



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – February 12, 2016

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – ¡Mi casa es su casa! - Students in Senora Vijayasekar's Spanish II classes have been comparing homes in Vernon to homes in Madrid. Their task was to select two homes and compare them in terms of price, the number of rooms, bathrooms, and other extras. Students had to then say and write sentences stating which house they liked better and state at least two reasons. One student found a house in Vernon under \$60,000 and shared that she could afford that house after college, especially if she could find a roommate. It was great to hear that she is planning ahead to return to Vernon after college.

This activity was in conjunction with our study of homes; students learned vocabulary related to our homes, reviewed the exchange rate as they calculated the price of the Spanish home in dollars, and wrote sentences using the comparative and superlative constructions. Later this quarter, they will do an oral presentation on this topic.

Students also sent Valentine cards in Spanish to their parents or to each other.

ALLIED HEALTH - Kaylin Blais, a senior at RHS, completed a 30 hour internship this fall at Manchester Fire and Rescue. Kaylin is in the second year of the Allied Health Program and is heavily involved in the Vernon Volunteer Fire Department. She plans on pursuing a career in the medical field. This internship provided a great experience for Kaylin to prepare for her future.

“My internship with Manchester Fire and Rescue EMS was an unbelievably valuable experience. I was exposed to people and experiences that I would not have been exposed to otherwise. My experience has helped me solidify my plans for the future. I want to be there for people on their hardest days and help them work through it.”

ENGLISH - The Rockville High School writing center is open for business. Writer's Block is a student run writing lab that supports student writers from all disciplines. The center is housed in room 227, and students are free to come with a pass from a teacher to brainstorm ideas, create thesis statements, get feedback on a writing piece, or for any other writing needs. We are excited for this opportunity to support writing across the disciplines.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – Miss Rinaldi's Spanish classes are creating projects describing themselves in the target language. Seventh grade students are reading, writing, listening and speaking in Spanish while completing performance-based tasks. Be on the lookout for videos, photo books, posters and pamphlets. Miss Rinaldi's students also created beautiful Valentine's Day cards in Spanish to share with their loved ones.

Advisory students enjoyed their "building trust" activity on Wednesday, February 3. Students with blindfolds trusted the directions they received from their guides and successfully navigated through the labyrinth of chairs and objects in their path!

The eighth grade language arts classes had a visit from Rockville High School's creative writing students. The 8th grade students were inspired to write poems during the visit. The high school students explained the Creative Writing program at RHS and Junior Tiffany Cosgrove stated, “it is a place where students find their voice.” Creative Writing can be taken as a freshman class and is a new addition to the vast choices available to the 8th graders at RHS.

Twenty- two students will represent VCMS at the Connecticut History Day regional competition on February 27 at Manchester High School. Students from all three grades have created a variety of projects in the categories of exhibit, website, documentary, and performance. Mrs. Lee and Mrs. McManaman are meeting with the students in after school workshops to help them strengthen their research and revise their projects to be ready for the big day. We are thrilled to have these students' work featured in the competition!

The VCMS Mathcounts team (grades seventh and eighth) traveled to Hartford on Saturday, February 6, to compete in the regional Mathcounts competition. We had a team of four students with three individual participants representing VCMS. The students have been meeting once a week since September to practice problems, learn strategies for problem-solving, and apply new math concepts.

Our team members were Alex Dionne, John Kelleher, Chad Moreau and Caitlyn Simler; the individual students competing were Colton LaBrecque, Meghan McAuliffe and Curtis Roggi. All of these seventh-grade students represented VCMS well.

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL – Center Road School student participated in their annual Jump Rope for Heart. All students grades K-5 participated in the activity. It was a fundraiser for the American Heart Association. Students enjoyed playing different jump rope games and cheering on their classmates. It was a fun-filled day.

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – Fourth grade Students presented their individual research projects to the Superintendent and Board of Education members. We're so proud of our students for showcasing their learning. Congratulations to these student leaders: Colin Yarusewicz, Julia Andrews, Austin Petow (pictured), McKena Clemons, Aurora Luce and Abby Brouillard!



Our PTO fundraiser at Jack and Allie's Bookstore was a huge success! Several families turned out for some Valentine fun with story time, crafts, treats and books! We even had a visit from Leo!



MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – Students in grades K-5 just completed their NWEA MAP winter assessment. Students take this assessment three times per year, (fall, winter and spring) with the exception of kindergarteners who only take the assessment in the winter and spring. This assessment helps teachers individualize instruction, set achievement goals for students and the class, understand achievement patterns and evaluate student performance. We are so proud of all the hard work and effort that our students put into the assessment. So many students made remarkable gains. MAP reports will be sent home and discussed at parent/teacher conferences

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – This week has been a busy week at Northeast. Students thoroughly enjoyed ‘Career Day’ as halls were filled with doctors, chefs, athletes and so many more. The learning that takes place at Northeast School is amazing! On Thursday evening, Staff, students and families came together for Family Math Night. Students worked on “Make and Take” math games to bring home to play with friends and family. It was great having families get together for an evening of math fun! To end the week, students did different activities to show kindness to friends.

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL –



A huge thank you to Nancy Michaud the owner of Knit Two-Gether in Vernon for donating both her time and yarn for the SRS Student Crochet Club. 16 students and 5 staff members started meeting on Tuesday after school. The club is learning how to make a scarf for our first project. Both the students and adults had a great time.

LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL - LHS is excited to have Tiffany Adams as part of our team. Tiffany is the newest paraeducator to join LHS. She has been busy working with students on a number of hands on activities. Tiffany has quickly formed relationships with some of our students. We are happy to have her support!

NEXT STEP - Job sites welcomed our participants back after 2 snow days. Functional academic lessons are very individualized. Certain students focused on projecting the cost of everyday household items and then looking up the exact price, while another student is learning how to pursue looking for apartments/ independent living. Another group of students worked on oral fluency and usage of everyday words. The cooking lesson for the week will be a group decision. (This group cooking lesson was scheduled to take place last week, but delayed due to the snow storm.) All of the participants must come to an agreement on the chosen recipe. This directly ties into our Adult Daily Living Lesson (ADL) about advocacy and conflict resolution.

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.