



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – December 19, 2014

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – ABL Class - The Activities Based Learning Class made gingerbread houses. The dough and frosting were made from scratch, stone molds were used to bake the houses, and decorator bags were used to pipe the frosting onto the houses. Each student let their style shine in their decorations!



Ag Ed Department - Ten staff members and several Ag Ed students attended the “Holiday Centerpiece Workshop” held in the center on December 18th. Hot chocolate was enjoyed and everyone left with a wonderful evergreen design.

On the evening of December 18th, the Rockville FFA Chapter held a successful Red Robin fundraiser. In attendance were current students and their families, alumni and VPS teachers, staff and Board of Education members. One highlight: The former Rhode Island State FFA President from 1969, Mr. Skaling, introduced himself to our students. He was the FFA member that “seconded” the motion at the 1969 National FFA Convention to allow girls into the FFA!

Technology Education - Bonnie Beland's engineering class held the inaugural robot wars competition. The students applied mechanical and fluid engineering principles to their machines tasked with scooping up ping pong balls. The students were excited to design and test their ideas in the battle royal.



Empty Bowls Fundraiser - Thank you to Mrs. Lori Gilmore, Ms. Elizabeth Harding, and their Food For Today and Baking students for raising \$600 at the Empty Bowls Fundraiser! The money will be donated to HVCC and Food Share. Thank you also to all the faculty and staff that supported their efforts!

Career Center - Allied Health 1 & 2 students visited Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center on December 18th to participate in their “Let’s Not Meet by Accident Program.” This is a community outreach educational program that encourages teenagers to make “healthy choices in risky situations”, especially while driving. What teenagers see, hear, touch, and feel are in real settings with real trauma surgeons and real people whose lives have been directly affected by traumatic injuries. The program capitalizes on the opportunity to impact teenagers by using conflict resolution skills, humor, personal responsibility and positive peer pressure in developmentally appropriate ways.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – VCMS was proud to showcase their Band and Choral students in the holiday concerts that took place on December 10th and 11th. In addition to hearing the student growth from the previous performance checkpoint parents were able to enjoy an art display presented by the EPOCH art class and

watch a slideshow with photos and information about the curriculum that has been studied so far this year. VCMS could not be more proud of the students that were showcased this week.



VCMS students in Mrs. Tuller's ROPES math class participated in a community project to support a non-profit organization called Sarah's Second Chance Dog Rescue, run by a giving woman named Sue. Student had their "paws" in every part of this project: planning, baking, organizing and packaging homemade dog treats. It was a wonderful connection to our community, reinforcing the altruistic act of giving. On December 19th, the students will be presenting a \$100 donation to Miss Sue, along with other items for their four-legged furry friends. The students are already asking what their next community project will be!

On Monday December 15, students and staff at VCMS decorated and donated 50 gingerbread houses and sleighs to the We Are The Children Foundation to help bring cheer to the Foundation's holiday festivities in Hartford. The We Are The Children Foundation raises funds for abandoned, battered, disadvantaged, and needy children. The gingerbread house project took place during the school-wide Advisory block, which focuses on GENEROSITY in the month of December. Students discussed the meaning of generosity, gave examples of ways to be generous, and then had fun making the houses in hopes that they will bring smiles to the faces of other children.

The RHS Carolers, under the direction of Miss Rachel Shuttleworth, visited VCMS on December 17. Teachers and students were treated to beautiful holiday music as the Carolers strolled through the hallways. The RHS Carolers visit all of the Vernon schools and perform at various town events throughout the season, as well as at the RHS Winter Band and Chorus Concerts.

WE remain VICTORIOUS!!! VCMS students and staff braved the icy waters on Saturday, December 13 "sliding" to victory. The winner of the most creative costume was Dalton Sunderland. We successfully defended our previous title and raised over \$1,000 to help support sending "kids to camp".

We are in the Holiday Spirit at VCMS by celebrating our annual Holiday Share. Students were able to "purchase" gifts for and family and friends by using their SOAR cards. Students receive these cards for exemplifying SOAR values (Safety, Organization, Achievement, Respect and Responsibility).

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL – The Center Road School community was filled with the sounds of music throughout the week. On Wednesday, our school had the privilege of attending our fourth and fifth grade chorus and band concert. Our singers surprised us with a Northern Lights song, filling the dark gymnasium with radiant, shining colors.



On Thursday, the RHS Carolers serenaded each of our grade levels with the music of the holiday season. Students sang aloud and moved their heads to the beat of the familiar tunes.



In Mrs. Venzie's third grade class, students exercised their knowledge of synonyms and antonyms to rewrite their own version of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer." Here is a sample of student work: "Rudolph the ruby nosed reindeer, had a very gleaming nose. And if you ever spotted it, you would even declare it shines. All of the alternative reindeer, used to giggle and call him cognomens. They never allowed pitiful Rudolph, enroll in any reindeer recreations."

Today our annual toy drive ended, and the CRS Community was proud to donate over 200 toys to the Vernon Fire Department's Toys for Tikes program. Thank you all for your generosity.

Wishing you and your families and warm, relaxing, and safe winter break. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – The Lutz Museum presented Migrators and Hibernators to our Kindergarten classes this week. Students have been studying the habits of animals that migrate and hibernate in our region. Students were able to meet two hibernators from the Museum: Raspberry the Hedgehog and Angel the Turtle!



All of LSS enjoyed the tradition of caroling brought to us by the RHS Carolers. Students and staff were serenaded with festive tunes throughout our building, including the playground and the cafeteria. It was especially delightful to see some LSS Alumni among the Carolers.



MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – It was an exciting week at Maple Street School. To begin with, student achievement was celebrated at our trimester awards ceremony. We acknowledged students who had academic achievement in the areas of math, reading and writing. Also students showing consistent effort and positive character were recognized. Many parents attended this event supporting their children’s accomplishments.

This week students we were very fortunate to participate in an anti-bullying assembly. During this presentation students learned ways to stand up to bullies and to interact positively with each other. We want to thank our fabulous PTO for sponsoring this school-wide event.

Finally fifth grade students held their annual Snowflake Fair. Students were able to purchase donated items for the holiday season. The money raised helps support the fifth grade field trip to Boston. We want to thank all the parents and staff who donated items and also a special thanks to Miss Russell and Mr. Woods who went above and beyond to coordinate this fundraiser.

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – Northeast had another fun, but busy week of learning before the Winter Recess. The 5th grade class presented their toy inventions using the “Shark Tank” TV show format. They were very competitive trying to get their toys funded by the “Shark” panel of teachers.

The fun continued with students working on their “chain reaction” creating a chain of kindness to decorate the hallways, the RHS carolers serenading students at lunch, and with the PTO fundraiser at Red Robin in Manchester where students enjoyed seeing staff as “real people.”



SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – This week Author Teresa Pelham came to SRS and read her book to the students. Teresa has written a book about her Therapy dog Roxy who was a Rescue Dog. A portion of all proceeds of the sale from her books goes directly to dog rescuers. Please contact Skinner Road School if you are interested in purchasing a book.

The staff and students were wowed by the RHS Carolers. The students walked the halls doing song requests. This is a talented group of students and we are thankful that they came to visit. A group of SRS staff went out Caroling to homes this week as well. While they might not have had the same musical talent they made up for it with their enthusiasm.

The PTO met this past Thursday. One of the goals is to bring more families to the PTO meetings. We are looking for help with in a number of committees. SRS is very thankful for the support of our very active PTO.

LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL - Next week LHS students will be participating in our first Loveland Hill Holiday Gift Shop event. Staff are donating various items to stock the gift shop. Students will be able to “shop” in the gift shop for holiday gifts for their family members. We thank Mrs. Piazza for the wonderful idea!

LHS and RHS have recently partnered to form a mentorship program. Mrs. Alford, Mr. Rhoades and Ms. Marinar have been wonderful helping find RHS students interested in mentoring LHS students. The LHS students are excited and happy for the opportunity.

We’d like to thank Ms. Simmons from MSS for donating library books to LHS. We’d also like to thank Ms. Kearney from SRS for helping us with reading assessments. You both made a difference!

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.