



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent
30 Park Street • P.O. Box 600
Vernon, CT 06066-0600
Fax (860) 870-6005

Website: www.vernonpublicschools.org



GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – December 4, 2015

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – ALLIED HEALTH - On December 1st, Allied Health 1 students received their CPR certification from the American Heart Association. The class successfully completed the objectives and skills evaluations in accordance with the curriculum of the Heartsaver CPR AED Program. Thank you to Vernon Ambulance Service for providing this training to our students.

ATHLETICS - Rockville High School was the North White Division Sportsmanship Award winner for the Central Connecticut Conference. This is based on how other schools in the division rate our fall teams on their sportsmanship. A great honor for RHS Athletics!

SERVICE CLUB - Thanks to faculty donations, twenty- seven Rockville High School students and their families were given Thanksgiving dinner baskets. Members of the Service Club volunteered afterschool to assemble the baskets with the all the fixings for dinner, a centerpiece, and a beautiful card. Each year we are grateful to be able to give to our students and families in need. Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthwhile cause!

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION - Mr. Brodersen and Ms. Manzi chaperoned 16 FFA members while they attended the FFA “Image” Workshop on November 23rd that was held at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville. This advanced leadership conference was hosted by the Connecticut State FFA and featured former National FFA officer Wiley Bailey. The students shared that they felt the event was very educational, inspiring, and fun!

We kicked off the month of December with our “Wreath Making Week”. The students and staff assembled almost 500 wreaths, 150 poinsettias, and numerous tabletop trees. The tabletop trees are grown by Ag Ed students at our Christmas tree farm in Vernon.

On December 2nd we held a “Holiday Night”. The event was open to the public and featured wreath, poinsettia, and table top tree sales, as well as an “Alpaca Deer” photo opportunity! Students also created and sold various arts and crafts including birdhouses, wind chimes crafted from reclaimed flatware, dog treats, cat toys, cutting boards and popcorn. Students learned valuable business skills such as public speaking and handling cash. All students made a profit!

As this goes to print, there are beautiful wreaths still available. The wreaths are \$20 each; checks should be made payable to Rockville FFA. Please contact (860) 870-6050 x370/x371 or Karen.Fitzpatrick@vernonct.org to arrange for pick up. Google “Rockville Regional Agricultural Education Center” to view us on Facebook.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – On Saturday, November 21st, the First LEGO League East of the River Robotics tournament was held at Tolland High School. The Vernon team, Raiders of the Lost Rivets, which included VCMS students Maddy Brouillard, Cameron Grondin and Ethan Perkins, won Best Overall. They will go on to compete in the state tournament in December.

Over the past 2 years, Sykes has provided the VCMS Technology Engineering Education department with new Computers, SolidWorks Software and a 3D printer. This year we were able to introduce the MakerBot 3D printer with the hopes of students using it to create various items. Students have been working hard in Mrs. Strong’s 8th grade CAD/Video course to learn the new software and print

items using the 3D printer. Each student has been able to design their own mug and print off a small version of it using the MakerBot 3D printer. Now they are hard at work creating a mini commercial for a 3D printed item.

Mrs. Tuller's ROPES Math class brought their math skills into the kitchen for their 2nd annual "Cause for Paws" Community Project! We baked homemade dog biscuits in the VCMS kitchen and are selling them in the teacher's lounge for \$1.00 per bag. 100% of the proceeds go to Sara's Second Chance Dog Rescue in Vernon. These selfless people bring dogs and cats from shelters in Hartford, prior to them being euthanized. They spend every penny out of their own pockets to nurse them back to health and find them forever homes. Last year, VCMS was able to raise enough money to purchase a wheelchair for a small dog who had lost his hind legs. The "Friday dress down" money from this week will also be collected for this cause. The VCMS Student Council will also be helping to collect other items: blankets, dog/cat beds, dog/cat food, and treats. Please contact Jen Tuller at VCMS with any questions.

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL – The students at Center Road School have met, and surpassed the Mr. DeBellis Can Drive Challenge. Students were challenged to bring in more food than Mr. DeBellis weighs, and the students came through big time! In total the students donated 453 pounds of food, which will be donated to Cornerstone. A special congratulations to the 2nd graders who brought in 88 pounds, which was the highest total for one grade.

Students in 4th and 5th grade have worked hard over the past week in physical education class presenting gymnastics routines that they created. Students were flipping, cartwheeling, and handspringing all over the mats during their presentations. We were all impressed with the skills of our CRS students. Great job!

LAKE STREET SCHOOL –



Lake Street School is wrapped in Kindness this December! Students can read our daily act of kindness on the bulletin board across from the cafeteria and talk about it in Morning Meeting. Our halls are decorated with our students' Candles of Kindness. Each student has written one way that he/she will be kind this month. Our daily act of kindness for today: *Hold a door open for someone.* How will *you* be kind today?

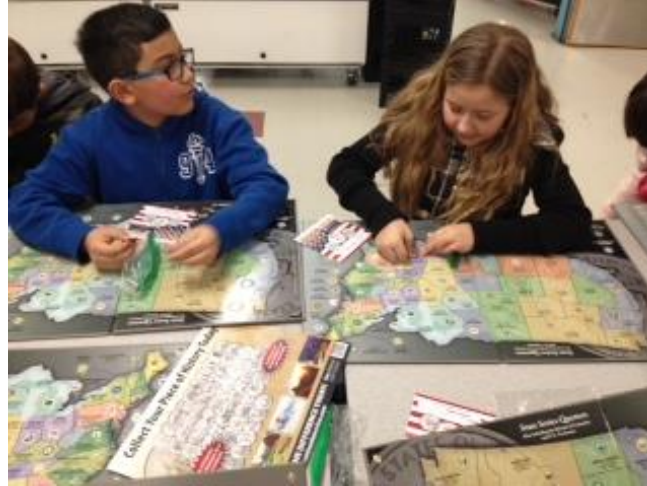
Our school wide focus expectation for our first trimester was Responsibility. Teachers were asked to nominate their top students whose demonstration of responsibility went above and beyond our expectations! We are SO excited to announce that **54** students were nominated! These students will enjoy a Dance Party on December 18th. Way to go!

MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – A small group of third graders at MSS are participating in Genius Hour. Genius Hour is an educational movement modeled after Google's 20% time-Google employees can spend 20% of their time at work engaged in projects of their choosing. Genius Hour allows students to learn

about topics, questions, or ideas that they are passionate about. After school each week, these students will gather to come up with questions, create ideas, conduct research, and explore their passions. In our first meeting, students watched a Kid President video, brainstormed inventions that changed the world, reflected on their passions and interests, and began the process of creating questions and ideas to study. What a productive hour! Mrs. Lee (who is graciously volunteering her time to assist) and Ms. Mears are so excited to see what our students can create this year!”



Fourth graders at Maple Street have been busy learning about United States geography! They each selected a state to research, developed essential questions, and are using their new knowledge to write informational books about their states. We were able to provide each of our fourth graders with their own state quarter collecting book! MSS staff contributed quarters as well, to jumpstart each child's collection. The boys and girls were so excited to bring the books home and share them with their families!



NORTHEAST SCHOOL – What a great week to catch up on! Last week our NES PTO did their annual Top Turkey raffle and the competition was fierce! Some of the top contenders were Mrs. Warner, Mrs. Champagne, and Mrs. Cribben, but Ms. Harrison was the true winner and, boy, did she rock that costume! Ms. Harrison was sure to visit each class and wish them a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday! This week has surely been exciting as well! The fourth graders are finishing up their first research project of the school year; students will be showing off their PowerPoint's to their classmates and reports will be displayed with pride on this month's bulletin boards!

We had a special guest cartoonist come into the 5th grade and teach an art class! The fifth graders were so excited to meet our very own Mrs. Edlin's father, who creates professional art of his very own. Everyone, especially the cheerleader's have been getting ready for our special Crazy Sock and Slipper

Spirit Day happening next Wednesday so don't forget to show your spirit. You could be showing your spirit everyday by purchasing some really great NES gear from the PTO! There are sweatshirts, t-shirts, sweatpants, and more!

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – It has been a busy week at Skinner Road School. Report Cards will be sent home on Monday, December 7. We look forward to meeting with parents to share student progress. Report cards can be a time of celebration and review of the wonderful accomplishments your child has made. For some parents it may be a time of frustration and may cause concern. This is a time for parents to meet with teachers to not only review the first quarter but to set a path for future academic, social and emotional growth.

When you sit down with your child to review their grades start with the positive aspects of the report card. Highlight the areas where they are demonstrating the most growth and effort. When parents point out the positives it shows the child that you care about their accomplishments.

If your child's grades are not on grade level talk to them about what might be the cause.

- Was the work too hard
- Is he/she having difficulty keeping up with the class
- Is your child completing all of their homework

During your conference time discuss with the teacher any issues you feel may be impacting your child. Write down any questions you may have so you don't forget them during the conference time.

LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL - We have made wonderful gains in the first quarter of the school year. The middle school students can now list all 50 states, in alphabetical order!! Ask them to sing you their song that they'll remember for the rest of their lives. Now that this unit is complete, we will turn our attention to the Australian continent, followed by Africa.

Xtramath scores, that measure timed-fluency, are at record highs!! Congratulations!



We recently finished a novel, Lawn Boy, which was about a 12 year old boy who got a clunky, old riding mower for his birthday. Next thing you know, he owned a business with a dozen employees, was investing in the stock market, and sponsored a prize fighter, quickly becoming rich beyond his wildest dreams!! Ask your student to tell you about the bad guy, Rock!

Next STEP - The past few weeks have been busy at Next STEP. In addition to attending job sites, Next STEP students participated in cooking a Thanksgiving Day meal with all of the sides. The hope was that the students could assist with Thanksgiving Day meal preparations at home and share some of these learned recipes. The ADL lesson for that week was table manners. The participants learned the proper place settings, how to sit properly, cut correctly, and eat at an appropriate pace. In addition to table manners, we discussed conversation starters and how to interact with others. The student led recipe this week is grilled cheese with tomato soup. The Adult Daily Living Lesson (ADL) for the week is elapsed time.