



# VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – December 18, 2015

### **ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Kylie Bowman, an Ag freshman from Tolland, was awarded a grant from the National FFA to support her SAEP, (Supervised Agricultural Education Program – or out of school project) in the amount of \$1,000. Ms. Laura Manzi coached Kylie during the application process.

Congratulations Kylie!



**TOY DRIVE** - The RHS Chapter of the National Honor Society, together with RHS staff, collected new toys and stuffed animals for the Cornerstone Foundation's Annual Christmas Party. Students worked hard to promote the event by making posters, contacting the local press, and holding a raffle for those who donated. On Friday, December 11, students drove to the Cornerstone Soup Kitchen to deliver all of the toys collected. It was a great way to kick off this holiday season.



**UNITY TEAM** - The Unity Team collected 640 positive and inspirational statements from Rockville High School students and staff over a 4 day period and then posted them on a tree for all to see. Each person is encouraged to read the messages and use them to counteract stressors in his or her daily life.

**VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL** – VCMS is collecting cold weather gear to keep people warm during the winter season. This includes hats, gloves, scarves, and new socks which will be donated to people in need. This event is titled "Gator Gloves" in honor of Mr. Kent Batchelder, a VCMS staff member who passed away in June of 2014. Kent was obsessed with the University of Florida and all things "Gator". He was a very caring, helpful, and generous person and VCMS is continuing those values with this collection in his memory.

At the Winter Concert on December 14<sup>th</sup>, VCMS chorus singers performed songs from around the world. Sixth grade chorus sang a Russian folk song and a Calypso song. Seventh and Eighth grade singers performed songs which included words from the following languages: Zulu, Italian, Iroquois and Spanish. In conclusion, the joint Sixth, Seventh and Eighth grade

chorus sang a Swahili song called Watoto Wa Dunia which encourages all the children of the world to unite in peace. Chorus students choreographed some movements for the songs and decorated the stage. It was an inspirational and beautiful show.

**Read to Succeed program at VCMS!** - The read to succeed program is an exciting reading incentive and reward program for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Each student needs to read **6 hours** and in turn will receive a **“free ticket” to Six Flags!** Reading logs and a complete program description have been handed out to the students. The deadline to complete the hours is February 18<sup>th</sup>.

The entire eighth grade student body will be participating in the Connecticut History Day competition. VCMS is looking to repeat last year's success by bringing back several first place prizes to Vernon. This year the umbrella concept is exploration, encounters and exchanges in history. Students can choose one of five types of projects which include making documentaries, trifold displays, websites, putting on a performance or writing a research paper. We currently have students interested in everything from the history of hockey to Roman and Greek cultural comparisons.

Vernon Public Schools hosted a state-wide Gifted and Talented Symposium on December 15, 2015. The Symposium took place at Vernon Center Middle School. Gifted and Talented educators came from as far away as Westport and Canton to discuss the future of G&T education in Connecticut. Dr. Gilbert Andrada, the new State of Connecticut Department of Education G&T consultant, was a guest speaker. Representatives from the Connecticut Association of the Gifted also attended and shared insight about identification procedures, ways of servicing, and the push to have legislation about state funding for gifted programs. The group of educators that attended agreed to form a focus group that will advise the State Department of Education. Vernon will host another symposium in the spring.

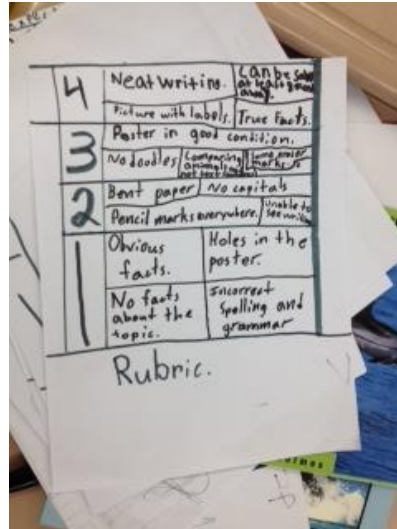
**CENTER ROAD SCHOOL** –This week the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Center Road School presented their holiday concert to the students and families of the Center Road Community. The audience first enjoyed a wonderful performance by the band, which included many holiday classics, culminating with Jungle Bells where the audience was encouraged to sing-a-long. After the band, more than 70 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders entertained the crowd with an assortment of beautiful songs, highlighted by the song “Believe,” which was featured in the movie Polar Express. We are so proud of all of our performers, as always you represented CRS in such a positive way!



4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders weren't the only students this week with performances. Our entire Kindergarten students performed a holiday performance on Wednesday for parents. Students sang some holiday songs with a Center Road twist, and played some musical instruments. After

the show, parents and students worked collaboratively building gingerbread houses. It was a fun afternoon for the Kindergarten families!

**LAKE STREET SCHOOL** – Third grade students in Mrs. De Angelo’s class are ready to present their projects with information learned from multiple text sources. The students in the group below are using a Venn Diagram to compare information they learned on dolphins and sharks. The students created their own rubric beforehand to guide their work!

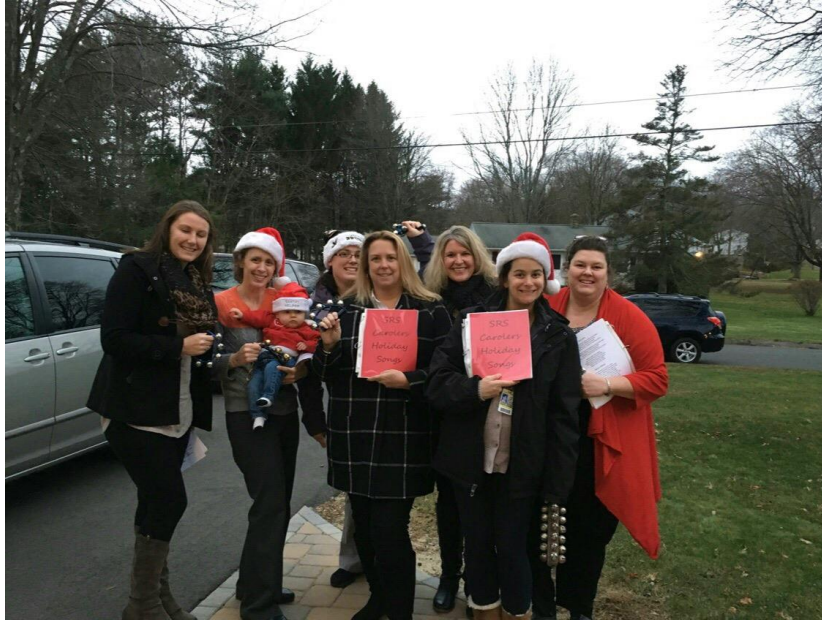


Students in Mrs. Barry’s second grade class listened to a presentation of a real life author! Local author Amanda Bannikov from Manchester read her book, Tippy and Kimothin’s Holiday Adventure to the class. Students were able to ask questions about the writing process. Ms. Bannikov donated a copy of the book for students to continue to enjoy!

**MAPLE STREET SCHOOL** – Each month we have been focusing on a different emotional theme in every classroom. This month the theme was empathy and compassion: understanding how others are feeling. This week the specific learning target was “I can notice how I feel when I am showing empathy and compassion to others. I can also notice how I feel when others are showing me empathy and compassion.” We gave resources to the teachers such as “Have you filled a bucket today” to talk about how when we are kind to others, it can also make us feel better (“fill our buckets”). We have also been getting “Positive Memory Orbs” from teachers and students that capture a happy memory that they have from that day. We write these memories on a yellow circle, some of them get read during morning and afternoon announcements, and we “store” these memories by putting them up on our front hallway in the school – the line of positive memories has gotten pretty long!!!! One more way we are focusing on kindness this month is that many classrooms have a “Kindness Elf” (in the form of a bear) who is watching over their classroom and giving them a kindness assignment each day. The cards, letters, compliments and thoughtful acts have been spreading out to every corner of our school!!!

**NORTHEAST SCHOOL** – Northeast School is beaming with winter spirit even though the weather feels more like spring. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students are diligently working on their animal reports and will be transforming their classrooms into the frozen tundra, the ocean and the rainforest for Habitat Day on January 8th! The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are already warming up their voices and instruments for the upcoming Winter Concert on January 21<sup>st</sup>. The PTO set up the Annual Holiday Store for students on Friday, December 18 and of course, it’s the season to look out for the Gingerbread man, you can’t catch him, but the preschoolers can!

## **SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL –**



The Skinner Road School staff went to homes that signed up to sing some holiday favorites. This has been a tradition that was started by Mrs. Manfre a number of years ago. Staff and students collected toys for tots for this holiday season.

**LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL** - LHS is happy to say that 100% of our students participated in the Superintendent's Challenge to feed the hungry. We are very proud of their generosity and willingness to help those less fortunate. We are hoping we can bring back the trophy!



**Next STEP** - In addition to attending job sites, Next STEP participants have been actively preparing for the annual Holiday Shopping Trip on December 18th. This trip involves many learning opportunities. It teaches budgeting, time management, comparison shopping, and thinking of others. Each student choose up to 4 loved ones to purchase something special for and made a list of items to buy within their budget. These items were researched on line for comparison shopping amongst different stores. Students will also be meeting students from the East Windsor Transition Program at the end of December. In preparation for this meeting, each participant exchanged pen pal letters in order to get to know one another. It was fun to receive and read the letters that arrived in the mail.

*The Vernon Public Schools, in partnership with family and community, is committed to provide a quality education, with high expectations, in a safe environment w here all students become independent learners and productive contributors to society.*