



# VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

**ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Allied Health** - The Allied Health I class is off to a good start for the 2014-2015 school year. The class, taught by Melissa Adduci, attended a mandatory employee orientation through ECHN (Eastern Connecticut Health Network) to become volunteers of the organization. This allows the class to participate in job shadows at Rockville General Hospital and Manchester Memorial as part of the requirements for the Allied Health Program. The students will observe activities this year in various departments including: Biomedical Engineering, Dietary, Rehabilitation, Surgery, Cardiopulmonary, Medical Imaging and the Family Birthing Center. The class will also participate in a day of hands on lab work at Manchester Community College that will allow the students to explore the fields of: Therapeutic Recreation, Surgical Technology, Dental Assisting, Respiratory Therapy, Health and Exercise Science and Radiological Science. These opportunities exist because of the strong community partnership that Rockville High School continues to maintain with ECHN and MCC.

**English** - Katia Ruesta, a 2014 Rockville High School graduate and former RHS English Language Learner (ELL), has been selected to receive one of three ConnTESOL (Connecticut Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) scholarships awarded in conjunction with CAPELL (Connecticut Administrators of Programs for English Language Learners). Applicants to this annual program must be Connecticut high school seniors currently or previously enrolled in ELL or bilingual education classes who will attend a four-year or community college.

Katia has been invited to read her winning scholarship application essay at the annual ConnTESOL conference on Saturday, October 25, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, where the 2014 scholarship winners will be recognized. She has also been invited to bring along her family and her former RHS ELL teacher, Mrs. Margaret Youmatz. With her permission, Katia's essay will be published on the ConnTESOL website. Katia is the second recipient of a ConnTESOL scholarship in the history of the Vernon ELL Program. Other district ELL staff members include coordinator Mrs. Jaya Vijayasekar and ELL teachers Mrs. Agata Cavar (SRS), Mrs. Kim Cheman (CRS), and Mrs. Linda Schubert (VCMS).

**VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL** – Students are excited about the introduction of many clubs and sport opportunities at VCMS. Sports try-outs for boys' soccer and cross country will begin next week. Student Council held their first meeting this past Tuesday, September 2 and are currently preparing for its upcoming election of officers and planning for the first sixth grade social. The Drama Club is holding their first meeting. We are delighted with the first week of school and are ready to SOAR into our new year.

**CENTER ROAD SCHOOL** – This week The Discovery Center came out from Farmington to work with all of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students on topics such as acceptance, diversity, team building, and respect. Our students spent their morning having class wide conversations, participating in various activities, and spending time reflecting on how important it is to build positive relationships with each other.



Our classes in grades K-2 have launched a new way to teach Reader's Workshop which includes a team of teachers traveling to each grade level to work with students. This allows for more small group instruction, and individualized support. The staff and students are excited to be implementing this change, and are confident that it will improve the reading of all our students.

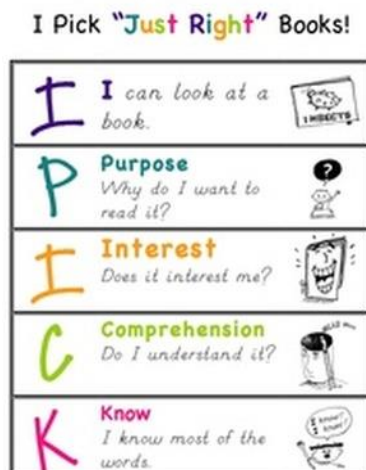
**LAKE STREET SCHOOL** – Learning is HOT this week at LSS! Students are digging into their book bags, writing engaging stories and sharing new learning with partners. Primary students brought in evidence of some “real reading” to share with their peers. Fourth and fifth grade students are already demonstrating increased reading stamina from students in the same grade at this time in prior years.

Three of our classrooms had Smart Boards installed this week, delighting the teachers and their students with interactive opportunities with technology.

**MAPLE STREET SCHOOL** – This week our students have been working on and practicing our school's core value of being safe. We will be doing in-depth learning and lessons on this value throughout the entire month of September. All month long students will be learning how to be safe at school, home and in the community. Students who consistently exhibit this value will be recognized at our PBIS assembly on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

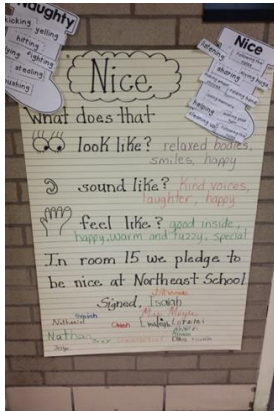
This week students have also completed their PBIS passports. These passports show that students have been taught the expected behaviors in the classroom, hallway, cafeteria, assemblies and restrooms. Students at Maple Street School have been doing a phenomenal job demonstrating appropriate behaviors.

During this week Maple Street School students have been learning about how to pick a “just right” book. Mrs. Bradway's fourth grade class has put the “I pick” acronym to an entertaining rap. They have been practicing this rap to share with our student body at the September 30<sup>th</sup> assembly.



### **NORTHEAST SCHOOL** –

With classrooms now in the swing of things, Northeast is on a path to positivity! Along with our 4 core values, this year Northeast has placed a strong emphasis on working hard and being kind to others. When you walk the halls you will see reminders everywhere about how it pays to be nice. Doorways are decorated with kind words and encouragement. Helpful reminders are being given to students about how to be caring friends. The sight of classmates walking in the halls and interacting respectfully has everyone, staff and students alike, beaming with positivity! We are excited to see how our students flourish this year, both academically and socially! We encourage you all to join in our quest for kindness!



**SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL** – The Skinner Road School Marathon Team is up and running. Students in grades 3 – 5 are training to run in the Hartford Marathon on October 11th. The students train during the week and then the students run in teams for a mile of the Marathon, until all 26.2 miles are completed. This is the eighth year that SRS has been participating under the guidance of Tammy Mangold.

SRS is pleased to announce the addition of the following teachers this year, Robert DeJesus teaching first grade, Kevin Devery teaching fifth grade, Howard Eichner our .5 school psychologist, Keisha Powell teaching the Second Step Program, and Lindsey Malchow teaching the First Step Program. We are very excited this year that the First and Second Step Programs are with us.

Any parent who is interested in contacting a staff member by email may do so by typing the staff members [firstname.lastname@vernonct.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@vernonct.org) for example my email is [sandy.simon@vernonct.org](mailto:sandy.simon@vernonct.org).

This year is off to a great start. Students are engaging in Readers Workshop, Writers Workshop, and our new Eureka Math program. We are working towards a Silver Recognition for the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. To reach this goal we need to find volunteers to translate our lunch menus into the most common languages spoken. We are in need of a volunteer who can translate our menu into Urdu. Please contact me at the above email if you know of someone who is willing to volunteer.

**LOVELAND HILL SCHOOL** - Students have been involved with hands on activities to help enhance learning. Culinary, math and teambuilding skills are on the rise as students have made healthy guacamole and salsa for their afternoon snack. Other students have been tracking the life cycle of baby spiders for a science unit. Middle school students have been busy reading Captains Courageous where students been demonstrating oral reading skills in class; one student volunteered to read an entire chapter!

LHS thanks the other schools for their willingness to share furniture and supplies to get us off to a great school year!

*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.*