



# VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – September 25, 2015

**ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – LIBRARY** -APPS are everywhere. Did you know that there are APPS to access several of our library resources? There is an APP called Destiny QUEST to access our library catalog online. There is also an APP called ONE-CLICK to access some of our EBOOKs and AudioBooks (see our RHS Library Web page for instructions). Watch for another EBOOK App for OVERDRIVE, which will be available soon!



**AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION** - Over 50 Ag/FFA students attended the Big E on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Students wore their Rockville FFA T-shirts; quite a sight! Many of the students presented a “Corsage Making Demonstration” in the Farm-A-Rama building for the general public. Students were also assigned 2 Scavenger Hunts. After all, the Big E is a regional, agricultural fair!

**STEM LAB** - The STEM lab in the Tech Ed Wing is proud to announce that its new Trak K3 CNC milling machine, funded by the Sykes Foundation, is up and running! We can use Mastercam, our design software, to write programs that the machine can understand to learn the milling process in today’s manufacturing world.

The department is seeking a member of the business community who would be willing to act as a mentor with teacher professional development using this machine. Please contact [raymond.frost@vernonct.org](mailto:raymond.frost@vernonct.org) for more information.



**ENGLISH** - Rockville High School ninth graders had the opportunity to meet author Cal Armistead. Ms. Armistead's classroom visit allowed students to engage in a discussion about her life, her work, and her

novel which they read for summer reading. Learning about the craft of writing, character development, editing, and the world of publishing from a Young Adult author was a valuable experience for students.



**VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL** – Did you know that Vernon Center Middle School has a terrific Guidance Department? The department strives to accomplish the Vernon Center Middle School Mission Statement. The ideals embodied in the school's mission statement are shared by the counseling department and therefore serves as the mission for the counseling department. Noting this, the VCMS Counseling Department is "committed to provide an atmosphere and program that offer students sound academic, social, artistic, and emotional growth and transition from elementary school to high school. We are devoted to helping every student achieve his/her maximum individual potential recognizing that this goal requires the collective best efforts of the staff, the student, the parent, and the community at large. We encourage students to cultivate a respect for themselves and others and to make positive personal choices and decisions."

**CENTER ROAD SCHOOL** – We have collected our summer reading logs from our students and 86% of them returned them to school! Today, those students who have brought in their logs will be rewarded with a special program. Ed the Wizard is coming to CRS to present his "Reading is Magical" show. During this show Ed the Wizard will be entertaining the students with magic, while discussing the importance of reading every day to improve your skills. The students are very excited for this event!

We have 43 students in grades 3, 4, and 5 who have joined the Marathon Jogging Club. These students meet twice a week after school to learn proper running techniques, and improve their endurance. This club is meeting for 4 weeks, and all students will be running in the Hartford Marathon on Columbus Day weekend. Yesterday we already have 21 students who can complete three miles of running without stopping! Great job runners!

**LAKE STREET SCHOOL** – We've enjoyed a fabulous week of learning at LSS! Third grade students are delving into writing with leads that show action, setting and dialogue. Students are including words that show feelings and thoughts to make their writing more interesting to the reader.

Kindergarten students are finding setting of numbers in different ways during Math centers. Students in fourth grade are working in groups during science to build an object from a technical diagram. Students are learning how to work in a group, how to figure things out and problem solve together.



**MAPLE STREET SCHOOL** – Second graders at Maple Street School took full advantage of the beautiful first day of fall on September 23rd. They went outside for a fall writing activity where they had to use their 5 senses to describe the season. Students wrote down what they see, hear, smell, taste, and feel when they think of fall. They later turned their observations into a descriptive poem and created abstract art to match their writing. It is now displayed in the second grade hallway for your viewing pleasure!!



This week fourth grade went to Belding Wildlife Preserve. There we engaged in many activities that taught us about nature. We built our own waterways that demonstrated the effects of erosion on our streams. We learned about many different species of butterflies and moths and their host plants. Did you know that monarch butterflies only lay their eggs on the milkweed plant? Their caterpillars can only eat milkweed plants to survive! We were fascinated by the many hands on discoveries we made at Belding. It was a great adventure in learning.



**NORTHEAST SCHOOL** – Laughter was abundant this week as we celebrated all of the summer reading the NES students completed! The goal was to prevent summer slide and the students worked very hard to achieve that with a total of 3,189 books read!! For their hard work, they were rewarded with a giant blow up slide! We've never seen the students, or teachers for that matter, with such big smiles. The students learned that hard work pays off. We can't wait to see how their reading has prepared them for the skills they'll learn this year!



**SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL** – It was a beautiful day for the Third Annual Principals Reading Challenge. 100% of the students read this summer to enter the Reading Carnival. The students had the opportunity to pop balloons on a board, fish for ducks to win STAR BUCKS, knock over cans, and numerous other games. The bounce house was also a huge hit. The event ended with students throwing paint balloons at numerous staff members who volunteered while listening to the song “Hit Me With Your Best Shot.



**LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL** - The primary grade students have begun to explore their science kits. Students this week explored air. They used straws to see how different items travel across surfaces, and also altered the items to see if that made a difference. All observations were recorded in their science journals.

The students also began a reading challenge this week. Their goal is to read as many chapter books as they can this school year! We wish them all luck and happy reading!!!!

*The Vernon Public Schools, in partnership with family and community, is committed to provide a quality education, with high expectations, in a safe environment where all students become independent learners and productive contributors to society.*