



# 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 – February 20, 2015

**ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Technology Education** - The Technology Education Department is pleased to announce that one of its video students, Nick Bartos, has been named a finalist in the 2015 DMV-Travelers Teen Safe Driving Video Contest. Nick has put a tremendous amount of time into this contest and we wish him luck in the finals. Go RHS! Here is the direct link to Nick's video.

<http://youtube/p1vTMulmR8g>

**Art Department** - Twenty-five students from RHS have entered an art competition sponsored by the Institute of Living and Hartford Hospital called the Brain Dance Awards. This is designed to decrease the stigma surrounding mental illness as well as to help raise awareness around this issue. An award of \$1,000 will be given to the best overall submission. In April there will be an awards ceremony at the Institute of Living where the artwork will be displayed and the winners honored. Good luck to our art students who created some powerful work around this theme.

**Athletics** - The girls' basketball team has qualified for the state tournament for the first time since the 2007-2008 seasons!

The girls indoor track team finished 9<sup>th</sup> out of 41 teams at the Class M State Meet. Laura Dawson finished 14<sup>th</sup> in the 1000 meter race. Chelsea Chatterton finished 8<sup>th</sup> in both the 1600 meter and 3200 meter races. Haley Hasty finished a strong 2<sup>nd</sup> in both the 1000 meter and 3200 meter races, earning medals for both. Haley will now compete in both the 1000 meter and 3200 meter races at the State Open on Saturday in New Haven.

**VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL** – Twenty VCMS eighth grade students have been selected for the 2015 Bermuda program. The selection process was very challenging as many great students applied this year. We are pleased with the group that will be part of our program and are looking forward to our trip May 16-22, 2015.

2015 Bermuda Participants – Sara, Bernabucci, Logan Clasby, Jade Cove, Joseph DeRosa, Jerome Jacobs, Amie Lee, Katlena Marinelli, Vanessa Mitchell, Joshua Nicklas, Samantha Peters, Jake Poutre, Allison Sawtelle, Emily Simmons, Julia Somma, Matthew Spadaccini, Lexie Thornton, Melina Toolan, Abby Tyrell, Jarod Werner, Elizabeth Witkun.

**CENTER ROAD SCHOOL** – Grade 3 students enjoyed a field trip to the Noah Webster House in Hartford. “Webster's birthplace helps to tell the story of one man's vision and his impact on American culture. Through the promotion of education, laws, human rights, and language, Noah Webster helped to create a national identity for a fledgling nation. Though he accomplished much more during his life, Webster is best remembered for authoring two of America’s most influential books, the *"Blue-Backed Speller"* and *An American Dictionary of the English Language*”.

**LAKE STREET SCHOOL** – Fourth Graders are getting ready for their Mythology unit! Students will soon analyze myths to learn about the different archetypes (hero, mentor, guardian, trickster, etc.).

Fifth graders began their unit on the American Revolution. They’re getting their minds ready by activating their background knowledge.

All LSS students and staff did a tremendous job during our Lockdown Drill this week! Our continual practice will ensure the safety of all in the event of an emergency.

**MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – Preschool News:** The snow gave the preschoolers many opportunities to explore scientific inquiry and math. We made predictions about what would make the snow melt faster. We used measuring cups to practice our counting and one to one correspondence skills and then we painted the snow!!! The children also enjoyed using popsicle sticks to write letters in the snow.

**First Grade News:** All first graders now have the opportunity to earn a "slumber party kit" if they complete their weekly reading log. They choose a stuffed character, picture books about the character, and a package of microwave popcorn to bring home for the weekend. They bring everything back to school on Monday except the popcorn.

**Second Grade News:** This week, the Second Graders at Maple Street School will be celebrating the completion of their Informational texts! They have worked very hard over the last few weeks to draft and revise books about non-fiction topics of their choice. On Friday, families will come together in order to share in the celebration and read their stories!

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade News:** 4th graders are working diligently on creating their own myths by combining their learning about myths, fantasy texts, and heroes in Reading, and preparing to present their creations to their peers. In Math, we are exploring multiplication and division through a short study on about a rectangle's length, width, area, and perimeter, and how those elements relate.

**Special Education News:** We are using gross motor activities to help students learn both how to read and how to write sight words! This is a great way to differentiate learning for kinesthetic or struggling learners."

**PE News:** Jump Rope for Heart is planned for Wednesday, February 25th and runs all day. Last year we raised \$2001 as a school and saved 40 lives! This year we hope to raise even more.

3rd grade morning exercise program has been running very nicely and it's a great opportunity for the students to prepare for the day of learning with some exercise.

Youth wrestling on Friday nights has been a great success. There are elementary students from each school in town involved and is a great way to introduce the sport of wrestling to the youth of town.

After school basketball during the month of February has also been a great success. The boys and girls are enjoying themselves and learning the rules and skills of basketball in the process.

**NORTHEAST SCHOOL** – Last Friday fourth grade students went on a field trip to the Connecticut Science Center. Students enjoyed the classroom experience of playing with the water tables and learning about erosion. They also loved the Grossology exhibit! Some of the students challenged a robot to build pictures with Tangrams and won!

This week Northeast School students got a treat. African Drummers came on Wednesday and entertained them with wonderful music and dancing. Students and staff joined in the fun dancing to the beat!

On Thursday second grade students went on a field trip to the Children's Museum in West Hartford. There they saw a planetarium show called "Lars the Polar Bear".



**SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL** – The SRS Twirlers are hard at work preparing for their debut performance. We are all eager to see them and find out what song they are using this year.

Grade five went on a Trip to Three Rivers Community College. The students are learning about different careers, participating in team building activities with their pen pals from East Hartford, seeing a laser show and building balloon cars which they will race.

Mr. Uthgenant has been busy after school with Jump Rope for heart. We have had a record number of students participate. We are excited to find out how much we raised this year.

SRS is very thankful for the PTO. The PTO consists of parents, teachers, and administration. The PTO provides additional funding to offset the cost of field trips, brings in Authors for assemblies, and helps to support all of the students and staff. One of the many ways they fund raise is through Box Tops for Education. Every Box Top is worth ten cents. If you have any Box Tops you would like to donate please drop them off to the office or mail them to 90 Skinner Road

**LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL** - Mrs. Berard has been facilitating some very productive social skills groups:

Mrs. Piazza's class is reflecting on how anger can blow up in our faces. They watched the movie Where the Wild Things Are and discussed how Max and the creatures are overcome by their anger and this leads to isolation from friends and family. The class discussed more positive ways of handling their anger so that they do not push others away and their anger is still resolved.

Ms. Petty's class began learning about various methods of communication. They learned about the difference between verbal and nonverbal communication and participated in team building activities that required using only nonverbal communication skills to complete tasks as a team, which was more difficult than they had thought it was going to be, but in the end they worked together beautifully as a team!

LHS would like to thank RHS, in particular Ms. Susan Andrews, for her generosity in sharing the gymnasium with our students.

*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.*