



# VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent  
30 Park Street • P.O. Box 600  
Vernon, CT 06066-0600  
Fax (860) 870-6005

Website: [www.vernonpublicschools.org](http://www.vernonpublicschools.org)



## GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – December 5, 2014

**ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL** – “**No-Shave November**” - Thanks to everyone for making No-Shave November a fun and charitable success. A total of \$431.85 was raised for the American Cancer Society!

**Art** - The RHS & VCMS Art Departments teamed up with the Town of Vernon to create handmade ceramic ornaments for the town tree. Students in grades 6 - 12 and faculty ran a series of after school workshops to create these ornaments. You can find these beautiful Vernon themed ornaments hanging on the town tree starting this Friday, December 5th.

**Music** - Rockville High School wishes to congratulate the following students on their successful audition and acceptance into the Connecticut Music Educators Eastern Regional Music Festival: Sara Linton- Clarinet; Logan Blaisdell- Bass; Sierra Buckley- Alto; Alex Ose- Alto; Hannah Ramsdell- Alto; Renee Rogan- Alto; Jamie Bailey- Soprano; Erin Brownell- Soprano; Tatiana Dimovski- Soprano; Lauren Honan- Soprano; and Avery Kinney- Soprano

**ABL Program** - Mrs. Stevenson and the Activities Based Learning Class hosted their annual Thanksgiving Feast on Wednesday, November 26th for family and friends. Over 25 people were served! The menu included roasted chicken, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, biscuits, cranberry relish, and pumpkin pie squares. The class planned the menu, made the grocery list, looked up prices before shopping to create a budget, took CT Transit to go to the grocery store, shopped and paid for the groceries with our Ghost Gram proceeds and prepared all the food! They did all the clean-up (with a little help from Mr. Rocket!). The class also made the center pieces that they took home to their families.



**Technology Education and Drama Club** - The Tech Ed Department has been working with the Drama Club to create the set for this weekend's play, *Seed Folks*. The Woods classes have been working hard to help create a city scape back drop to transform the stage and bring to life this exciting play. Additionally, the Tech Ed Department continues to work with town officials to create the PSA for Alert Vernon, the Community Wide Notification System.

**Ag Ed Department** - On December 4th the Agricultural Education Program held a “Holiday Sale” from 2 to 6 p.m. Approximately 50 Ag Ed students participated in the event which was open to their families and the public. Attendees were able to purchase wreaths, poinsettias, tabletop trees, and evergreen centerpieces.

In addition, many students participated in the craft fair portion of the evening as entrepreneurs. They sold items such as farm fresh eggs, glass cheese trays, locally grown popcorn, birdseed, sweets and

snacks, handmade wooden cutting boards, and “cinnabons”. There were many highlights including the “AlpacaDeer” photo opportunity! The event was well received and well attended by students, families, administrators, and the public. Thanks to everyone for making it a night to remember!

**RHS Graduate News** – One of the 2001 RHS graduates, Erica Kemp Abrahamson, works for Hamilton Sunstrand as the Project Engineer for the Nasa Orion Space Vehicle. The Orion Space Vehicle was successfully launched this morning at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The next launch will be to Mars!

**VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL** – On Friday, November 14th, VCMS students in Miss Barber's seventh grade language arts classes welcomed a wonderful guest speaker into their classroom. Kim Goulet has spent a large portion of her life traveling all around the world. Her latest trip? Japan! Students were able to ask Kim all sorts of questions about her travels. They learned why she loves to travel, her favorite destination, and even the most disgusting food she's even eaten! Students were also able to see over fifty photographs she took while in Japan. Kim's visit was perfectly timed, as students had just finished reading the novel *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman. The novel's theme? Recognizing and appreciating what makes others different from ourselves. The students would LOVE to welcome her back again to hear more about her travels!



VCMS was the recipient of the November Superintendent's Challenge trophy. An assembly was held on December 4 with Dr. Conway and the homeroom classrooms from each grade that collected the most food for the Food Drive. Over 4100 items were donated by VCMS students and staff to benefit the Hockanum Valley Food Pantry. In 8th grade, Mrs. Roggi's homeroom was the winner. In 7th grade, it was Mr. Coll's homeroom. In 6th grade, there was a tie between Mrs. Hoyt's and Mrs. Fabuien's homerooms. The student at VCMS who donated the most food was Ryan McGrail.

**CENTER ROAD SCHOOL** –The Center Road School community is getting ready for the holiday season by showing their generosity as a school. Over the last few weeks the students have collected over 100 coats to donate to Cornerstone, members of the student council raised over \$200 for the Wounded Warriors Project and Humane Society, and currently the school is working hard at collecting toys for the Vernon Fire Department. Every day students have been coming in with toys to fill our large sleigh. We are so proud of the kindness our students and families are showing during this time.

All of our students have completed the MAP/NWEA testing. After testing many students reported that they enjoyed taking the tests. Many students in grades K-2 thought it was "so cool" to use the Chromebooks for this test. Teachers reported that the students worked hard during these tests, and showed their best effort. Way to go!

In physical education the students in grades 4 and 5 have been working hard creating their own gymnastics routines either by themselves or in a group. Over the last few days the students are starting to present their routines to their classes. Mrs. Plevyak and Mr. DeBellis have been very impressed by some of the great skills our students possess.

**LAKE STREET SCHOOL** – Students from Lake Street School collected coins to donate to Little Feet, Big Heart, a new animal rescue in Vernon. Mrs. Jennifer Wemmell and Mrs. Gail Phillips-Bossart from the organization joined us at our School Wide Morning Meeting to accept a check for over \$50. The students learned about some of the conditions of the animals who were rescued and some tips on what to do when an unfamiliar dog or cat are nearby. Little Feet, Big Heart has placed over 50 dogs and cats in new homes! Please see their site for more information at <http://littlefeetbigheartrescue.org>.

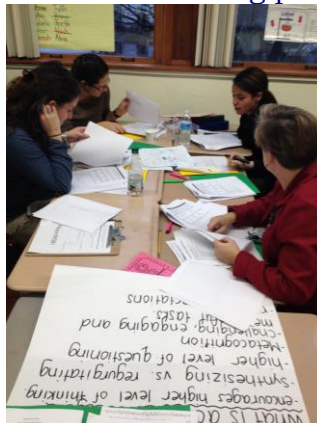


**MAPLE STREET SCHOOL** – Maple Street School's band and chorus performed their winter concert this week. All students did a fabulous job. On Thursday morning the entire school got to enjoy all the holiday songs and were put into the holiday spirit. On Thursday evening parents packed Maple School's gym to see their talented children perform. We want to extend a special thank you to Mrs. Perrett-Manly and Mrs. Stein for a successful event.



Second grade students recently completed their Heritage Projects. These projects were an opportunity for students to discuss their own heritage, traditions and customs. Students were able to complete the projects at home with the support of family members. Then on November 26<sup>th</sup> families were invited to come to our classrooms for a celebration! Students each presented their posters to their classmates and were able to learn about each other's heritage, traditions and customs. It was a wonderful and insightful experience for students. They were able to learn about different cultures and share in a positive way.

The staff at Maple Street School has been engrossed in professional learning on how to utilize Webb's Depth of Knowledge in order to increase academic rigor. On Wednesday afternoon the staff took part in an in-depth analysis of student tasks. As a next step teams will be working collaboratively to develop higher order tasks. Instructional rounds will also be taking place examining rigor.



**NORTHEAST SCHOOL** – This week found Northeast School welcoming some visitors to our school: (1) Officer Landry, aka Officer Friendly, visited our pre-K and Kindergarten students and was impressed with how well-behaved our kids were; (2) Mystic Aquarium personnel visited grade two and introduced the students to sea life and its creatures. Students were able to see and touch starfish, horseshoe crabs, and spider crabs, and (3) the Mad Science Program (held after school) meets once a week and gives the students a creative and hands-on approach to ways to learn science.

“Grab your rocking socks and sweet slippers!” Our fourth and fifth grade cheerleaders could be heard practicing their cheers this week in the gym in preparation for our next spirit day. We will be celebrating Crazy Sock and Slipper Day next Wednesday. And we thank our PTO for undertaking the huge task of preparing their Holiday Store this Friday, providing ALL our students with the chance to purchase items for gift giving.

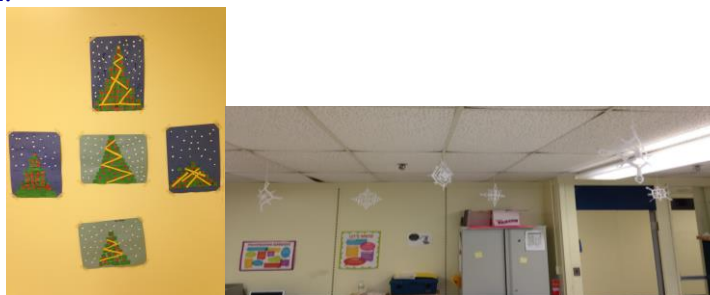


**SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL** – It has been a very busy week at Skinner Road School. All of our students completed the NWEA testing. Tests will be used to help teachers differentiate instruction for all students. In February staff will receive additional training in the program.

Due to weather the Artic Splash set for this Saturday may be postponed until next Saturday. Students and staff at SRS have raised funds to give scholarships to students for the Parks and Rec Summer Camp. We will let you know the final total after the plunge. Pictures will follow. SRS has challenged all the other schools to beat us for Most Spirit, Most Money Collected, and Best Costume. Not to brag, however, SRS has won the best costume for three years running and have another great one set for this year’s splash.

**LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL** - To commemorate the first snow fall of the year, students cut complicated and delicate snowflakes which we hung from the ceiling of our class for a permanent winter-wonderland effect. We also replaced Thanksgiving hallway art with new seasonal art mosaics made completely with squares and rectangles. In Ms. Petty's 5, 6, 7 grade class, we started a new literature unit on Turtle in Paradise, set in Key West during the Depression, which will be integrated into some of our Social Studies lessons.

LHS would also like to thank all of the custodial and maintenance staff for their quick responses to all of the LHS needs, big or small.



*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.*