



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – February 28, 2014

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Rockville High School Students Dominique Moore and Jennifer Mueller have been honored for their exemplary volunteer service with a President's Volunteer Service Award. The award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country, was granted by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program on behalf of President Barack Obama. In addition to receiving this award, each student was presented with a congratulatory letter from President Obama. Rockville High School nominated these two students for national honors this fall in recognition of their volunteer service.

To date, each of these students has performed an estimated 200 hours of community service, which includes tutoring, mentoring, and volunteering at surrounding hospitals, churches, and food pantries. Rockville High School is extremely proud of these two young women!

For the first time since the 2006-2007 season, the Rockville High School Wrestling Team will be represented at the State Open. Seniors Jon Pelletier and Austin Novak qualified by finishing in the top six of their weight classes at the Class M Meet last weekend. They will wrestle at the Open on February 28 and March 1.

The Rockville High School Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Eric Hutchinson, competed in the Fermi High School Jazz Festival on February 22 and received a silver medal rating from the adjudication panel. In addition, bass player, Jacob Ott, received the Outstanding Musician Award.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – The deadline for ordering an autographed, hardcover copy of Neal Shusterman's latest book, *Tesla's Attic*, has been extended to March 14. We have sold 112 books so far and need to reach the goal of 200 books. Please consider purchasing a copy for yourself, donating a copy to a student that cannot afford one, or getting one for your favorite classroom teacher. Please contact Mrs. Regina Lee at VCMS, 860-870-6070, if you are interested.

The VCMS School-Wide Spelling Bee took place on February 21, 2014. Fifty-three students anxiously filled the seats on the stage and began spelling at 8:00 AM. The Bee lasted for over two hours, and a total of 277 words were spelled. The first place winner was sixth grader Emma Huff, who won with the words "inscription" and "inspector". Second place went to seventh grader Jarod Werner. Both students received a copy of the video *Akeelah and the Bee* and Emma also received a \$15.00 gift card to purchase books at the VCMS Book Fair. All the students performed admirably and showed good sportsmanship.

The Bee coordinator and announcer was Mrs. Lee; judges were Mrs. Dukette, Mrs. Schipper, and Mrs. Girard, and student mentors were Mrs. Schubert and Mrs. Halpryn.

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL –“Tomorrow, March 1st Center Road School will be having their annual School Fair from 10:00-2:00. Students and families can come to participate in games to earn some excellent prizes, enter for a chance to win one of our many themed raffle baskets, have a bite to eat, and enjoy the company of the CRS community.

Our 5th grade students are all working hard right now to make their wonderful ideas come to life for the annual Invention Convention coming in April. All 5th grade students have been brainstorming ideas of different inventions they can create to fix a problem of their choice. Students have been showing off their creative side, and the entire school is looking forward to viewing all of these inventions in the spring.

With the addition of full day Kindergarten, our students are truly soaring in reading. Many of our students are already reading at or above the recommendation for the end of the year, and it's only the end of February. Our dedicated staff, along with the hard work of the students has paid off more than we ever imagined, and we are all excited to see how far our Kindergarteners can go this year.”

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – Lake Street School Students raised over **\$2500** for Jump Rope for Heart! Mr. Peter Johnson coordinated the event, which culminated in students participating in afterschool jump rope activities on Thursday, including Jump the Chicken! The students had a blast, got terrific exercise and raised money for a wonderful cause!

This Friday, in Lion's Dens, students in K-5 made posters with their partner/s of a school-wide expectation in a school setting. (Ex: safety in the cafeteria). These monthly Dens were created as extensions of our school-wide expectations in a small group, cross grade setting. We're looking forward to seeing these posters all over our school!

MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – MSS kindergarten students have just completed their reading assessments. They have made significant progress. Most students started the year at readiness level and now 83% are at or above the grade level expectation for this time of year.

Jump Rope for Heart was a great success. They kids had an amazing time. Thank you to all the parents for donating snacks and to everyone that donated money. We have raised \$1,500 and counting!

On Monday, February 24, Mystic Aquarium came to MSS with their exhibits and presentations for grades 2 and Mr. Bolstridge in the 3rd grade.

On Friday, February 28th, 2014, Student of the Month awards for the month of February were handed out to the students of MSS.

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – Each month Northeast School students enjoy a whole school assembly. This is a special time when our school community comes together in one place. We celebrate the many academic successes our students have achieved and we focus on a core value. The assembly opens with a student leading the school in the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence. On February 25 the core value was HONESTY. It was the responsibility of the second grade classes to teach the school about honesty. They did a terrific job using readings and songs to demonstrate how important it is to be honest. There was even an exciting

demonstration using a tower of flour that showed how being dishonest can cut away at your character. Next the Northeast School Cheerleaders belted out a cheer reminding everyone about “Crazy Sock and Slipper” day on February 28.

Northeast School also had an author visit our Ms. Leslie’s second grade class. Catherine Gibson is an award winning author of children’s books and the founder of Children with Love. She decided through her experiences and the experiences of many others that came into her life and touched her heart that she had to give back. She does this under the For Children with Love banner giving proceeds of every book to various charities. Ms. Gibson is from West Hartford, Connecticut and she travels around talking about her passion for helping children through writing books. Ms. Leslie’s class was excited to ask Ms. Gibson questions and received an autographed book for her!



SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – It has been another busy week at Skinner Road School. The Cardio Club for grade three and Games Galore for grade two met after school from 3:00 to 3:50. The students in Ms. Gruner’s class put on a play for their third grade peers. We are all looking forward to warmer weather so we can be outside for recess.

Grade Five took a field trip to O’Connell School in East Hartford. The students joined students from East Hartford and Coventry to learn about color, refraction and sound. The Field trip started with a presentation by the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. Students enjoyed hearing Jazz, Blues and classical music.

The twirlers have been working hard getting ready for their first public appearance. Friday students learned about the Science Fair and how they can get involved. The week ended with the Jamin’, Jumping, Jamboree in our gym. This is a fun family activity that parents and students take part in.

VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - At Vernon Elementary School, the middle school class has recently completed a math assignment in which they used fractions to draw a neighborhood. Students are now beginning to write stories describing the events taking place in their drawings. They have been learning how to write good beginnings. As writers, students need to learn ways to capture a reader’s attention.

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.