include movies, karaoke, kickball, softball, ice cream social, Kan-Jam, raffles and much more.

Moving Up Day - Will be held on Monday, June 18 at 7:00 PM in the HS Auditorium. Invitations have gone home already. Students should report to the high-school gym at 6:30 and will be seated alphabetically.

NYS Senate Summer Reading Program: Please encourage your children to read this summer by registering them for the NYS Senate Summer Reading Program at www.nyread.com.

I hope that you all have a safe and productive summer. Don't forget, the 2012-13 school year starts on Wednesday, August 29.

Sincerely,

Jerry J. Parisi

Principal

Exciting News . . .

The Grand Island School District is in the beginning stages of implementing the “Infinite Campus Parent Portal”. This is a tool for parents to access online, timely, and secure information about their children anytime / anywhere. Each parent / legal guardian is provided their own unique portal activation key for creating a user login and password for the Parent Portal.

We are excited about the opportunity to promote educational excellence and to enhance communication with parents.

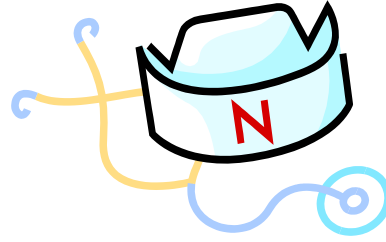
Please follow this link to get all the details about the Parent Portal and when it will be available:

<http://www.k12.ginet.org/departments.cfm?subpage=14884>

Attention parents – In keeping with the “Electronic Age”, we are no longer printing and sending home copies of the PTA Newsletter. The full newsletter will be always be available on the school district website at www.k12.ginet.org. If you would like a postcard mailed to your home letting you know when the newsletter is available, please email me at jmd287@gmail.com. Otherwise, you will know when the newsletter is ready and on-line through an E News alert and it will be mentioned in the Morning Announcements which you can also see on the school district website. Thank you for helping us to “Go Green”!!

Jeannie Dickinson, Newsletter Chair

A Letter from our nurse:



For Parents/Guardian of 6th grade students,

In preparing for the 2012-2013 school year, the following is a list of medical requirements for ALL students who will be entering 7th grade in September:

All 7th grade students are mandated to have a physical exam including Body Mass Index and Weight Status Category by October 1st. Any student who has not had a physical by his/her healthcare provider (within 12 months of the first day of school) will be required to have a physical in school by School Health Services.

A dental certificate is requested, but not required, for students entering 7th grade.

All children enrolled in the 7th grade must have medical documentation of the varivax vaccine (chicken pox) or medical proof of having the chickenpox if they were born after January 1, 1994.

All children enrolled in the 7th grade must have medical documentation of the Tdap immunization once they've turned 11 years old.

A letter will be going home that will include the forms you need to have completed. If you anticipate going to your healthcare provider or dentist sooner, you may obtain these forms on the district's website, under health services by going to <http://www.k12.ginet.org>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the health office at 773-8838.

Cynthia Sharpe, RN

And, with the warm weather upon us, some valuable information from the American Cancer Society...

Did you know that more than 1 million skin cancers are diagnosed each year in the United States? That's more than cancers of the prostate, breast, lung, colon, uterus, ovaries, and pancreas combined. The good news is that there is a lot you can do to protect yourself. Follow these practical steps -- they provide the best protection when used together.

Limit direct sun exposure during midday.

UV rays are most intense during the middle of the day, usually between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm. Plan your outdoor activities outside that timeframe, if possible.

Wear shades and a hat. Invest in a wide-brimmed hat to protect your face and a pair of wrap-around sunglasses with at least 99% UV absorption.

Use a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher. The SPF number represents the level of protection against UVB rays, the kind that cause most skin cancers. A higher number means more protection. Sunscreens labeled "broad spectrum" also protect against UVA rays, which also play a role in skin cancer. Use 1 ounce of sunscreen (a "palmful") to cover your arms, legs, neck, and face. Reapply every 2 hours -- more often if you are swimming or sweating. Don't forget to protect your lips by using a lip balm with SPF, too. And don't skip the sunscreen just because it looks overcast outside: UV light still comes through on hazy days.

Check your skin. Check your own skin regularly, and have your doctor check it, too -- especially if you notice any moles that have changed size, shape, or color. Skin cancer is most easily treated if found early. Hear from some survivors in this skin cancer prevention and early detection video.

To learn more about how you can reduce your risk of skin cancer, visit cancer.org

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Our year-to-date earnings for BoxTops is \$692.24. That includes:

\$659.90 from clipped boxtops

\$3.74 earned thru online shopping E-tops

\$.60 from bonus tops and

\$28.00 from Click & Earn.

The school should be receiving a check for \$378.44 from its most recent submission.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed BoxTops! We are still collecting and will have a drawing at the end of May for a gift card to one lucky winner!

I would like to encourage everyone to go to the BoxTops4Education.com website and sign up linking Connor Middle School and be a supporter of this program. You will have access to exclusive coupons on products.

Also, right now, everyone can earn the school 5 eTops (equal to 50 cents) by simply going to CLICK & EARN on the website. Watch a brief video (about 2 minutes long) and the school automatically will earn .50 for each person that clicks on it.

PLEASE Go To <http://www.eccpasa.org/> for the latest Safe home Newsletter

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SCHOOL SUPPLIES



Once again PTA will be providing parents the opportunity to order 'School Supply Kits' ready made for their incoming 6th, 7th * 8th graders. Kits will be waiting in your child's classroom on the first day of the school year in September 2012.

Kits must be pre-ordered! The order form is on VCMS web sight and has been sent home.

Children Learn What They Live

If a child lives with *criticism*,
He learns to *condemn*.

If a child lives with *hostility*,
He learns to *fight*.

If a child lives with *ridicule*,
He learns to be *shy*.

If a child lives with *shame*,
He learns to feel *guilty*.

If a child lives with *tolerance*,
He learns to be *patient*.

If a child lives with *encouragement*,
He learns *confidence*.

If a child lives with *praise*,
He learns to *appreciate*.

If a child lives with *fairness*,
He learns *justice*.

If a child lives with *security*,
He learns to have *faith*.

If a child lives with *approval*,
He learns to *like* himself.

If a child lives with *acceptance* and *friendship*,
He learns to find *love* in the world.