



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – May 22, 2015

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION - The TE Architecture class, working on a project with Officer Langlais, has completed a scale model of RHS. The detail is amazing!

SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT - On May 20, the School Counseling Department took 37 freshmen to Eastern Ct State University for a College Knowledge Day. Students learned about the connection between good grades and demanding classes in high school and college graduation rates. They also learned about the connection between college majors and personal interests, the top 10 jobs in 2015, the average annual income by different education levels, the different colleges and universities in Connecticut, and financial aid. Students learned that they are much more likely to earn grants/scholarships/financial aid through academics rather than athletics. They also learned that there are many ways to pay for and go to college, regardless of their family's financial situation.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER - Free Audiobooks for Teens! In addition to our school's subscriptions to TUMBLEBOOKS online and ONE-CLICK AUDIO (accessible through our school library website, SYNC is a program that gives away two complete audiobook downloads — a current Young Adult title paired thematically with a Classic or Required Summer Reading title — each week to listeners ages 13+ while SYNC is in session each summer. These are downloadable to any SMART PHONE, most electronic devices and computers. Check it out at <http://www.audiobooksync.com/2015-sync-titles/> . Note: Each pair of titles listed is only available for one week. Check these out. The titles for May 21-May 27th are [X: A NOVEL by Ilyasah Shabazz & Kekla Magoon \(Brilliance Audio\)](#) and [HERE IN HARLEM by Walter Dean Myers \(Live Oak Media\)](#).

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES - The Rockville High School Nursery School program ended this week with celebrations with families and friends on Wednesday and Thursday. The children shared what they had learned in nursery school, were presented certificates, and enjoyed refreshments with their guests and student teachers. Fourteen four and five year olds will be heading off to kindergarten next year and we wish them the very best.

The Education Practicum and Independent Living students visited the Vernon Animal Shelter this week to learn about the operations there. Students made homemade treats and toys and collected old towels, blankets, and pet food to share with the animals housed there. Craig Segar gave a tour of the facility and talked to the students about his job and how to deal with wild animal issues. The students enjoyed seeing the cats and dogs and hearing about how they can help with animal control.

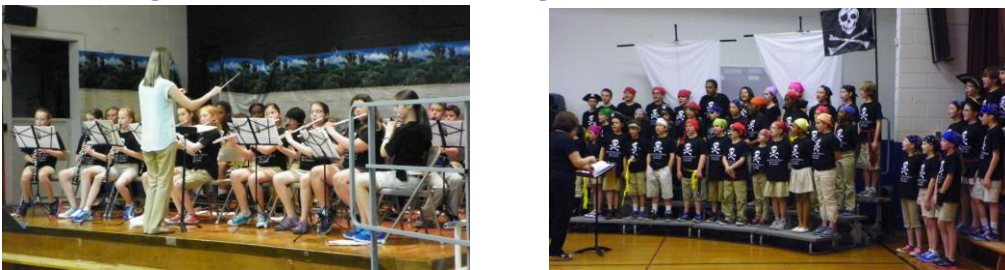
VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL –Students in Miss Barber's seventh grade language arts classes welcomed a very special visitor. Abby Sauerhoefer is a 7-year-old girl with Mitochondrial Disease. Abby was joined by her mom Carol and aunt Norine. Prior to meeting Abby, students read either [Out of my Mind](#) by Sharon Draper or [Wonder](#) by R.J. Palacio. In each of the two hour sessions, students asked interview questions, read narratives, took pictures, and sang songs. It was a wonderful time for everyone involved!



CENTER ROAD SCHOOL – On Wednesday Center Road School held their annual Fine Arts Night, and it was a raging success. For starters, all students had at least one piece of art work displayed in the halls of CRS, which were transformed into the Amazon Rainforest. Students walked around proudly showing their families all of their hard work. Following this the 5th grade band wowed the crowd with a variety of solos, duets, and complete band performances. To cap off the night, the largest 4th and 5th grade chorus ever at CRS (106 students) sang 4 beautiful songs about loving and protecting Earth. We are so proud of all the students at Center Road School for their hard work in the arts. 4th and 5th grade students had to make huge time commitments to practice and learn songs, but it was all worth it. Thank you to all you helped make this night so memorable and successful.



LAKE STREET SCHOOL – Ahoy, Maties! LSS celebrated student performances in our Fine Arts Night on Thursday. Our hallways and cases are brilliant with student art work! Fourth and fifth grade students gave two performances of *To Be a Pirate!* Students, staff and parents thoroughly enjoyed the dancing, singing and treasure! Band students performed together and as duets, including a Happy Birthday tribute to one of our band members! Many thanks to Karen Davis, Kelly Stein and Jennifer Johnson, for showcasing such fine student learning in the fine arts!



MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – Maple Street fifth graders had the opportunity to visit the CT Science Center this week. Students explored and participated in many hands-on exhibits. They loved seeing and reading about the life size replicas of dinosaurs that were staged in their "natural environments." Students engaged in many different forces of motions activities such as trying to use air to maneuver boats, self made helicopters and playing a volleyball/basketball game using air cannons. They also attended a lab about sound and vibrations. During this lab students went to four different stations and explored ways to manipulate the pitch and volume of sounds. This lab extended and supported experiments that they had done in science earlier this year. Students came back very enthused about their time at the Science Center!

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – There are always a lot of activities going on towards the end of the year at Northeast. On Monday, the 5th grade band wowed the students with solos and whole group performances. This was followed by the 4th and 5th grade chorus, who entertained the school with a myriad of songs focusing on the Northeast core value of being positive. Both band and chorus performed to a packed gymnasium of family and friends the next night. On Wednesday the 3rd graders went to the Belding Center where they learned about the importance of land conservation and the different types of habitats animals need to survive. On Thursday, the 5th graders went to the Nathan Hale Home and learned that he was born in Coventry, was a school teacher, and his role in the American Revolution as a spy against the British. To wrap up the week, the kindergarteners went on a field trip to the police, fire, and EMT station. They learned what roles and responsibilities each had, asked appropriate questions, and got to sit in a real fire truck! Finally, the 5th graders in Mrs. Pelletier's class welcomed 4 new ducklings with more on the way as they peck out of their shells!



SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL –



Skinner Road first graders had a fantastic time at the ***Magic Wings*** Butterfly Conservatory & Gardens. The Conservatory opened in October of 2000, consists of an 18,400-square foot facility that includes a 8,000-sq. ft. glass conservatory filled with butterflies, moths and tropical vegetation. It commemorated the new expansion in a Grand Opening ceremony June 26, 2004. The sun shines through the glass walls and heats up the conservatory to an 80-degree tropical-like environment all year round. The heart-shaped pond with Japanese koi graces the center of the conservatory. The sound of the waterfall, peaceful music and hundreds of butterflies fluttering freely through the air creates a tranquil and serene atmosphere. Visits anytime throughout the year are delightful. It's truly amazing inside, for no matter how many people are enjoying the conservatory, it's still a peaceful sanctuary for all.

LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL - This week students from Loveland Hill School met and visited with Vernon's Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, and Chief of Police. As winners of the Superintendent's Challenge, Loveland Hill students presented the police, fire and EMT departments with cards, letters and pictures thanking them for their service to our town. Students asked questions of members of each department about their duties and responsibilities and were given the opportunity to check out some of the police department's cool equipment! The fire department also showed students the inner workings of Vernon's rescue truck and students enjoyed sitting in the fire truck! Loveland Hill students really appreciated the hands-on experience and the opportunity to spend the morning with Vernon's finest first responders.



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.