



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – March 4, 2016

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – ENGLISH - Junior Kaitlin Tonkin has been cited for excellence in the prestigious Nancy Thorpe National Poetry Contest sponsored by Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia. Her poem earned an honorable mention in a field of over 1,000 poems.

Congratulations to Winona Scheff who advanced to the Poetry Out Loud State Championship! She will compete on March 15th at CCSU for the state title.



MURDER MYSTERY Some wonderful press about the murder mystery:

<http://www.courant.com/community/vernon/hc-rr-rhs-murder-mystery-0310-20160226-story.html> Members of Rockville High School's 2016 Creative Writing Club are proud to present the original murder mystery, "Straight Outta Paper," on Thursday, March 10th and Friday, March 11th at 7:00 pm in the RHS auditorium. Which RHS teacher jammed the copy machine?

It is a family-friendly G-rated production this year! The 9th annual murder mystery is a play written and performed by RHS students. Audience members have an opportunity during intermission to cast a vote for the identity of the criminal, and if they're right, they just might win a prize basket or fabulous gift certificate!

Tickets for the show are \$7 and will be sold at the door. Extra raffle tickets for the voting at intermission are an additional \$1 per ticket. Free refreshments will be served during intermission.

AS SCHOOLS MATCH WITS - On Saturday, February 27th, four students from Rockville High School competed on As Schools Match Wits, a high school quiz show filmed by WGBY, the PBS station out of Springfield, MA. The teams compete one-on-one to try to qualify for the playoff round. Only the top eight scores from the season qualify for the playoffs. While we have been asked not to reveal the results until after the episode airs, the team did great and the community should be very proud. Stay tuned for future updates. The four students were Joyce Hida, Chelsea Chatterton, Ryan Moreau, and Kylie Kearney. The show will air on Saturday, April 16th.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – Miss Rinaldi's Spanish students created amazing projects describing themselves in the target language. Check them out in the school library as they will on display during the international potluck dinner.

Mrs. Samsonenko's classes have been practicing Teamwork in Advisory.

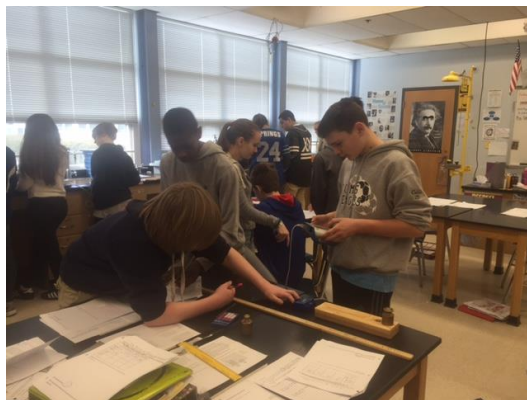
Our EPOCH Art students were invited to go to Real Art Ways - a trip that was fully grant funded! Italian-American artist, Alina Gallo (resident of Rome, Italy) was on-site painting a mural. She had just started moving her piece onto the walls of a full gallery on Monday, and by the time we visited on Wednesday all of the lines were up and she was filling in with color. She taught us how she makes her own egg tempera paint. She also discussed the theme of her work in depth with us. We had time to view a documentary film titled, "A Place at the Table". As described on the web site: "Narrated entirely by adolescents, this historical account tells the stories of individuals and groups who have toppled barriers that their forefathers faced and emerged with tolerance and compassion where prejudice and hate used to lie." We discussed the film in length and will be creating a piece of artwork based on our experiences at RAW.

Mrs. Nevin, Mr. Giard, and Mrs. Lee

Students in Mrs. Wolfgang's science classes have worked on the Slipping and Sliding Lab this week. Students are being hired by a shipping company who transports fragile cargo across the ocean. On rough seas, the cargo tends to move along the ship floor and get damaged. Students investigated how to increase the friction between the cargo and the deck of the ship. To collect data, students used handheld Pasco Spark units with force probes. This technology collects data, graphs it, and then allows students to analyze it (like find an average). Students tested different surfaces including carpet, sand paper, and fabrics as well as addition of weight to the box to determine a solution to the problem.

6th grade Social Study classes have started their unit on Europe. Classes have located and identified a variety of the continent's landforms and waterways, mapped Northern Europe and have learned each of the capitals. Students are looking forward to learning about additional countries in the future.

Jon-Paul LaFerriere used to sit in Mrs. Nevins' art classroom about ten years ago. He was part of a project in Rockville at the Hockanum Mill - the HUGE window paintings that many of us see when we go downtown! Today, the New England Motorcycle Museum is being built in the white building right next to that original mural. The owner of the museum, Mr. Kaplan, wants to restore some of those panels that have deteriorated due to weather and time. He also wants to add new panels to the project. Jon-Paul LaFerriere contacted Mrs. Sherri O. Nevins at VCMS and now we have a group of EPOCH Art students re-involved in this mural project! Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Nevins and Jon-Paul have been working together to get this project underway! These paintings will be a permanent addition to the already existing mural. Each 2016 EPOCH Art student that participates will be a part of a mural in downtown Rockville! We will be working to complete all of the panels throughout the months of February and March. Keep your eyes open to see the final work being displayed this Spring!



CENTER ROAD SCHOOL –Over 80 parents came to CRS yesterday to watch the 5th grade debates. All fifth grade students have spent the past several weeks researching various topics and

collaborating with classmates to prepare for the final debates. Students were articulate and well-prepared, and impressed teachers, administrators, and parents.

Tomorrow is Center Road School's annual school fair. There will be games, food, prizes, and many raffle baskets. All are welcome to this fun family event.

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – Our inaugural LSS Family Game Night was a blast! Family members raced each other to see who could stack cups the fastest, shake all of the ping pong balls out of the box in the Penguin Waddle, or wiggle the cookie from their forehead to their mouth without using hands in Cookie Face! We had a blast and are looking forward to next year!



Kindergarten students are learning that number sentences can be backwards or forward. In the words of one student: “ $4+4=8$, that’s a forward one. Eight is made out of $4+4$. I like backwards ones.”

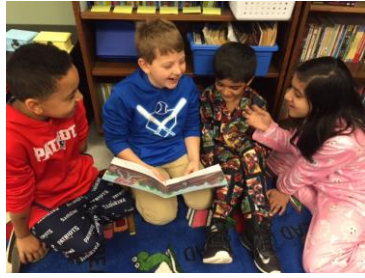
Third grade students are using Readers’ Theater to engage in fractured fairy tales. Students are reading character parts, such as the Princess who doesn’t *want* to marry a prince. She does meet a fellow who is mad about her sneakers! We’re looking forward to our Third Grade Fairy Tale Night on March 23rd!



First grade students are learning about teeth! They did an experiment to see what happens to their teeth when they’re exposed to sugary drinks. Yuck!

MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – At MSS....we believe..

- all children can learn to high standards.
- in having high expectations for all learners.
- all students deserve dynamic teaching that is centered on high quality curriculum and standards.
- that diversity enriches the learning environment.
- in working collaboratively with families and the community.
- learning is a life-long process.



NORTHEAST SCHOOL – This week was full of reading fun at NES! We kicked off the week with a reading themed laser light show. This music- filled assembly was followed by a Dr. Seuss assembly and a visit from the “Cat in the Hat”. This week, the school was filled with colorfully decorated doors in honor of Dr. Seuss’s birthday and the Read Across America event. The door decorating turned out to be Seuss-tastic!



SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – Skinner Road students and staff celebrated Read Across America Day on March 2. Students did craft activities, buddy reading, and the entire building participated in a Drop Everything and Read Activity at 2:30. On Friday March 4 Skinner Road School is hosting an Autism Puzzlethon. There will be puzzle filled family fun, food, and prizes for all ages and abilities. All Proceeds benefit ASRC’s programs and services in Connecticut. Donations can be made on-line at www.puzzleton.org. Chuckie Cheese will be making an appearance at the event.



LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL – Loveland Hill School celebrated Read Across America Day this week in grand style. Students read Dr. Seuss books while wearing pajamas and silly hats. Did you know that Dr. Seuss did the same thing when he wanted inspiration for a new book!

NEXT STEP - Job sites continue to go well. Unified Sports held a home scrimmage on Tuesday with Tolland and Manchester. Functional academic lessons focused on check book skills, money skills, following directions, and independent living/apartment seeking. The cooking lesson this week is microwavable meals. The Adult Daily Living (ADL) lesson is interviewing and conversation 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.