

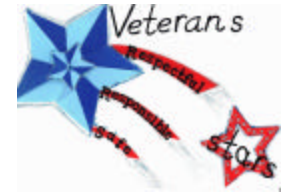
# Veterans Memorial Elementary School



**SPARCri 2011**

**150 Fuller Avenue  
Central Falls, Rhode Island 02863  
401-727-7740**

**Principal: Ann Lynch**



## Principal's Message

I am proud of the commitment of the Student Support Personnel Team (SSPT) at Veterans Elementary School to put the academic achievement and social well-being of our students first. This crucial team of professionals has been at the forefront of a school-wide effort to assist our diverse population of students in breaking the cycle of poverty and anti-social behavior with the expected result of improved academic success for all. The climate and safety of our school and the scaffolding of student achievement are enhanced by the work of this dedicated team.

This is our second year having a professional school counselor as part of our school community. Our school has seen the positive effects of having a comprehensive school counseling program based on the American School Counselor Association's (ASCA) National Model which has enriched the opportunities for our students to learn the knowledge, skills and attitudes that improve their learning. The SSPT is building on efforts from the previous year and continues to support the school-wide focuses of improving student attendance and expanding student knowledge of social skills.

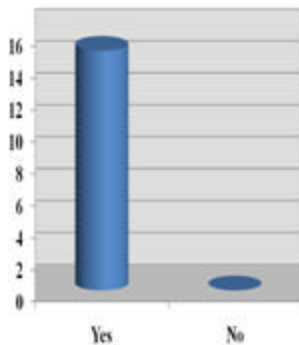
## Student Support Personnel Team

A common goal of all Student Support Personnel Team (SSPT) members is equity and access for every student. This is a team of highly educated and appropriately credentialed professionals who focus their efforts on the success of every child at Veterans. Professional organizations to which team members belong include the Rhode Island School Counselor Association (RISCA), American School Counselor Association (ASCA), Rhode Island Association of Elementary School Principals (RIAES), National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), Rhode Island School Psychologist Association (RISPA), National School Psychologist Association (NSPA), among others.

| Job Title              | Academic Degrees | Job Title              | Academic Degrees     |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Principal            | Master's Degree  | 1 School Psychologist  | Master's Degree + 30 |
| 1 School Counselor     | Master's Degree  | 1 School Nurse Teacher | Master's Degree      |
| 1 School Social Worker | Master's Degree  | 1 Home-School Liaison  | High School Diploma  |

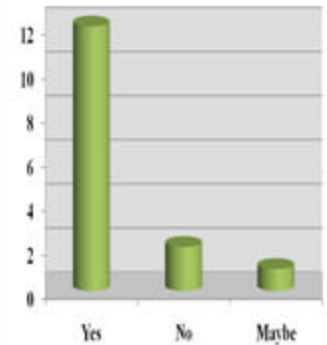
## School Climate and Safety

**Do you feel like a more confident student?**

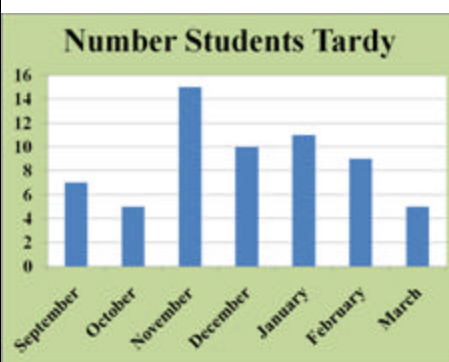
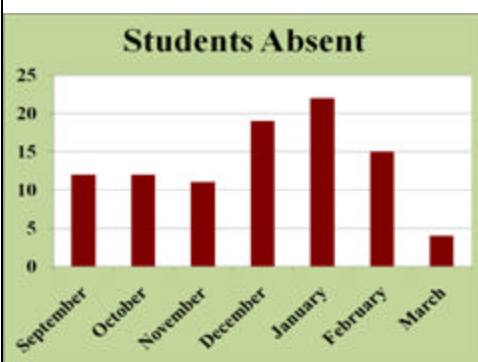
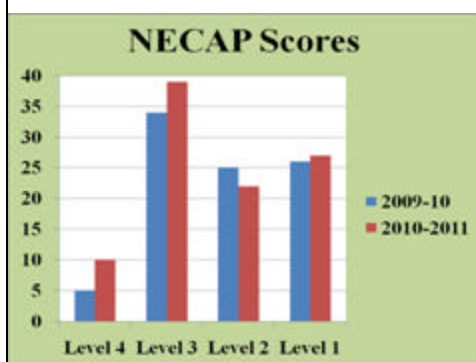


The SSPT provides interventions that help create a safe and welcoming school environment. The school counselor developed the FROG Program (Fully Responsible, Organized and Growing) in response to a request by teachers to help students learn organizational skills. Students were referred by teachers, and parents were notified for permission for their children to participate in this 8 week program. Binders and organizational strategies were provided to students as well as daily "check-ins" with the counselor to ensure they had all of their assignments and materials necessary to complete their work. These charts represent the perception of students who completed the program.

**Do You Feel Better About Coming To School?**



## Student Results



The SSPT used data to identify need and develop interventions to help support student success as recommended in the ASCA National Model. Selected lessons from Student Success Skills (SSS), an evidence-based counseling program, that helps students develop key cognitive, social and self-management skills were taught in fourth grade classrooms prior to the NECAP testing in October. The chart at the left above shows gains in the number of students who are proficient and proficient with distinction. Because of these promising results the entire SSS program will be taught to students in preparation for the next round of NECAP testing.

Sailing Away with Perfect Attendance was developed by the school counselor to improve attendance among the students who had very poor attendance and were not involved in any other intervention. Daily attendance was monitored and weekly prizes were the incentive for improvement in attendance and being on time for school. The center and right charts above show the positive impact of this program on the students involved.

These data align with expected results for student success as articulated in these ASCA Standards: Academic A: Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge and skills that contribute to effective learning in school and across the life span; and Career B: Students will employ strategies to achieve future career success and satisfaction.

## Community Partnership/Resources

The Veterans Memorial educational community is interwoven into its surrounding community/neighborhood. The police and fire departments, Department of Public Works, Aramark Food Services, Wyatt Detention Center and the school collaborate from September to December each year to offer a holiday breakfast to families just before Christmas and to give a gift to each child. This volunteer effort is highly successful as is the food drive in November during which the school community partners with Bank of America, Navigant Credit Union and Stop and Shop to help feed many families for Thanksgiving. These two activities are examples of how various constituencies within the school community come together to improve student and family supports.

The community partnerships are integral to the efforts of the SSPT in providing support for the students of Veterans Memorial Elementary School. The SSPT works closely with several community groups, for example the Dacia Pray Memorial raises funds for the school in memory of Dacia, a student who died too young. The Nurse oversees student nurse-interns who visit classrooms to discuss the nursing field as a career. Through the Family Care and Community Partnerships (FCCP) the SSPT finds resources for some of its neediest families. These resources and community relationships are vital to the success of our efforts to helping students and their families succeed.

| Academic  | Career   | Personal/Social   |
|---|--|---|
| Dacia Pray Memorial<br>LaSalle Student Volunteers<br>(mentor/tutor students for their<br>community service hours) | Reader's Week Guest Speaker<br>(Fire, Paw Sox, P. Bruins,<br>Police, etc.)<br>URI/Salve Regina University<br>undergrad nursing interns (visit<br>classrooms to discuss nursing as<br>a career) | Johnson and Wales University<br>The Ralph Holden Community<br>Center<br>Family Care and Community<br>Partnerships (FCCP) outreach<br>for families in need of extended<br>services |

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