



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – June 14, 2013

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – The Fire Technology class recently visited the Connecticut Fire Academy, UCONN FD and Hartford FD training academy on a field trip. In addition, the Fire Tech class was recently videotaped by WVIT- NBC doing a story about a unique high school class that is the only one of its kind in Connecticut. The Town of Vernon Fire Department assisted doing a simulated emergency extrication drill by cutting up a car. It was a lesson in real-world emergency response. The pre-taped video was televised this past Wednesday (pm) and Thursday (am) by Channel 30 news. The Fire Tech class will have Det. Wayne Opdenbrau (RHS Class '96) of the CT State Police in class next Wednesday giving a demonstration about using dogs to assist with arson investigations. Congratulations to Rockville High's Ethan Hotchkiss. Ethan, an avid technology education student, applied for and was granted a paid internship with CL & P to practice work as a lineman this summer. He will get on-the-job training with experienced crewmembers. What an exciting opportunity for Ethan.

Rockville High School was treated to the Annual Symphony Band & Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert on Tuesday evening. The extraordinary student performances showcased the quality of their work and achievements, under the direction of Mr. Davis for Symphony Band and Mr. Hutchinson for Jazz Ensemble, as they totally impressed and moved the audience to the standing ovation at the conclusion of both bands. Forty-Four varied awards were presented to RHS Art & Music students at the Vernon Board of Education Special Awards Ceremony, Monday evening, June 3rd. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mary Conway and the Vernon Board of Education recognized each of these students, and presented them with certificates, along with students who have won awards from throughout the district for an evening of celebration. RHS & VCMS Art students partnered for a grant funded field trip to the New Britain Museum of American Art. Together in groups they were led on tours of the museum with docents, viewed the Tiffany Exhibit and participated in a stained glass art making activity.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – On Friday night, June 7, the VCMS Relay for Life team participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event at South Windsor High School. The torrential downpours moved the event off the track and indoors but did not dampen the spirit of Relay. Over eighty students and their families, along with several staff members participated in this year's event. Team VCMS lit 140 candle bags in honor and in memory of loved ones who have had cancer. Team members walked several laps simply because they can, and people who get cancer do not have a choice. The VCMS Relay Team won top fundraising honors of all the teams for raising the most money this year, over \$12,000. Not only did we celebrate our hard work, but we showed support for the ones we love and helped them to celebrate more birthdays. Kudos!

On Tuesday, June 11, two students at VCMS received one of the best possible surprises! Their mom, who has been serving in Kuwait, and who they believed was still stationed there, recovering from an injury, was actually on her way home! She notified the school, when she was about a half-hour away, that she would like to surprise her children, since they had no idea she had returned state-side. Teachers gathered in the main office to welcome her and escorted her to her daughter's classroom for the emotional reunion. Then, still trying to keep the element of surprise, she was brought down to see her son who was having lunch in the cafe. We were all very proud to be witnesses to this beautiful, heart-warming gathering and to be able to thank another military family for their service.

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL – One of our Grade 5 ESL students, M. Hassan Chaudhry, in Mrs. Lévesque's/Mrs. Cheman's class, won 1st place in the Local CT Fire Prevention Poster Contest. Fire Marshal Ray Walker came to CRS to present him with his original poster and certificate and to show him the fire truck. He was delighted.

Grade 1 visited the Children's Museum in West Hartford. They experienced amazing star gazing in the planetarium.

Gr. 3 visited the CRRA Trash Museum in Hartford. They learned all about recycling our garbage and the impact it has on our environment.

Gr. 4 visited the Mashantucket Pequot Museum in Ledyard, CT. They have been studying Early America and Native American Life. This trip was enjoyed by all.

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – Fifth graders had an outstanding field trip to Boston. At The Boston Tea Party Museum they were able to interact and become part of a Sons of Liberty town meeting with Samuel Adams where they chanted and yelled their opinions about the king and taxation without representation. Students boarded the ship as the Sons of Liberty and threw crates of tea into the harbor. We got to experience other interactive effects and see an actual tea crate still in existence.

Fifth graders toured Fanieul Hall and Quincy Market with their groups to complete a scavenger hunt and learn about the ways this area has changed throughout history and see important landmarks they studied throughout social studies this year.

In addition to the amazing exposure to this historical area, the Lake Street School fifth graders had the opportunity to learn about Boston's modern day culture. Many groups saw highly entertaining street performers and had a great time enjoying lunch together with such a wide variety of food to choose from.

Lake Street 2013 fifth graders had a great time! We are thankful to be able to go on this trip each year. It always is a memorable day for all of us, and it has become a fun and meaningful tradition for us in the fifth grade.

MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – Maple Street School held their annual Field Day on June 12, 2013. We were lucky to dodge the rain and enjoyed a beautiful sunny day. All of our students participated in many diversified events and showed a tremendous amount of community spirit by cheering on their fellow classmates. I am very proud of the effort all the students and staff put into this wonderful event.

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – This week at NES our first graders learned about the ocean and the big and little animals that live in it. They read, wrote and illustrated about the host of fish and animals of many kinds that drift, crawl, swim and hide in the ocean. Our fourth graders visited the Mashantucket Pequot Museum. They were able to see firsthand what life was like for Native Americans over 400 years ago. After working hard all year, our fifth graders enjoyed a fun-filled day at High Meadow. Many thanks to the NES PTO for supporting this activity.

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – It has been another productive week at Skinner Road School. In Physical Education, students are learning Wiffle Ball Skills. Wiffle ball is a variation of the sport of baseball designed for indoor or outdoor play in confined areas. The game is played using a perforated, light-weight, rubbery plastic ball and a plastic bat. The game has been so popular that students are playing it at recess. The physical education program at Skinner Road has been designed to teach student's skills and activities that they will use for a life time. We are proud of our students who are working hard each and every day.

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.