



# VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## **GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – April 22, 2016**

**ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL** – Five RHS students were selected by a national screening committee as CT finalists for the Letters About Literature Contest. Congratulations to Gillian Foley, Vivian Ufongene, Hannah Brown, Sarah Ference, and Winona Scheff on this wonderful award.

Letters About Literature is a reading and writing contest for students in grades 4-12. Students are asked to read a book, poem or speech and write to the author (living or dead) about how the book affected them personally. Letters are judged on state and national levels. Tens of thousands of students from across the country enter Letters About Literature each year.

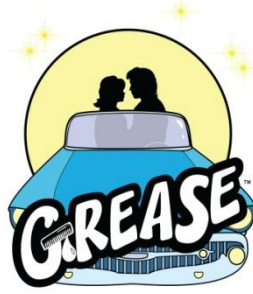
Kaitlyn Carr, Jacob Lowell, and Winona Scheff have been selected as three of Hill-Stead Museum's Fresh Voices Finalists for 2016! All of the finalists will read their work before a panel of judges at the Hill-Stead Museum on April 21st. The winners will have the opportunity to read at the Sunken Garden Poetry Festival in August.

<http://www.hillstead.org/sunken-garden-poetry-festival/poetry-programs-students-educators/fresh-voices-poetry-competition/>



**RHS LIBRARY** - The RHS Library has several Ebooks and print titles on several of the Presidential candidates and on the Presidential Primary available through our [DESTINY Online Catalog](#) or accessed through the QUEST tab in the ASPEN System. You may also download an app for DESTINY QUEST from the app stores and enter our Rockville High School information into the app ([vernonpublicschools.follettdestiny.com](http://vernonpublicschools.follettdestiny.com)). You can then read the Ebooks on a cell phone, Android device, iPhone, iPad, etc.

**MUSICAL** - Save the date and get ready to rock-'n-roll at Rockville High School! Join us on Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30 at 7:30 PM for our exciting production of *Grease: The School Version*. More than fifty of our students will be singing, dancing, and wowing you with their musical talent! Tickets are now on sale for the general public at \$10 adult and \$8 student. Call (860) 870-6050, ext 0.

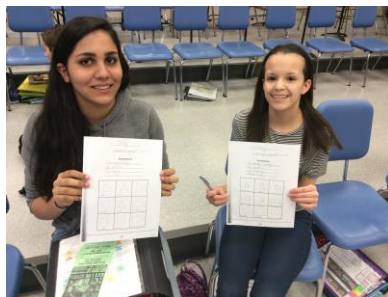


**VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL** – This week in Exploring Music Composition students are making a grid composition out of the vocal and body percussion sounds we have been exploring in Unit Two. This group has written a composition inspired by illness, using sounds such as sniffles and sighs and coughs. The grid helps them notate their ideas so they can remember them during our class performance later in the week. Mrs. Cook is proud of the independence that students show and the creativity that they add to each composition challenge. Students collaborate throughout the block and take pride in their work.

On Thursday, April 21, 2016, the VCMS band room hosted guest speaker, Steve Kaminski. Steve Kaminski has been actively working in Hollywood California for over 20 years in both the music and television industry. His credits include various projects for television, radio, and film, including producing, performing, sound design and orchestrations. Steve has scored over 300 hours of television and film music for CBS, ABC, PBS, MTV and BET as well as the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

As a television composer, Mr. Kaminski has brought his talent to many television shows including MTV's Makin' the Band, The Ghost Whisperer, Ugly Betty, and Samantha Who, as well as many others. While in Los Angeles, he worked as a music coach and composer for Desperate Housewives, Criminal Minds, and several other Disney TV series. Classically trained, he holds multiple music degrees in vocal performance, as well as music theory and composition.

Mr. Kaminski shared insight into careers in the performing arts with our students. He talked about how to turn one creative idea into a career. He taught students how to present themselves when they perform in order to be noticed and capture their audience's attention right away. He showed the process that he goes through to take an idea from a new movie script to a finished product. The VCMS band students were grateful to meet him and hope to use the tips he provided during the upcoming spring performance season.



**CENTER ROAD SCHOOL** – This week Center Road School held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Student Variety Show at VCMS. The Variety Show was organized by the CRS Student Council as a way to raise money for local charities. The event included 30 students, and contained 17 different acts. Some of the acts included singing, dancing routines, gymnastics, karate, instrumental pieces, and even beat boxing! The students

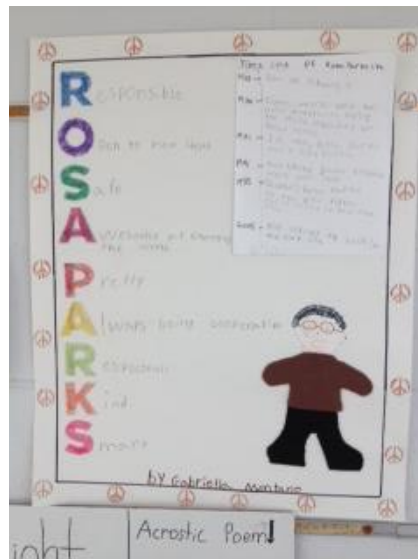
and families enjoyed watching the students show off all of their different talents. In total, this event raised over \$250 for local charities! Great job CRS community!

**LAKE STREET SCHOOL** – We are happy to announce that the Grade 5 students representing LSS in the CT Invention Convention are: Taylor Karkevich, Sam Krantz and Kuba Laskowski! The students will be presenting their projects to judges at the Gampbell Pavillion on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Grade 3 students visited the Bushnell and the CT State Capital on Monday. They met with Representative Tim Ackert, who shared how laws are passed or vetoed. Students were able to stand on the Bushnell stage and see framed autographs of famous people who've visited, including former US President, Bill Clinton!

Fourth and fifth grade students took the SBAC assessment for Language Arts and Math this week. The students worked hard and the process has been very smooth.

Third grade students wrote acrostic poems to showcase their biography studies. Check out this poem on Rosa Parks by Gabby Montanez!



This week's winners of the LEO Math Challenge are: K-2: Mrs. Turnbull's Class and 3-5: Miss Bortolan's Class. CONGRATULATIONS! Keep up the great work, LSS students!

**MAPLE STREET SCHOOL** – Students at Maple are always sharpening their learning. In the photo below, Ms. Roos' class is playing I have...Who has, a fun game that gets everyone moving.



**NORTHEAST SCHOOL** – Students are always happy to read at NES!



**SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL** –



There was a lot of activity at SRS this week. Everyone has been excited that the weather was nice enough for outdoor recess. It was a beautiful day on Thursday when students in grade two did a walking trip to Dart Hill Park. Students at SRS were excited to hear that they have read over 213,000 pages, reaching their goal of 200,000 pages two weeks early. Mrs. Simon is getting nervous about what animal she will have to kiss this year. We are very proud of the beautiful art work that Mrs. Tooker has been hanging up in the halls.

**LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL** - The students of Loveland Hill are enjoying the warm weather and having outdoor recess again. Students are getting ready for SBAC testing next week and are looking forward to an upcoming field trip to Beardsley Zoo in May.

*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.*