



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – November 14, 2014

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Veterans Day - On Tuesday, November 11th, Rockville High School recognized and honored its staff members who have served (or who are still serving) in the armed forces. A recognition luncheon, courtesy of Mrs. Lori Gilmore and her Foods Classes, was provided. In addition, Mrs. Karen Fitzpatrick of our Ag Ed Department, together with Ag Ed students and staff, made beautiful corsages and boutonnières and presented them to our honorees.

Technology Education - The Advanced Video Class created a "What's Going on at RHS" video which was shown at the Board of Education Meeting on Monday, highlighting some of the great and innovative things we are doing at Rockville High School. The reaction to the video was outstanding and compliments keep pouring in! To check out this great project, visit the Rockville High homepage, or the VPS presents section at vernonpublicschools.org.

Ag Ed - In honor and support of Veteran's Day, the Ag Ed students and staff created over 60 corsages and boutonnières for the Veteran's Day Programs at Lake Street School and Rockville High School. They also provided a red, white and blue vase arrangement and bud vases for the Veteran's luncheon at RHS.

Science - Science Scholars had the first meeting of the year. Members of the program took a college interest survey that predicted the best major for the students. Most students got a S.T.E.M. field as a result, which validated their feelings about science and math courses. This first meeting was designed to introduce students to the program and its expectations. A general feeling of excitement and eagerness could be felt in the room by visitors.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – The VCMS community came together on November 11th for our Veterans. We honored and commemorated our heroes. Students and staff assembled in the auditorium and were privileged to enjoy a procession of veterans. The program consisted of songs, music, flag protocol and remembrance speeches. The event concluded with a breakfast for our Veterans and respective families who attended the ceremony

The Eagle Times is up and running! The newspaper club, with fresh new faces, is thrilled to have the very first issue of The Eagle Times circulated throughout VCMS. Newspaper club members are currently working on the second issue to be published in December!



CENTER ROAD SCHOOL – The NWEA testing has begun at CRS with the 4th graders. The students enjoyed taking the tests on-line, and overall they went very smoothly. Next week we will be moving to grades 3 and 5.

The gymnastics equipment is all set and ready for the students in all grades to use! For the next 4.5 weeks students will be showing off their talents on the floor mats, springboard, parallel bars, balance beam, rope swing, and the famous Big Bertha.

The final installment of the Discovery Program visited the 5th grade this week. This was the last of three sessions. The students enjoyed this interactive program that focused on tolerance, bully prevention, and positive relationships with peers.

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – We had a “Salute to Veterans” on Tuesday at Lake Street School. Thirty-eight Veterans joined us for our school wide assembly. Members from the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 17, Master Sergeant-First Sergeant Donald L. Harrison, United States Air Force (Retired) and local Veterans from Phelps Mansion located in Rockville were guests of Petty Officer First Class (Aviation Warfare) Tammy M. Salminen, United States Navy (Retired). Other special guests included mothers, fathers, brothers, uncles, grandfather, and great-grandfathers of our LSS students and families! Veterans were greeted by our Pride Club students, who presented each Veteran with a card made by a student, and a corsage from our Rockville High School Ag Ed students.

As Veterans entered the gym, they were greeted by our students, dressed in red, white and blue. Helena Bickford and Tyler Szegda led us in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Students in every grade level presented facts about the day, the flag or sang a special song. Afterwards, Veterans and their families were treated to refreshments made by the staff.

LSS raised \$200 for the Wounded Warriors project last month with Hat Day, made 250 cards for Veterans and created a Wall of Honor for all see!



MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – Maple Street School was very excited to welcome back Mystic Aquarium for the second year! Students in kindergarten, first, second, and third grades enjoyed wonderful presentations. Presenters taught about different ocean habitats and animals that live in those habitats. Students also learned about prey and predators and practiced classifying animals based on these terms. Our students were very brave and loved touching and exploring the various sea creatures! Thank you to Mystic Aquarium for sharing your knowledge and animals with us!

Our 4th grade field trip to the New England Air Museum in Windsor Locks, CT was a hit! We began our day learning about the different parts of planes, such as the fuselage, cockpit, rudders, elevators, wings, and tail. We even made our own jets and labeled the parts of it to help us remember. We also learned about the four different forces acting upon planes: thrust, drag, lift, and gravity. After that, Mrs. D. and Axel, our instructors, guided us around the museum, teaching us about different planes. Students

seemed especially interested when we learned about the plane that Amelia Earhart flew. Many students were intrigued by the mystery. Finally, after lunch, we learned that in order for planes to fly straight, they must be balanced. We learned exactly what that meant when we designed, built, and tested (and revised to make better!) our own gliders out of straws, cardstock, and paperclips. This was many students' favorite part of the day.

We were thrilled to be able to go on this trip! All the students agreed that they would enjoy returning to the museum someday to learn even more about planes and flight



NORTHEAST SCHOOL – It has been a memorable week at Northeast School. Our Veteran’s Day celebration began with a beautiful rendition of “God Bless the USA” performed by several fifth grade chorus members. Fifth and third grade students had the pleasure of meeting Veterans from different military branches. Our third graders, fourth graders and kindergarteners worked diligently as they completed the computerized Measures of Academic Performance (MAP) assessment. The fourth graders were soaring as they visited the New England Air Museum. Finally, Mrs. Mears, our fantastic nurse, has completed the hearing and vision screenings for all NES students.



SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL –

Officer Friendly (Officer Landry) is at SRS teaching students about keeping safe. All this month she is going into classrooms, reading a story and talking about what to do if you are not in a safe situation.

Saturday, November 15, is the SRS Turkey Trot. The Trot starts at 10:00 a.m. at SRS and ends at SRS. This event is put on by Mr. Uthgenannt, our physical education instructor.

This week SRS students have started to take the NWEA Map (Measure of Academic Progress) testing which is computerized tests that are adaptive to the student's level. We are testing in the area of math, reading, and language usage. As the student answers correctly questions become more difficult. If a student does not answer correctly the answers become easier. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level. These tests as well as our unit assessments in math, reading F and P, DRA, and DRP allow us to individualize learning for our students. We will be testing students during the winter and spring months to monitor student growth and progress.

LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL - The students in Mrs. Piazza's class have begun to learn about the Ice Age as well as the first Americans. Students are showing an interest in the now extinct animals of the Ice Age. They are also sharing what they know about the first people who inhabited our country. Students will soon be learning more about extinction and endangered species.

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.