



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – September 19, 2014

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Drawing Club - RHS Drawing club continues this year and will have its first meeting on Friday September 26th right after school. This is a student club that meets and draws together. Students discuss what they are working on (no assignments!) and talk about ideas for future work; a true student artist group. Meetings will be twice a month on Fridays in the Art room.

Gay Straight Alliance - The 2014-2015 GSA is off to a great start. GSA is a group that brings LGBTQ youth and allies together in a safe space at school. The group had its first meeting this past week and was well attended; GSA meets twice a month. RHS is the ROCK of acceptance and tolerance!

Early Childhood Education - The Early Childhood Education Program is working on a career project through the Career Center at Rockville High School. Students have been given the tools and resources needed to compile a professional Early Childhood Education Portfolio that will prepare them for college and professional purposes. Students in this program have the unique opportunity to work directly with children in the Rockville High School Nursery School Program as they write and implement lesson plans, observe childhood behaviors, and learn classroom management skills. Students will also be expected to job shadow an Early Childhood Education teacher in a local elementary school. Students who want to pursue an advanced experience join the Early Childhood Education Career Cluster Program. This program allows students to gain more experience through additional job shadowing, which increases their professional contact and education on classroom management and teaching skills.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER - Great things are happening in the Library this fall! We have some new Nutmeg book titles for teens and young adults, some available in e-book format as well as print, and a display for Banned Books Week Awareness (Sept. 21 – 27), which includes books such as, *Huckleberry Finn* and *Harry Potter*. Also available is a new discovery streaming educational video service for the entire high school to use.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – On Friday, September 12th, the sixth graders rocked to the music of DJ Childs for the 6th grade Social event. There was awesome music, lots of great food and a fabulous afternoon of FUN!!! A big “Thank you” to all parents who helped with donations. Open House was held on Tuesday, September 16th for sixth grade parents and Thursday, September 18th for grade 7 and 8th grade parents. Both evenings began with a welcoming address by Mr. Harrison and then parents proceeded to take the “challenge” of following class schedules of their children and meeting teachers. Student council members acted as guides to direct parents to the appropriate classrooms. In conjunction with Open House, the library displayed the Book Fair with many new and exciting offerings.



CENTER ROAD SCHOOL – The Center Road Community is looking forward to their annual Ice Cream Social happening tonight from 6:00-8:00. This has always been one of the most popular events for students, families, and staff. As always, all CRS students get their ice cream for free!

The 3rd grade students at Center Road are quickly becoming expert writers, as they are learning how to add descriptive details to their writing. Students have been working individually and in small groups to learn the importance of adding detail to make their stories come to life.

The Roadrunner Jogging club has started during 4th and 5th grade recess. During this time students have the option to use their recess time to run laps to see how many miles they can accumulate over the year. Already we have several students who have already run over 5 miles over a span of only three recesses!

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – What animal has two eyes, four legs and a tail? That's one example of problem solving that students are responding to in Kindergarten. Students shared their responses with their partners and then as a whole class. This is one way we are focusing on student-centered problem-solving and sharing evidence. Their responses? Among dogs, cats and hamsters, alligators and giraffes!

Fourth grade students went to Belding Wildlife this week to learn about the wildlife and habitats there. Students described the local vegetation, found examples of erosion and its effects on wildlife. They were excited to catch and compare insects before releasing them back into the wild. Students came back exhilarated and exhausted!

Our LSS Open House was a success on Wednesday night. Students wrote letters to their parents, explaining what they loved about school. Students in Mrs. Barry's class created a class book with their responses. Here are a few things they love: Morning Meeting Cow Greeting – Good MOOrning!, games at indoor recess and the cartwheels Mrs. Barry does when the whole class follows school wide expectations!

MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – This week at Maple Street School students in grades 3-5 attended the NED Show assembly. NED is a loveable cartoon character whose name is an acronym for Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best. This show helped students better understand the "growth mindset" that we are teaching students about at Maple Street School. Students were highly engaged at the assembly and enjoyed all the great yo-yo tricks that the presenter performed. One student commented after the show that he now feels very motivated to go and try his best with his school work.



NORTHEAST SCHOOL – As the second full week of school comes to an end, teachers and students are getting to know each other while learning the rules/procedures. Students have been sharing what they did this summer and what they hope to learn this year. Open House was Wednesday night. Teachers talked in their classrooms about academic and behavior expectations while parents had the opportunity to ask questions. We had a nice turnout and the staff is always looking for communication opportunities with parents.

On Friday, the fourth grade will take their first field trip to Belding. Students will learn about the environment and be engaged in activities where they will discover the importance of protecting the natural resources and preserving the balance of nature.

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL RECIEVES BRONZE AWARD IN WASHINGTON D.C.! Vernon Public Schools teamed up last year with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. This is a nation- wide group dedicated to reversing the trend of childhood obesity in this country. They are funded by organizations such as the American Heart Association and the Clinton Foundation.

Each school submitted a very extensive assessment of their programs and activities including health and physical education, cafeteria practices and extracurricular activities offered to students and staff. Skinner Road School has had a long history of stressing wellness, and earned a bronze award. Skinner Road School was the only school in the state of Connecticut to achieve this award! Judith Manfre was the representative for SRS.

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation had a Leader’s Summit in Washington D.C. on September 12-14. There were 250 schools represented from around the country. Judith met principals, classroom teachers, school nurses, an occupational therapist, and many PE teachers; all committed to improving the health and welfare of our children.

On Saturday evening there was a dinner to celebrate the national winners. When the speakers had finished there was a video of happy, healthy children being shown on two giant monitors. Skinner Road School was one of the schools highlighted in the video. There was Cody running across the lawn, Angelia on the tire swing, Chris running in PE class, the twirlers and many of us walking to school!

Judith felt extremely proud to be a part of this Skinner Road School community with the ongoing commitment to children’s health. Former President Bill Clinton welcomed everyone to the summit. He said “All kids deserve the best start we can give them.” We need to continue working together to teach our children the benefits of a health for life! At SRS we are committed to helping child lead healthy life styles. This year we are aiming for a Silver Award!!

LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL - This week LHS would like to extend a huge thank you the many helpful staff members who have been involved with our students no matter how big or small.

We are thrilled to have Mrs. Maxwell, Ms. Sabal and Ms. McGinley as part of our team. The students have enjoyed participating in physical education and art classes.

We would also like to thank the football coaches, especially Coach Camp, for starting a mentoring program between the football team and our students. The smiles on the faces of the students (and staff) show how much we appreciate this.

A huge thank you to Mr. Higgins for taking the time to help us out in a jam and make a spare key for a filing cabinet. You saved the day!

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.