



# VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – January 15, 2016

**ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – ENGLISH** - War and Pieces, the 2015 RHS Literary Arts Magazine, has won a highly prestigious "Superior" rating in National Council of Teachers of English Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines.

The recognition program was open to all senior high, junior high, and middle schools throughout the United States, Canada, and the Virgin Islands as well as to American schools abroad. Rockville is one of only six high schools (private and public) in Connecticut to achieve the following rating: Superior (100–91 points)

"Outstanding writing; wide variety of genres (at least five) represented; meticulous editing; unifying design; high-quality graphics; coherence of theme and design; clear evidence of interdepartmental and interdisciplinary involvement with writings from other subject areas; students dominate editorial, production, and business aspects. "

We are so proud of the literary arts staff and thankful to all the teachers that helped with the creation of this wonderful product. Special thanks to Bryan Wright and Dennis Timberman for all their support.

**VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL** – Twenty-two students participated in Cake Club on Wednesday. They practiced frosting cupcakes writing and making borders. They also decorated snowmen on the tops of the cupcakes. Tasty!

Friday, January 15, 2016, is the 3rd annual VCMS Advisory Olympics. All students will participate. Students will be rotating through 3 different activities with their Advisory groups. They will work with their groups to perform several different tasks: complete 50 trivia questions, a relay race in the gymnasium with multiple stations, and a team-building relay race in the cafeteria - (Saving Sammy, Cup Stacking and Scrabble). The advisory group with the most points from all 3 sections will be our winners. This is one of three extended Advisory activities done throughout the year.

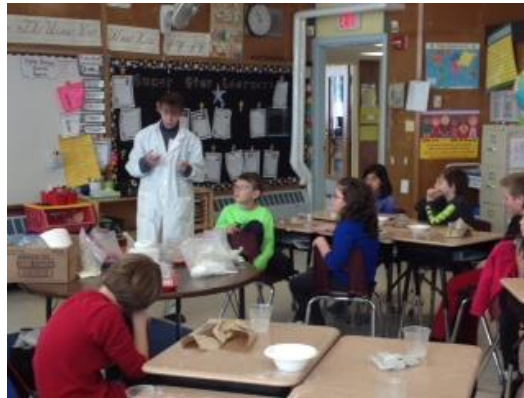
The annual VCMS National Geographic Bee was held on Thursday, January 14 in the auditorium. Many students took the preliminary qualifying test -- twenty-three of the students who received a high enough score participated in the final Bee. The questions ranged a variety of topics, including *The National Parks*, *Continents*, *US States*, *Weird But True Geography Facts*, and more. The winner of this year's Bee was 6th grader Ryan Brown. The co-runners-up were Walker Harrigan and Chad Moreau. Congratulations to all the participants, who were impressive in their knowledge. Good job and congrats, Ryan Brown, for being GREAT at geography.

**CENTER ROAD SCHOOL** – Center Road School students recently completed some beautiful winter art work!





**LAKE STREET SCHOOL** – Third grade students learned that solute and solvent combined create a solution with High Tech High Touch. In this class, the solute is salt and the solvent is water. Can you guess what the solution is?



Bravo to our LSS Student Chorus and Band! These students in Grades 4 and 5 gave a FABULOUS performance at our Winter Concert on Thursday. The LSS Chorus sang winter songs with harmony and rounds. Band students played their instruments with a final song with all instruments together. We'd like to thank the parents for encouraging their students to participate and practice. Special Thanks to Mrs. Karen Davis and Mrs. Kelly Stein.



**MAPLE STREET SCHOOL** – On Monday Ms. Trantolo had the pleasure of reading to Mrs. Flaherty’s third grade class. The students have been learning about the different elements and characteristics of fairy tales. Ms. Trantolo read *Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters an African Tale* to students. The students then compared and contrasted this tale to *Cinderella*. A great time was had by all.



Students at Maple Street School have begun NWEA MAP assessment this week. Before testing, students set personal goals as to what they will achieve. We are so proud of how hard students have been working on the test. They are showing determination and persistence. Many students have already passed their goals!

**NORTHEAST SCHOOL** – Students at Northeast are back in the swing of things! We were excited to jump right back into our academic routines! Parents and students were able to tour 3 habitats in our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms. The ocean, the rainforest and the arctic were full of creatures ready to tell visitors all about themselves! It was quite a success.

Speaking of animals, Mr. Eichner posted an animal mystery on one of our bulletin boards. It was a photograph of a very strange creature. Students were challenged! How can you use the internet to get information if all you have is a photograph? Several students and some teachers rose to the challenge. The animal was a pangolin. Ever hear of it?



**SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL** – Skinner Road Students listened to the first five minutes of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s famous speech before the nation on January 28, 1963. The SRS Twirlers started practice this week. 38 students in grades 3-5 have signed up to be part of this dynamic team. Students in grades K-5 are taking the NWEA tests. The NWEA testing is research-based and allows educators to assess how their students are doing compared to other students in their room, at SRS, in the district and nationally. The testing is computerized and gives us information about each child’s learning so that we can help them succeed in their educational journey.

**LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL** – Loveland Hill School participated in Spirit Week this week. Each day students celebrated with a different theme... from Crazy Hair Day, to Sports Day, to Wacky Tacky Day. Additionally, as part of spirit week, each day a school-wide assembly was held to introduce the Loveland Hill School behavioral expectations for students ... to Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible Learners. Daily lessons focused on what the expectations look like in a specific area of the school and each included a video example acted out by the staff. Students are really embracing and implementing the Loveland Hill School expectations of being Safe, Respectful and Responsible Learners, and Spirit Week was such a fun way to get things started!



**NextSTEP** - Job-sites are going well. On Friday, Next STEP will be welcoming dietician, Bridget Sutherland, to our program as a guest speaker. She will be showing the participants how to make healthy breakfast smoothies. She will discuss the food plate and ways to make healthy meals on a budget. The cooking lesson of the week is Chicken and Pasta Casserole and the Adult Daily Living Lesson (ADL) is proper hygiene.

*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.*