



# VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – October 23, 2015

**ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – INTERACT CLUB** - On Saturday, October 17, seven members of the RHS Interact Club joined members of the Rockville Rotary Club for the Rotary's annual community clean-up event. This year, the group tackled some landscaping at Platt Park, a little-known area on Lake Street that was donated by the Platt family several years ago. Under the guidance of Parks & Rec staff member (and very talented gardener) Tracy Gorecki, the Interactors accomplished a good amount of maintenance landscaping including preparing a large area for mulch to protect the existing trees and clearing another large area of brush. As with any garden area, there's always a lot to do to maintain its beauty. The Interact Club will return to the park in the spring to continue the work in its newly "adopted" spot to help the Town maintain this undiscovered gem. Special thanks to sophomore Shane Tourtelotte, juniors Shannon Skivington, Lauren Honan, Abby Jones, Chris Perrone, and Hannah Ramsdell, and senior Haley Mistretta, Interact advisors Paul and Rita Courtois and second grader Ryan Courtois, as well as Rotarians Lisa Reinhardt, Randi Saboski, Gary Ruchin, and Risa Filkoff for their efforts. The Interact Club's next service project will be on November 5 at the Cornerstone Foundation's annual SoupFest.

**TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION** - Technology Education students are learning the machining processes of today using the Mastercam Program in the STEM Lab. This state of the art machine, funded by the Sykes Foundation, enables our students to learn on industry standard machines for real world career training.



**ENGLISH/POETRY** - Rockville High School seniors Gillian Foley and Samantha Westwood were among the winners of the Smart is Cool poetry contest sponsored by the Connecticut Poetry Society. The winning poets read their work at the West Hartford Public Library on October 22nd. Poet Christine Beck hosted the well-attended event which celebrated elementary school, middle school, and high school students. Congratulations to our talented RHS creative writers!

**AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION** - On Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> we held our annual Welcome Freshmen Picnic for all Agricultural Education students and their families. Over 200 folks carved pumpkins, bid at the Silent Auction, enjoyed a picnic feast, and attended an FFA meeting. Also, we have added to our

animal family; a mini-mule and a mini-donkey. If interested in an “equine meet and greet” contact [Calvin.Brodersen@vernonct.org](mailto:Calvin.Brodersen@vernonct.org)  
Meet Sam!



**MATH TEAM** - Four students from the RHS Math Team participated in the 28th Annual Mathematics Meet at Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Tuesday, October 20. The highest scoring student from RHS earns a \$1000 scholarship to WPI should they chose to attend. We were given a tour of the campus by RHS Alumni Peter Melander, currently a junior double majoring in Aeronautical Engineering and Physics with a minor in Music. He was very enthusiastic about WPI and is very involved on campus. He gave our students a great picture of college life. Results of the meet will be mailed in a few weeks. Participating for RHS were Kenny Zheng, Shariq Khan, Hebatalla Mohamed and Abby Stansel.



**SCHOOL COUNSELING** - RHS staff and students participated in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s Out of the Darkness walk on Saturday, October 17, 2015 at Great River Park.



**GIRLS’ VOLLEYBALL** - The RHS Girls’ volleyball team held their annual “Dig Pink” game, on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 to raise awareness of breast cancer and money for the “Side-Out Foundation” for research. With the incredible generosity of the community, the team was able to raise close to \$1900. Thank you to all who contributed!



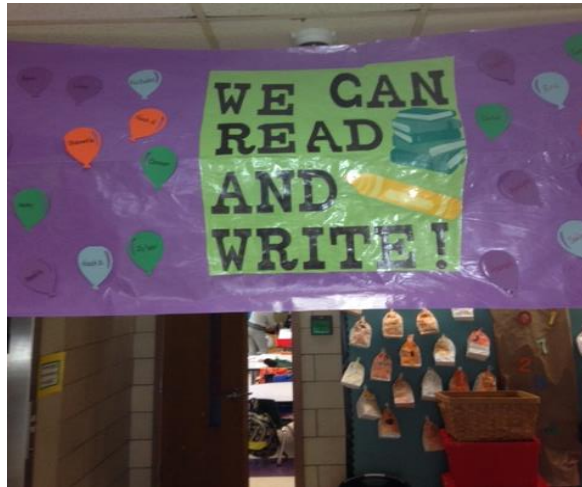
**VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL** – On Friday, October 16th, the VCMS community enjoyed getting together for Family Night. Over 300 people, including students, staff and family members, enjoyed playing games and having fun together. Guests had the opportunity to win prizes for attending, to challenge a friend in the obstacle course, to play volleyball, or to jump in the bounce house. The fun also included giant Jenga, super-sized Kerplunk, tattoos and a movie. Papa John's served up the pizza along with the help of many staff members. The atmosphere was friendly, happy, and full of energy. A big THANK YOU to the Bardon family for donating their bounce house for the event and to all of the staff members who volunteered their time, as well as prizes and supplies for the night.

On Monday, October 19, 2015 representatives from Cheney Technical and Prince Technical High Schools came to VCMS to present information about high school options to 7<sup>th</sup> grade and interested 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students learned about the wide variety of programs, academics, and technologies available at the technical schools. As students enter their 8th grade year, they have the exciting opportunity to make a decision about which high school they want to attend.

Our new Vernon School District Superintendent, Mr. Joseph Macary, is visible and active in our school halls and rooms this year! During his visit to VCMS, on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Mr. Macary was able to visit classrooms while classes were in session. His visits were well received by both staff and students and his feedback has been positive. Mr. Macary also met with small groups of teachers and plans to do so every month. He has made his vision for our school district very clear. Mr. Macary has the full support and effort of the Vernon Center Middle School faculty and staff and we are excited to join with him in the plan to continuously improve our school.

**CENTER ROAD SCHOOL** – All 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have just completed their pinhole camera project with Thomas Mezzonotte. Students learned about the science behind photography, and learned that a camera can be as simple as an old shoebox with a pinhole in it. Each student made their own shoebox camera, and then captured an image on it using a special film. Student then went into one of the classrooms, which we transformed into a darkroom, to develop their image. This is always student favorite activity for 5<sup>th</sup> graders, and continues to be a tradition that they do at Center Road School.

It's official! Our kindergarten students can now read and write! To celebrate this accomplishment the kindergarten wing has transformed their hallway to a reading and writing celebration center! Students celebrated their writing and reading by sharing their skills with their peers, and sharing their writing with the CRS staff. We are so proud of our kindergarten students for all their hard work.



**LAKE STREET SCHOOL** – LSS is showing their Lion Pride with our first Dens of the year! Each month, students will gather in cross grade level groups to participate in a social skills activity that reinforces our school wide expectations. This week, we decorated outlines of our hands to make a wreath. Look for these on our bulletin board in the main hallway!



Kindergarten students celebrated their first Reading and Writing Celebration this week! Students cuddled together to read their favorite big books. Each student read a piece of completed writing to the class.

Grade 5 students are integrating technology into their work by using PB Works to write/ revise their writing with the use of Chrome Books.

**MAPLE STREET SCHOOL** – This week third grade students began the first module 2 math lesson. The target was "I can explore time as continuous measurement by using a stopwatch and tracking my data in a chart." The students loved the hands on learning and using investigation to learn about time. Students were so engaged and very excited about this lesson!

This Friday all lunch waves earned a "fancy lunch" because of exceptional lunchroom behavior. Students got to dine with table clothes and "fancy" center pieces. Students were able to have open choice as to where to sit and listen to music. A quote from one of our kindergarten students: "This is the best day ever."

**NORTHEAST SCHOOL** – It's been a wonderfully, full week this week! Our Unified Arts teachers have been really getting into the season! Mrs. Edlin (formally Ms. Gilchrist, our art teacher) has been decorating our school with spooky and creative creations! While in music, Mrs. Baldwin is bumping right up to Veteran's Day and getting ready to "wow" the school with their tribute to the Veterans. Let's not forget that Mrs. Maxwell, in P.E., is helping students work on their timing for the mile run while we still have some beautiful fall weather days left.

In other news, all grade levels have finished their first Math units and the students were so excited to show what they know. Kindergartners represented NES on their field trip this week to Foster Farm; they stayed engaged and were thrilled to continue their learning about season changes and celebrations. The third graders have been studying life cycles and making observations of live Cray Fish in their classrooms and fourth graders have been learning firsthand about just how electricity works. On the other hand, fifth graders are having their own pumpkin decorating contest—the creativity is on display and ready to be judged! Come on over to Northeast and check them out for yourself!

**SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL** – It has been another exciting week at Skinner Road School. Mr. Uthgenannt has been running the Grand Slam of Running. This is a series of four running events that take place during the school year. The student who finishes first in each grade level gets a trophy.

Skinner Road School participated in the Jumpstart's *Read for the Record*®. This is a global campaign which generates public support for high-quality early learning by mobilizing millions of children and adults to take part in the world's largest shared reading experience. On **October 22, 2015**, Jumpstart celebrates the 10th anniversary of *Read for the Record* with the campaign book, *Not Norman: A Goldfish Story*, written by Kelly Bennett and illustrated by Noah Z. Jones. ent. Mrs. Masulli read the book and Mrs. Simon was dressed as Norman the fish. The students participated by reading two cue cards that said: Poor Norman!!! Everyone had a great time.

October 23 is the second annual Trunk or Treat Event at Skinner Road School. Cars who are participating will line up at 6:00 and students will go from trunk to trunk starting at 6:30.

**LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL** - Loveland Hill School is busy as usual. This week, we hosted our first Parent Appreciation Night. Many families came and enjoyed interacting with the staff over a nice dinner, while young family members enjoyed a movie across the hall. It was a great opportunity to get to know one another better. We look forward to hosting another Parent Night next term.



Miss Middleton is especially happy and teachers are excited because we began our hallway whiteboard project. The middle school students, guided by Ms. Tooker, used a special paint to strategically place whiteboards outside every staff members' office and classrooms. Now students will be able to glance at academic reminders and preview upcoming special events or even two way communications if students want to pose clarifying questions.