



# VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – January 10, 2014

**ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL** – On January 9<sup>th</sup> five students (4 mentors and 1 athlete) attended the Unified Sports Youth Summit at Wesleyan University. The event was attended by over 400 mentors, athletes, coaches, athletic directors, and school personnel. The purpose of the summit was to demonstrate the importance of students with disabilities and to have the students bring this message back to their schools. The event was hosted by Kevin Nathan of NBC sports and a Global Messenger of Unified Sport. The teams attended various breakout sessions, which demonstrated various ways schools are involved in unified sports.



**English** - RHS students and staff purchased over \$1,000 of books at the scholastic Book Fair this year. The profit was used to purchase new, popular titles to supplement English teachers' classroom lending libraries. Several English Department teachers attended the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) annual ALAN workshop in Boston. They met and videotaped dozens of authors of young adult literature. Judy Blume, Laurie Halse Andersen, Walter Dean Meyers, Ishmael Beah, and Robert Pinsky were among the writers in attendance this year. Many authors including Cal Armistead, Cristin Terrill, and Michaela Macoll have agreed to visit the high school or to Skype with English classes. Additionally, the English teachers returned with over five hundred complimentary young adult books to share with RHS students! Congratulations to Cassie Schambach and Julia Bonadies, who were both winners of the prestigious Hartford Stage Write-On Playwriting Competition.

**VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL** – Our students were treated to a very exciting National Geographic Bee competition on January 9, 2014. Questions ranged from USA and World Geography to historically significant places. There were four finalists from a group of twenty-one participants. The finalists were Hannah Brown, Justin Collins, Hannah Sullivan, and Robert Tierney. After a challenging number of questions, our first place winner was Hannah Sullivan. She will now have an opportunity to test for the next level of competition. Our second place winner was Robert Tierney. Congratulations to both students on a job well done.

**CENTER ROAD SCHOOL** - The Student Council read to our grade K-2 students, How Full Is Your Bucket? Then, students started writing their kind deeds on slips of paper. They are adding these to a large bucket in our hallway in an attempt to fill the CRS Bucket of Kindness.

**LAKE STREET SCHOOL** – The students, staff and families of Lake Street School were treated to a fabulous Winter Concert this past Wednesday. Mrs. Karen Davis directed our chorus of fourth and fifth grade students. Mrs. Russell accompanied the chorus on the piano. Maria Meier, flutist, alumna of Lake Street School and a senior at RHS, joined the performance. The performance and tunes were so catching that students in the primary grades were singing the songs the next day! Mrs. Kelly Stein directed fifth graders in their inaugural band performance. Students introduced their instruments prior to a performance by students of that instrument. The finale included a rousing performance of Jingle Bells, played the entire band, with the crowd singing! Our students performed to an enthusiastic crowd of parents, teachers and proud family members!

**MAPLE STREET SCHOOL** – On Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, MSS held a ceremony for the Student of the Marking Period Awards. On Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, six students from MSS were chosen to attend the Gr.5 Leadership Conference. Also, a new safety system is being installed in the Pre-K section of MSS

**NORTHEAST SCHOOL** – Northeast School has been recognized by the State of Connecticut as a School of Distinction due to an increase in our state testing scores. We have earned a Progressing classification and are proud of the hard work from our staff and students as we continue to find ways to foster learning.

**SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL** –The SRS Student Council has developed a new “Welcome to Skinner Road School” bag for students who move into the school during the year. The bag contains a welcome to school pencil, a school lanyard, a few small gifts, a map of the school and a certificate for a Skinner Road School T-shirt (the certificate is brought to the main office and the child is given their new t-shirt). A Student Council Representative shows up at the new students classroom presents him/her with the bag and gives the new child a tour of the building. A huge thank you to the PTO for helping to defray the cost of the t-shirts this year. Stay tuned next month as we reveal the Skinner Road School Olympic Games!

**VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** - Students at Vernon Elementary School have launched the new year with a lot of learning about resolutions and revising classroom rules. Since the new year often brings a renewed energy and new beginning, students have identified what their resolutions are for the rest of this school year and what they need to do to achieve them. One group of students developed new classroom expectations for 2014. Their saying is, "In our class it's okay to act like a C.R.A.B.!" CRAB stands for Classroom Respect, Assignments, and Boundaries.