



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – October 4, 2013

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Family and Consumer Sciences - The students in the new Parenting, Protecting and Preparing Young Children's class have had guest speakers from the community lately. To learn about how parenting has changed over the years, five high school students invited their grandparents to give their perspective on this topic. The students also had many questions about how the Vernon Police respond to complaints and/or concerns for the well-being of young children, School Resource Officer Steve Langlais and Detective Jim Grady came in to answer their questions and share from their experience.

Math Department - The RHS Math team started off the year with only the "core four" from last year due to the graduation of a large number of seniors. We are happy to announce that we are now up to a team of 14. Our seniors are committed to qualifying once again for the state competition which would mean that they have achieved this goal all four years. The first meet of the year is next Wednesday at Bristol Eastern.

Social Studies - The IT Department and the Social Studies Department have collaborated on a mobile Chrome Book cart which is being used in Brian Fortes WWII class, as well as the Sophomore Contemporary World issues classes and the Senior Psychology classes. The Chrome books have been especially helpful as these new classes are piloted for the first time this year.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – On Monday, September 30, Kim and Shawn Gliha from The Garden Barn came to VCMS to speak to our seventh graders about how to care for plants and the process of seed germination. They did a fabulous job and came with many visual displays including a re-rooting jade branch, seed germinating supplies, and several annuals and perennials. The students had excellent questions and enjoyed the presentation. The presentation is part of an interdisciplinary unit with plant studies in science class and the reading of Seed Folks in language arts classes.

On Friday, October 4, Team Everest sponsored a Hat Day to raise money for "Friends of Abby Jones". The funds raised will help with the expenses for her kidney transplant.

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL – CRS has established a "Teacher of the Month". This is a part of our PBIS Program, it help build staff moral and recognizes a teacher for their dedication, hard work, and always going above and beyond. Their peers nominate them anonymously; the staff member with the most nominations is recognized at our staff meetings every month. They will receive a parking space closest to the building for their daily parking, a free dress down ticket and free duty pass that an administrator will cover for that month they are nominated. This month we recognized, Kim Cheman, our ELL teacher for her outstanding commitment to our school, staff, and students.

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – Lake Street School students are increasing their independent reading stamina, growing their stories in writing and identifying prime factorization in Math!

Grade Two authors celebrated their first complete writing pieces in Mrs. Barry's and Mrs. Caron's classes. The writers shared their pieces with teachers, classmates and parents.

LSS held its first school wide Morning Meeting of the Year. Our meeting was facilitated by members of the Lake Street School Pride Club, role model fifth graders, who presented our school wide definition of respect:

Respecting someone means you act in a way that shows you care about their feelings and well-being. Our school wide expectations will be enriched through social skills lessons and activities on a class, grade and school wide level.

MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – The Maple Street Community School begins on Monday, October 7. Several of our Maple Street School Staff will be providing Reading and Math support for our students during the first hour of the program. We are also very excited to work with all of our volunteers who will provide enrichment activities.

Ms. Goldsmith's First Graders have completed their own books. Ms. Barker-Jones, the principal enjoyed listening to some of the students read their stories. She is planning to go back for more first grade story-time in the near future.

Our library is now open and students can enjoy reading books of their choice that they can bring home for a week. There are many new selections on our shelves and the students are eager to read them. Ms. Colon, our librarian, will be starting some student book clubs in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for more information.

Please remember that we have a PTO meeting on October 7 in the library beginning at 6:30 pm. All parents are welcome!

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – So many exciting things are happening here this week at NES!

The fifth grade has been keeping their eyes on the sky learning all about the phases of the moon. High Touch came to visit them this week and the students can't stop talking about it! They have also been enjoying their reading so much that a few of them have joined our Book Club! They meet once a week during their lunch with Mrs. Burke to enjoy a book together and get wrapped up in a deep discussion.

In fourth grade the students have started planting and observing their terrariums. They have made amazing connections between what they are seeing happening in our controlled environment to what they have observed outside. They are very excited to see what will grow with our green thumbs.

Third grade students have begun to observe their cray fish. Hopefully this year, no one has to learn the hard way to observe with their eyes and not with their hands! In Math, the students are beginning Friday Centers. Each student will have their own personal individual focus for the day. We are all very excited to see their progress.

Lastly, October 2nd was National Custodian Day and we'd all like to say a big, "Thank you!" to our custodians, Mr. Mike and Mr. Brown. We celebrate all of the hard work you do each and every day!

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – Skinner Road has implemented Reader's Workshop. Readers Workshop gives students tools for selecting and comprehending literature. Over the course of this year, students will read many books and are encouraged to do as good reader's do in exploring different genres, authors, and texts. The program emphasizes the interaction between readers and text. Students learn to ask questions, make connections with prior knowledge and previously read texts, and ask questions to clarify faulty comprehension they recognize has occurred. The program includes peer conferences and teacher conferences with students but emphasizes students' independence and allows them to become successful readers outside of the classroom. During classroom walk throughs students can be seen writing down questions, connections to the text, or summarizing text on a sticky note which they attach to the page. Students love "Reader's Workshop at SRS.

VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Middle school students at Vernon Elementary School have been reading the book "Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life" by James Patterson. Students developed comic strip movies based on a scene or their favorite part. Next week, Hilary Berard, school counselor, will be facilitating a discussion with parents on strategies related to positive discipline and improving communication with children.

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.