



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – October 24, 2014

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Family and Consumer Sciences - The Food for Today students competed in a biscuit bake-off last week. They had to create their own recipe and then had one block to make their biscuits. They showed great creativity and initiative in this competition. Faculty members helped to judge the contestants and determine the winner. Below are pictures of some of the finished products.



Agricultural Education - The Agricultural Education Department hosted the GAPP students for a Floral Design workshop. Each student and teacher created a fall themed vase design, which they presented to their host families. In addition, GAPP students were provided a tour of our large animal facility.

GSA - Thanks to the wonderful generosity of staff and students, the RHS Gay Straight Alliance raised over \$100 during Ally week! We were also very fortunate to have an outside donation of \$100! We will put this much needed money toward the True Colors field trip in March.

GSA works to promote acceptance and raise awareness. Ally Week is a national student run movement that asks people to pledge to not use anti LGBT language, intervene safely where students are being harassed, and support efforts to make our school and every school SAFE for ALL students. THANK YOU AGAIN, RHS!



Career Center - The Career Center hosted a field trip to the “Future Workforce Opportunities Fair” at the Windsor Marriott. Students were able to speak with employers from various companies to learn about future job opportunities that will be available in the aerospace industry.

German American Partnership Program Presentation - On October 23rd our GAPP (German American Partnership Program) visitors, from the Martin-Luther-Gymnasium in Frankenberg, Germany gave a presentation in the RHS auditorium about life in Germany. The RHS classes, faculty, and staff, who attended, as well as the Germans’ host families, RHS partners, and the Mayor of Vernon, Mr. Champagne, warmly received their performance. The German students had prepared a program of music, dance, and visual presentations. Anton Ulbricht, and Erik Militzer, were the hosts of the presentation. Carolin Achilles played the piano, Michell and Alexandra sang a duet, Bastian and Ulli played a jazz tune, and Benjamin, and Josef Buske, presented images of sights around Germany. The group then performed traditional dances from Germany, Russia, Austria, and Ireland in a ‘dance across Europe’. Those in attendance were treated to a film the GAPP students produced about their hometowns of Frankenberg and Hainichen, their school life, and their family homes. The film also included greetings from the Mayor of Frankenberg, Mr. Firmenich, and the Principal of Martin-Luther-Gymnasium, Mrs. Burkert.

As well as showing their many performing skills and their excellent English, the Germans also took the opportunity to thank their host families and RHS partners directly, with a personal expression, and the gift of a floral arrangement they had made with the assistance and guidance of the RHS VoAg Department.

The RHS students who were hosts to their German partners are already turning their thoughts to the return visit to Germany in April 2015. The presentation by our German exchange students will be a hard act to follow! This event was a great opportunity for RHS students to learn more about German Life and Culture, and we would like to thank them for all their time, effort, and preparation. The GAPP German students and teachers did a FANTASTIC job!

Social Studies - The Rockville High School Social Studies Department brought 60 Grade 9 and 10 students to UConn to attend the 15th annual UNESCO Human Rights Campus on Tuesday, October 22nd. The students listened to speakers from Asia, Africa and the United States on the human trafficking epidemic facing our world in the 21st century. The students then participated in an interactive "game" presented by Lawyers Without Borders furthering their learning. The trip was followed up by a presentation from Holly Austin Smith. She gave a presentation to approximately 200 students about her experience with human trafficking. She fell prey to a man engaged in sex trafficking at the age of 14 in a suburb in New Jersey. She spoke to our students about the warning signs and ways in which they can help students in need.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – On Friday, October 17, the VCMS community came together for Family Night. Family Night is an event to bring together staff, students, and their families in a fun and positive atmosphere. Close to 300 people participated in activities such as scooter basketball, volleyball, BINGO, "Minute-to-win-it" challenges, Wii Just Dance, card making, monster sketches, cat's cradle, creating fortune tellers, and more! The energy was high and it was the perfect night to make positive connections with VCMS students. Mr. Harrison attempted to hula hoop but couldn't quite hold up against the tough competition! VCMS staff members helped to make the night a success by donating desserts, drawing prizes, participating in activities, and spending their precious time with our VCMS families

VCMS would like to say a heartfelt "thank you" to everyone for your contributions to family night. Whether you donated your time, items for the raffle, or desserts, we truly appreciate your help. The activities were a huge hit thanks to your enthusiasm and energy. The feedback from many parents was great. You're the best!

Spirit week will take place next week October 27th-October 31st. We will end spirit week with Dress Your Teacher! Students will use their SOAR cards to vote for spirit week days and for staff they would like to see dressed up on October 31st.

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL –The 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders have all been working hard during physical education class to complete the Connecticut Physical Fitness Test. All students have completed the Sit and Reach Test for flexibility, the Push-up Test for muscular strength, the Curl-up Test for core strength, and the Mile Run for endurance. The physical education teachers have been impressed with the performance and improvements from many of our students.

All of our students in grades K-5 have just completed their Square 1 Art projects. Over the past couple of weeks students have been spending time in art class and beyond to complete these wonderful pieces of art. In a few weeks parents and families will have the opportunity to order their child's artwork on a wide variety of objects. This can make the perfect gift just in time for the holidays!

The new Student Council has just been elected at Center Road School! The council consists of 18 students from grades 4 and 5. The first meeting is going to be next week. We are so proud of every student who ran for this position. We are looking forward to working with the student council this school year.

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – All LSS students learned about bus safety this week! Mr. Johnson worked with all classes, Pre-K-5, to teach them how to jump from a bus safely in the event of an emergency.

We have been celebrating this week at LSS! Mrs. Cipolla's First Grade class had a Spooky Writing celebration with students and families. Students read their writing to adults and received compliments!



Second Graders enjoyed Apple Day on Tuesday! After singing songs and poems about apples, students participated in different activities, with the help of our parents. Activities included apple tasting, art, graphing and writing.



MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – On Friday, Maple Street’s PTO held its Harvest Fest. Students and families participated in many fun games, decorated pumpkins and had yummy treats. Maple Street School’s very own Elsa, Katie Sabal, appeared during the festivities. Students were so excited to have their photos taken with our very own princess.



Fourth grade students continue to work on the goal of healthy living. Students participated in the mile run at the high school. Students loved the experience of being able to exercise on the track.

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – Mystic Aquarium visited our kindergarten students introducing them to sea animals and their habitats. They were able to touch hermit crabs, snails and a shark’s tooth. Goldfish arrived this week. Students will draw and label the parts of a goldfish, learn what goldfish need to survive and read non-fiction books on sea life.

This week Northeast School students got a treat. Chinese Acrobats came on Thursday and entertained them with physical feats galore. It was a great opportunity for exposure to Chinese culture and to learn “hello” in Mandarin. Of course, student participation is always the highlight!



SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – Skinner Road students gathered in the gym on Monday to participate in the Jumpstart Read for the Record 2014 Campaign. The book that the students read together was Bunny Cakes. Older students were paired with your book buddies and we did a choral read led by Mr. DeBunny (also known as Mr. Devery) and Ms. Bunnacci (also known as Ms. Bonacci). We are hoping to break last year's record where 2,462,860 students read Otis. The mission of Jumpstart is to work toward the day where every child in America enters kindergarten prepared to be successful.

Friday evening students will have the opportunity to participate in a “Trunk or Treat” event sponsored by the PTO.

Skinner Road staff and students were highlighted in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation Video. You can access the video on You Tube at the following address: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XlcFoLHpgN0>

LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL - Students at LHS have been involved in cross grade mentoring activities. Students watched a short movie about empathy. A group discussion followed where students took turns sharing what it means to be empathetic which is part of Loveland Hill's mission.



LHS staff would like to thank Mr. Earl, Mr. Bettinger and Mrs. Lattanzio for helping keep LHS a functioning at its finest!

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.