



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – March 20, 2015

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – ENGLISH - Congratulations to Zach Maloof and Deanna Pellegrino, who are 2015 Scholastic Art and Writing National Medal recipients. Deanna received a silver medal for her flash fiction piece, "Deadline," and Zach received a silver medal for his critical essay, "The Panopticon of Depression." Zach and Deanna will be honored during an awards ceremony on June 10th at Carnegie Hall. Medalists and their teachers will also have the opportunity to attend workshops in New York City, where they will meet with artists and writers to learn about creative professions. This year, over 300,000 works of art and writing were submitted to Scholastic regional programs across the nation, making these awards truly amazing accomplishments for Deanna and Zach.

Congratulations to Vivian Ufongene, a winner in the Write Here, Write Now! ten minute high school playwriting competition and student play festival. This annual competition gathers scripts from high schools across New England. Vivian will work with a Trinity Repertory Company staff member in one-on-one play development sessions prior to having her piece performed by professionally trained actors in the spring of 2015. She will also receive a \$100 cash prize and a scholarship toward any Trinity Rep Young Actors Studio after-school class or toward Trinity Rep's Young Actors Summer Institute. Additionally, RHS will receive twenty free tickets to a Project Discovery student matinee performance at Trinity during the 2015–2016 season.

Congratulations to Joyce Hida and Winona Scheff, RHS students who have been selected to participate in the Hartford Stage Project Transform Team. They, along with fourteen other students from across Connecticut, will work closely with Hartford Stage's Natalie Pertz and special guest artist James Lecesne to create and perform an original theatre piece.

AG ED DEPARTMENT - This past Tuesday, Mr. Brodersen chaperoned seven Freshman Ag students for the State FFA Junior Leadership Conference held at Manchester Community College. In addition to workshops conducted by State FFA Officers, the freshmen were treated to a special workshop led by Caleb Gustin, National FFA Officer from the Western Region! There are only six National FFA Officers in any year, so this was definitely a treat. On Wednesday, five freshmen FFA members from the Rockville FFA Chapter and Mrs. Harlow attended Ag Day at the Capitol and were present for the Ag Journalism Award Ceremony. Mr. Steve Smith from the Rockville Reminder accepted an award for all of his hard work to promote our Agricultural Education Program.

RHS Library Media Center - Ann-Marie Stevenson brought her class to the Library last week for a lesson on how to find books, how to use the Library Destiny (the Online Library Catalog) and how to access online EBOOKS such as TUMBLEBOOKS. The students were very excited to be able to find and locate the books themselves after they were shown how to use the online

catalog and check out many books for their use in the classroom. They also accessed and used Tumblebooks online. We are planning a return visit to the RHS Library to return or renew books and continue to learn more in the future.

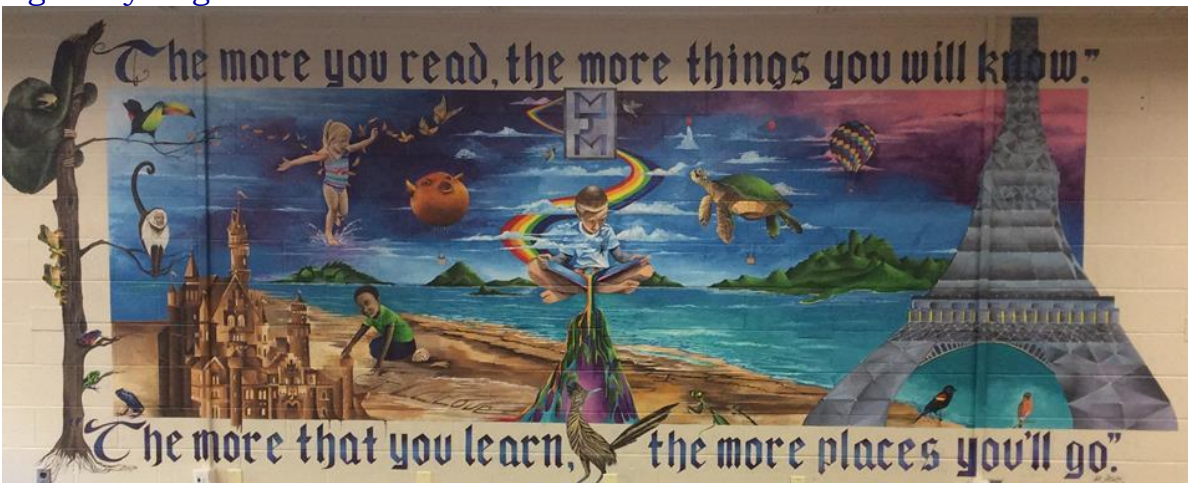
ATHLETICS - Haley Hasty competed in the New Balance High School Nationals Indoor Track and Field Meet at the Armory in New York City last Friday. Running the 5000 meter race for the first time indoors and competing in the elite division against top athletes from throughout the country, Haley finished 16th. She proudly represented Rockville High School at the highest level of competition, and finished an outstanding indoor track season.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – This week at VCMS was March Madness week. We began the week on Monday as “twins and triplets” day. Tuesday was the day to wear green - “Everyone is Irish”. Wednesday was “Wacky Hair Day”. Thursday was “Crazy Hat Day” and Friday was “Grade Colors Day” with 6th grade wearing blue, 7th grade wearing orange and 8th grade wearing white.

The 2nd Annual VCMS Pi day Math Bee took place on March 13th (the day before Pi day). Approximately 80 students took the preliminary qualifying test, and 37 met the criteria to go on to the final Bee. Students worked through a series of rounds. The audience also joined in the fun with occasional Audience Questions and Pi Day trivia. Audience winners received small pies as prizes. The winner of the Math Bee was eighth grader Samantha Peters. Second place went to Logan Clasby. It was a fun and exciting event!



CENTER ROAD SCHOOL – Center Road School students have been doing an amazing job with their reading! Way to go Center Road School!

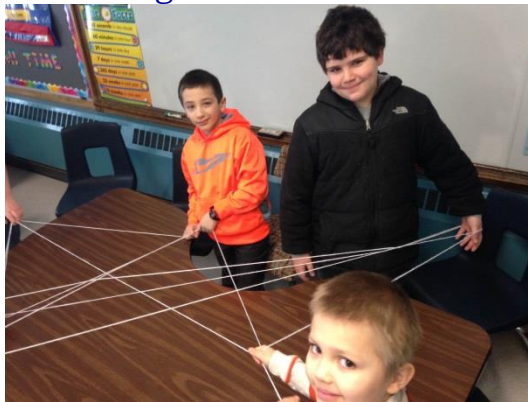


LAKE STREET SCHOOL – The CT Science Center joined our Fifth Graders this week to learn about sound! The class used three stations to experiment with sound in different ways – strumming rubber bands on geoboards, with containers filled with different levels of water, tubes, and tuning forks!

Students differentiated sound with pitch, volume, vibration and sound conductors.



Friday morning, our entire school went into our Dens. These monthly groups, made of 8-10 students, are used to enrich our school wide expectations of respect, responsibility, cooperation and safety. Our groups are blends of students K-5 to strengthen our school wide community. This month's focus expectation is cooperation. Students made a spider web as they responded how to cooperate in various school settings.



The Discovery Center worked with fifth graders on Friday morning to continue their work on diversity and acceptance of differences. The grade worked in four smaller groups in activities such as Dot Diversity, which addressed the harmful effects of exclusion and strategies for creating a more inclusive school community. The groups also explored the harmful power of words, but also the power to build and encourage others.

MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – Second graders have wrapped up their science unit on rocks, pebbles, and sand. We are now moving ahead in Social Studies and discussing our place in the world and our community. In reading we have worked hard on making predictions and now we are moving ahead with analyzing our characters and choosing character traits based on their actions. In writing we spent the week looking at different pieces of poetry and are now ready to begin composing our own poems. We are excited to be back outside for recess and enjoy the fresh spring air!

This week in 4th grade students continued their study of multiplication by diving into multiplying single and two-digit factors by two, three, and four-digit multiples of ten. Students also learned how to decompose multiplication equations to simplify the solving process. In Reading, students chose their research topics and created researchable questions. We will also be learning how to use text features to help us find information that pertains to our questions.

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – Northeast School kicked off the week celebrating St. Patrick’s Day and “Going Green.” At our Spirit Assembly, our fourth graders sang “It’s Not Easy Being Green.” Mrs. Mears, our fabulous school nurse, provided a powerful demonstration about bike safety and the importance of wearing a helmet. It was ecstatic! It was a busy week for third, fourth and fifth grade students. Fifth grade students stepped back in time with a special performance portraying the life of a slave from the 1800’s. Finally, the Climate Survey is available on the school’s website. Students in grades third through fifth, as well as all parents, are encouraged to participate. NES values your support!

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – Did you ever wonder how chickens hatch? Did you know what makes a Volcano Flow? If you are looking for answers to these questions and more be sure to attend the Skinner Road School Science Fair. The Science Fair has been moved to Monday March 23 from 6:30 -7:30. During the Science Fair we will have computers out for parents to take our School Climate Survey. Your responses are important to us.

We were very excited to find out that Skinner Road School is being inducted in the Connecticut Invention Convention Hall of Fame on May 2nd. During our Science Fair Susan Mostowy the Associate Director of the CIC will be at SRS to present the school with a plaque.

The Capture the Flag Reading competition is in full swing. In the first two weeks students have read over 120,000 pages. Mrs. Simon continues to try to convince the students that she should not have to Kiss the Donkey. It seems that the more she complains the more the students are reading. If the students reach 200,000 pages she will be dressed as Fiona from Shrek. If the students reach 300,000 pages one lucky class will get to spray her hair red and another will get to make her hands and face green. If you happen to be in the building you will see the six flags, one for each grade level, outside the classroom where the students have read the most books. The classes proudly carry their flag to specials and lunch.

LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL - Students at LHS enjoyed a delicious St. Patrick's Day lunch prepared by staff. Thank you to Mrs. Field for the great idea and help organizing the event.



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.