



# VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – January 29, 2016

**ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY** - On Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, three Rockville FFA members attended the “Friends of Agriculture” breakfast hosted by the Tolland County Farm Bureau held at the Tolland Agriculture Center in Vernon. The FFA members, wearing perfect Official FFA Dress, enjoyed a delicious breakfast and networked with Ag industry leaders as well as local legislators.

**ENGLISH** - Creative Writing students participated in the Close Brush with Genius program on January 26<sup>th</sup> at the Hill-Stead Museum. This program provides invaluable enrichment to the RHS curriculum and teachers as well as to the students, who were thrilled to be a part of this educational experience. Through the grant, Rockville High School is privileged to have both on and off-site visits. Poet and Novelist Maureen O'Brien visited Rockville High School on January 28<sup>th</sup> to run a poetry workshop. We are very appreciative of this grant as it provides our students with authentic writing experiences, an opportunity to work with professional writers, and the chance to be immersed in a truly inspiring environment.



**UNIFIED SPORTS** - The Rockville High School Unified Sports team is going to be piloting tennis in the spring. Jim Maitland and some of his mentors from Ellington came to RHS on January 15<sup>th</sup> and provided a demonstration to the staff and students which developed a definite interest among students. We are hoping to start the pilot in April with some students and mentors at least once per week. We are the first school in Connecticut to pilot this tennis program, so we are excited to hopefully add another opportunity for the students and encourage other schools to participate. There is a grant through the USTA to support all the equipment and training for the staff and mentors.



**STUDENT AWARD** - Congratulations to Sara Linton who was awarded the "DAR Good Citizen Award"! The Captain Noah Grant Chapter honored Sara for this award. The DAR Good Citizen Award recognizes and rewards individuals who possess good citizenship qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities. Sara was selected by her teachers and peers because she demonstrated these qualities to an outstanding degree. The Vernon Board of Education recognized Sara for her award at their January 25, 2016 meeting.



**VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL** – Many thanks to the performers of Broadway Band for a great season and for their performance at the Evening of Exploration event. Band teacher Mrs. Cook enjoyed working with everyone after school, during second quarter in this enrichment experience.



Our Winter Book Fair started on Monday, January 25 and runs through all of next week. Please support us by ordering through our online book fair at (<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/vernoncentermiddleschool>).

**CENTER ROAD SCHOOL** –The 1<sup>st</sup> grade students at Center Road School are off to see a play today at the Lincoln Theatre to see *Henry and Mudge*. Many of our first graders are familiar with these characters from all the books that they are in. It will be exciting for the students to see the book characters come to life in this wonderful performance. As always, we know the first graders will be respectful and responsible while on the field trip, and make Center Road School proud.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are working hard over the last few weeks on persuasive essays. Currently students are researching various topics, and making very good points to support their positions in various topics. After reviewing many of the papers, it's safe to say that many of our students would make excellent lawyers! They were able to find wonderful information that supported their position, and made for some great papers. This is all in preparation for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade debates, which will be occurring in the early spring.

**LAKE STREET SCHOOL** – Fourth grade students determined through experimentation, how magnets attract and repel with High Tech High Touch this week. Students experimented to determine if the magnetic force would attract a paper clip through the desk or an ear. Using this information, students were able to create electrical circuits, extending into their classroom lessons.



HAPPY 100 DAYS! Students in K-2 celebrated our first 100 days of school. What would you do if you had \$100? Would you buy ice cream, toys and pets like some of our students? Or would you donate it to charity, like this student? Aidan would donate his \$100 to the Children's Hospital.

**MAPLE STREET SCHOOL** – Today Maple Street School held their monthly PBIS assembly with a special twist. Not only were students recognized for perfect attendance and exhibiting core values, they were also recognized for their increases in NWEA MAP scores. One hundred percent of our students received at least one award for increasing either their reading, math or usage score. We are proud of all the hard work that students have been putting into their learning. When you walk into a MSS classroom there is a buzz of excitement in the air. Students are persevering at their work, challenging each other thinking and collaborating.



**NORTHEAST SCHOOL** – The week began with our fifth grade students visiting VCMS. They heard about VCMS from 6<sup>th</sup> graders (several from NES), took a tour of the school, stopped in some classrooms, and then ate lunch there – the best part for many! They got a taste of what's to come – an enjoyable experience and a chance to see first-hand what it's going to be like next year.

These same students are putting the final touches on their Wax Museum which will be presented to their parents on Friday in our media center. In preparation for this event, students read biographies, wrote speeches, and have been practicing a 2-3 minute speech. Some of the famous people that will be represented are Christopher Columbus, President Obama, Pink, Demi Lovato, Jackie Robinson and Maya Moore.

Our pre-K students were treated to a visit from Dr. Ellen Neuhaus from Rockville General Hospital. She



visited both classes and brought lots of materials for them to see and to use – you should see those amazing x-rays! It's never too early for students to learn what a hospital is all about.

The Second grade classes at NES are preparing to publish a book in the Spring. The students are looking forward to becoming authors themselves! Ron Roy is the author of The A to Z Mystery series and he lives in Manchester, CT. After reading one of his books, "The Empty Envelope", the students emailed Ron Roy telling him what they enjoyed about his book. They received an email back which made everyone quite excited about getting started on the writing process for their classroom book.

**SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL** – Where could you find a mermaid with 100 sparkles? Where could you find a snowman made of 100 marshmallows? Where could you find a student's who are 100 days smarter or a box of 100 toys? The answer to all these questions is at Skinner Road School. Kindergarten students at SRS celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school by doing 100 day projects. Parents, Guardians, and Friends were invited to come celebrate and tour our museum of 100 day projects.

Skinner Road students and Staff celebrated our STAR Students. Each month a student is chosen who exhibits STAR behavior at school. Students also learned about our Jump Rope For Heart Fundraiser. SRS is trying to reach the goal of donating \$2,000 dollars to the American Heart Association. Mrs. Simon is going to donate 200 dollars if we reach our goal.



**LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL** –

It's the 100th day of school! Students in the primary grade class celebrated the 100th day of learning in royal style! With their crowns on and patterned jewels, students completed curriculum standards centered around the newest place value of 100! Students and staff look forward to 82 more days of packed learning and fun!

**Next STEP** - Job-sites continue to go well. Functional academic lessons for the last week have focused on nutrition and fitness. Participants are learning the importance of eating a well- balanced diet and the benefits of physical activity. The student led cooking lesson for this week is linguine with shrimp scampi. The Adult Daily Living Lesson (ADL) is interview and basic life skills.

*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.*