



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – October 18, 2013

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – English Department – Congratulations to Vicky Nordlund, RHS English Department Chair, who took first place for poetry in the Connecticut Writing Project Teacher Consultant Writing Contest. She won \$100.00 for her first-place poem, *La Sagrada Familia*, and also received an honorable mention for another of her submitted poems.

Vicky and the other 2013 contest winners, including undergraduate and graduate students, will be recognized on Thursday evening, October 24, during Awards Night at the University of Connecticut. The event is sponsored by the Aetna Chair of Writing, the UConn Creative Writing Program, and the Freshman English Program. During the ceremony, award recipients will read from their works, which have been published in print and on the CWP website.

La Sagrada Familia

*El que estas fent fes ho de pressa
Whatever you are doing do it in a hurry*

Gaudi stepped out of his century
to return to the origin.
envisioning eighteen spires
in ascending order
towers of faith and transcendence.
Possessing no cranes
he began to build his piacular temple
For a client that was never in a hurry.
Broke arcs of water
full of curvaceous hope.
Cut columns of branches and bones
Tibiae of stone.
Chapels of angular restraint,
of balanced shadows.
And with monastic discipline
he planned the passion
and lost himself in the peaks
and portals of his creation.

Dreaming of Marian hymns
Gaudi, mistaken for a vagrant,
was killed on a street corner
in 1926 by a careless motorist
who broke his flesh into fragments
that no one could resurrect.

Buried in the crypt
to the left of the altar
his bones have become the foundation
for three generations of artists
who have followed his labyrinth of salvation.
His disciples devoted to the vision
never wavering, faithfully constructing
the caves and facades.

Content with the slow progression
They create the space.
They are the space.

As La Sagrada spirals
closer to Mt Montserrat
and as they carve and hew
and sculpt the Other
converting doubt into truth
offering their meager years on earth
for the promise of immortality.
They are in no hurry
for they have surrendered.
They are in no hurry
because to the client,
the cathedral is already complete.

Art Department – This week the advanced drawing class worked with the AG ED department, and had the chance to draw a live animal in the classroom. Mr. Brodersen brought over an alpaca, named Macchiato, and introduced the students to the animal. Students not only had the chance to study and draw the alpaca, but had the opportunity to increase their understanding of this animal, as well as the AG ED Department. It was a great time had by all.

Career Center - The Career Center hosted a mock interview day for the senior class on Wednesday, October 16. Over 40 volunteers from the community joined in the effort to give students a positive experience in preparing for future opportunities. The students dressed up and presented resumes to each professional as part of the experience. Students and staff report that it was a successful event.

World Languages – Last Thursday students Katia and Kiara Ruesta shared a presentation about their native country, Peru. The presentation was part of the International Club meeting. Students learned about the food, music, culture and different traditions of Peru. Meetings for the International Club are held every other Thursday in room 159. Advisors are Mrs. Montserrat Ferres and Mrs. Margaret Youmatz

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – The VCMS Girls Cross Country team is having a great year. Their current record is 7-3. The VCMS Boys Cross Country team has had key victories against Sage Park (Windsor) and East Hartford Middle School. All the kids are running strong and improving with each race. The course on the VCMS campus is a hilly 2.0 mile route. So far this season Nathaniel Roman has the fastest time for a VCMS boy (13:10) and Kyleigh Percy has the fastest time for a VCMS girl (14:04). Keep up the good work!

The Student Council is busy preparing for a "Spooky Halloween Dance " for our seventh and eighth graders on Friday, October 25, 2013.

Students are continuing to cast votes with their" SOAR" cards for their selections for "Spirit Week", October 21-25. A few choices are: Twins Day, Backwards Day, Favorite Sports Day, Hat Day, and Aloha Day.

We also are having a "Dress up Your Teacher" event. We will post all staff member names in the cafeteria and students will write a teacher's name on the back of their "SOAR "cards to vote for the teacher they would like to "dress-up" for the day. Choices include: pirate, pretty princess, mohawk rocker and seven more! Administrators will be included too!

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL –CRS participated in the Hartford Marathon on Saturday, 10/12. We had 26 of our students participate and several of our staff members and parents with Mr. Willette and Mrs. Poglitsch leading the pack. To start, we served a delicious pasta dinner for all on Friday night in the cafeteria with parent volunteers making the festivities a huge success. Our staff and parents came to a practice, they were a mile marker, or came to the actual event and cheered our CRS team on. It was a huge success! We had a great day for running and the kids were BEAMING! So many runners were cheering us on as we made our way through the 26.2 mile course and the kids really loved every bit of it.

After the race we had a about eight students run under the arch in Bushnell Park and officially end the race for Center Road School just about ten minutes short of five hours. Many of the fifth graders commented how they wished they could participate again next year and that they had a blast! Mr. Willette is already making notes for next year and can't wait for the event to happen again!

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – Hats off to the Students and Staff of Lake Street School! This Friday, students and staff are wearing hats to donate money to the Wounded Warriors project. Collected donations will be presented at our Veteran's Day Assembly on November 11th! Second grade students created leaf poems with our guest, Mrs. Leslie Johnson. Students each wrote a poem about a leaf and decorated their writing with a leaf rubbing. Students shared their poems and acted them out creatively.

Travel and Explorer Leaf
By James Custer

I am as gold as the sparkling coins in a treasure chest.
I am as smooth as a fresh road and pointy as a spear.
I swim like a shark in the sea
I am an adventurous leaf!

A Leaf's Life
By Abigail Brouillard

I am red as lava in a volcano.
I am as bumpy as a fence post.
I twirl like a ballerina.
I am a loveable leaf!

MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – Mrs. Lyn Gandolf, substitute principal, has enjoyed her first week at Maple Street School. She has visited classrooms and is starting to get to know the students. Her door is open; and she encourages parents to stop by to say “hello”. She is looking forward to working together with the Maple Street School Community!

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – The Vernon Fire Department came to Northeast School this week! Several classes were able to learn about the fire truck, hold a hose and climb through the truck. The firefighters taught us about fire safety, when to call 9-1-1 and that it is important to have a meeting place, like your mailbox, outside of our homes in case of a fire.

The preschoolers at NES have been working hard on learning their names as well as their friends’ names. They are also recognizing colors and color words through songs and pictures.

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – 47 Students and 10 staff members ran in the Hartford Marathon on Saturday October 11th. Students participated in a pasta supper at the school on Friday night prior to the Marathon. Tuesday night, *Friendly’s* ran a fundraiser to support the students. The staff and students are raising money for the Liver Foundation.

This week the Vernon Reads program began. Nine volunteers come to the school and read with students. Both the students and the volunteers look forward to working with each other. Students bring a book they are working on to the café and meet with the adult they are working with. Diana Bonacci, the school social worker is organizing and running this valuable program.

Students in all grades had their pictures taken by Lifetouch Studio. This year students will all be given ID cards, which Lifetouch is providing for the school. Student café numbers will be on the back of their photo id’s to assist with the Café Lunch Purchasing process.

VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Staff at Vernon Elementary School meet monthly with Mrs. Vivian Batterson, a consultant from EastConn, for training around social/emotional/behavioral strategies. This month staff discussed the issue of resiliency in children. Resiliency is defined as.....”the capability to spring back, rebound, successfully adapt in the face of adversity, and develop social and academic competence despite exposure to severe stress.....or simply the stress of today’s world.” Key components that help children build resiliency are.....

- Provide caring and support
- Set high expectations and share our belief in them to achieve success
- Provide ways for children to show their strengths and to contribute meaningfully.
- Increase social skills
- Set clear, consistent boundaries
- Teach life skills (decision making, problem solving, organizing, stress management, etc.)

In addition to teaching the academic curriculum, staff at Vernon Elementary School focus heavily on the above components each and every 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.