



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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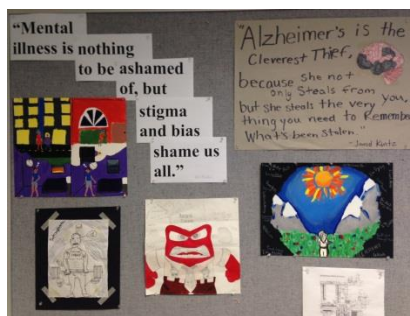
GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – January 22, 2016

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – SOCIAL STUDIES - Mr. Magoun's Contemporary World Issues class had a sit down discussion with State Representative Joe Courtney. The students had written him letters on issues regarding the accidental bombing of the hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan as well as other issues facing our country. Mr. Courtney came in and answered the questions directly.



STUDENT COUNCIL - The Student Council sponsored a wonderful fundraising opportunity at the new Moe's Southwest Grill in Tri-City Plaza on January 20th. About \$3,000 was raised and 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the Rockville High School Student Council!

ART - These are examples of student work done in art class for a Braindance assignment sponsored by the Institute of the Living in Hartford. Students were directed to research mental health issues and to focus on making a visual statement based on what they learned. The focus was to raise awareness and to reduce stigma surrounding this topic. Well done students!



RHS LIBRARY - The RHS Library has online resources available through the Connecticut Digital Library, currently available at WWW.ICONN.ORG. As of February 1, 2016, "ICONN.ORG" is getting a new image and a new name. The new website will be www.researchitct.org. Every citizen in Connecticut may use this new resource at any public library or school and at home. Just type in the barcode from your public library card to access thousands of free online books, magazines, downloadable audiobooks, ebooks and digital newspapers.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – The VCMS Guidance department had the pleasure of hosting our 5th grade students from all 5 of our elementary schools during the month of January. With the help of some of our outstanding 6th grade students, the 5th graders learned

all about VCMS and what to expect next year. They watched a power point, learning all about VCMS, were given a tour of our building and ate lunch with our current 6th grade class. We look forward to having them join our VCMS community in the fall!

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL –The students at Center Road School have been working hard, and have just completed the second round of NWEA testing. Our students showed great effort during the testing, and most students showed great growth since the fall. We are proud of all the hard work our students are doing!

The next community project at Center Road School has kicked-off, and this time the students are helping raise money for the American Heart Association. This project will culminate with Jump Rope for Heart, which will be held on February 12.

The 3rd graders are starting their Fairy Tale / Folk Tale unit in Language Arts. This is always a favorite unit for third graders because all students have the opportunity to create their own twists on classic fairy tales. It will be wonderful to see the finished projects.

LAKE STREET SCHOOL –

A PTO sponsored visit from the Lutz Museum brought some friends to teach students about hibernators and migrators. Kindergarten students met Hal the Hedgehog and Pumpkin, the ring necked dove. These animal friends helped students learn why and how animals hibernate or migrate.



We had a terrific parent turnout for our fourth grade research project presentations. Students were able to share information that they researched on independent topics ranging from pomegranates to archery. Some students used technology to present their projects with PowerPoint, such as Abby Brouillard Here she is with her presentation on Pomegranates.

Third grade students presented their Continents to the LSS PTO Thursday evening. Nineteen students shared their personalized continent using specific map elements. Here is Nicholas Rivera presenting Golfland.



MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – Maple Street School’s 4th grade students have been learning about force, weight and friction all through inquiry based learning. Students had to collaboratively design and construct a vehicle that can move at least 39 inches. After collaboratively problem solving to design the vehicle they are now taking the investigation one step further. This week they will be exploring the effect that weight and friction has on their vehicles. Students are so engrossed in this unit of investigation. They love the hands on learning and self-discovery.



NORTHEAST SCHOOL – After weeks and weeks of practice, Mrs. Baldwin and Mrs. Stein led student in the Annual Northeast Winter Concert. The third grade student had our tummies rumbling with all song referring to food and the guest appearances made by Mrs. Warner, Mr. Lewchik, and Ms. Doyle was a crowd pleaser!

Mrs. Stein’s band students were on point! The final collaborative piece really came together and got the audience rockin’! The night ended with the fourth and fifth grade chorus members with their song “LOL” that had everyone tapping their toes and singing along.

Our Kindergarten and second graders had special class lessons presented by Mystic Aquarium. They saw cool skeletons and learned some amazing facts about marine life from the Mystic Aquarium instructors. Third grade also took a trip to the state capital in Hartford and toured the Old State House. They were all very interested to learn about our three branches of government and our state’s judicial system. I think we have some future politicians in this third grade!

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – It has been another busy week at SRS. Mr. Uthgenannt has been running the Cardio Club for Grade 3. Students have an opportunity to stay after school and learn how to stay fit and healthy through exercise. The Vernon Reads program is going strong. Each Tuesday 19 volunteer arrive at SRS and read to a classroom of students. This year the Vernon Reads Program is working with Mrs. Hindes first graders. The students look forward to Tuesdays and the arrival of their reading buddies. This Friday is our STAR Assembly. Students will also have the opportunity to hear more about Skinner Road Schools Jump Rope For Heart Fundraiser. Students are hoping to raise \$2,000 dollars for this worthy cause.

LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL - The New Year brought with it a field trip opportunity!! This week, middle school students will be going to the Jorgensen Performing Arts Center in Storrs. The artistic group from Switzerland, called Mummenschanz, bills themselves as a pre - Blue Man troupe who uses quirky recycled props such as giant slinkies, clay, tubes, and more.

NextSTEP - Job-sites continue to go well. On January 15th, Next STEP welcomed dietician, Bridget Sutherland, to our program as a guest speaker. She made delicious breakfast smoothies for the participants. (The smoothies were made from coconut milk, frozen strawberries, bananas, baby spinach and a sprinkle of cinnamon.) She discussed the food plate and the importance of having vegetables at each meal. The student led cooking lesson for this week is Barley Vegetable Soup and the Adult Daily Living Lesson (ADL) is work ethics.

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.