



# VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – November 1, 2013

**ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL** – Interact Club - The Rockville High School Interact Club partnered with the Rockville Rotary Club on Sunday, October 27 for the Rotary's annual fall clean-up project. This year, seven Interactors (and one 2013 graduate and recipient of the Rotary Club Scholarship) participated along with their advisors Rita and Paul Courtois. The clean-up project focused on the parking lot area of the Church Street Station along the Vernon Rails-to-Trails system. Two large areas were cleared of brush and invasive plants, mulch was spread, and bulbs were planted. A sea of daffodils should be a welcome surprise for trail visitors in the spring! The Interact Club's next service project will be on Thursday, November 7 in partnership with the Cornerstone Foundation's SoupFest event at Saint Bernard's Church in Rockville

RHS Library - Comcast Basic and Family Tiers restored to RHS for Classroom use. Teachers may request the Library pre-record Shows to DVD for use in Classroom. Library Usage is going well. Approximately 715 books checked out and 414 non-book items checked out. The numbers of students using the RHS Library so far this fall are at: 63 Students for August, 2451 Students in September and 3059 Students in October. The New CHROMEBOOK Cart is in operation and has been borrowed for 32 classes in October.

World Languages - Field trip to Bavaria? Well, to a Bavarian-style Restaurant in New Britain On Friday, October 25th, 24 students from German classes and the German American Partnership Program (GAPP) accompanied Mr. Lewis and Mrs. Grim to the Eastside Restaurant in New Britain for a traditional German lunch and an insight into the sights, sounds and tastes of a Bavarian 'Oktoberfest'. The party was greeted in German and waited on by German staff. The students enjoyed Jaegerschnitzel, Kartoffelpuffer and Knockwurst to the melodies of an accordion player (in Lederhose, of course). For dessert there was Apfelstrudel. All raised their glasses of 'Limo' or 'Apfelschorle' in the traditional toast: Ein Prosit, ein Prosit der Gemuetlichkeit!

Art Department - Sherri Nevins (VCMS art teacher) and Patty Bengtson presented "One Million Bones" art and activism: from the classroom to the National Mall in Washington D.C. We told our story of making clay bones with students and staff in our schools last year and then travelling to D.C. in June to help install them on the National Mall. One Million Bones is a fundraising art installation and education project designed to recognize the millions of victims killed or displaced by ongoing genocides. Its mission is to increase global awareness of the ongoing devastation of genocide, raise money to protect and aid displaced victims and educate students about tolerance through art and social activism. Following the presentation we brainstormed with our audience other ideas for our classrooms and the power these activities give to our students –showing that they have a “voice” and can be an instrument for change through their art.

**VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL** – The VCMS Cross Country Team finished up their season at the League Championship meet on Tuesday, October 29, at Charter Oak Park in Manchester. The girl's team won second place overall, narrowly beating out Ellington. Congratulations on a great season!



*VCMS Cross Country Team*

The Halloween Dance on Friday, October 25, was a howling success!

Students and staff had a great time dancing to the beat of the fabulous DJ (alias Mr. Owens). The winners of the Wild Style Music dance contest were Jessenia Mierez and Brian Simmons.

Spirit week "kicked off" this week with several choices by students. The winning "SOAR" votes were cast for the following:

Monday -- Neon Day  
Tuesday -- Dress like a Twin/Triplet or Team!  
Wednesday -- Mustache Day  
Thursday -- Favorite Sports Team  
and, concluding on Friday -- Nerd Day

**CENTER ROAD SCHOOL** – Our Grade 1 students have been studying the life cycle of butterflies and mealworms. Their butterflies have hatched! The children were very excited to see the butterflies, and sad to release them. To end the insect unit, the children had a special presentation by the DEEP sponsored by the PTO. The children saw many amazing insects!

**LAKE STREET SCHOOL** – Students are adding to their repertoire of reading strategies for decoding and comprehension. When students don't know a word, they use picture clues, letter-sound clues, skip the word and think about what makes sense to come back and reread!

Students are blasting off with Rocket Math to build fluency and automaticity with math facts. Daily practice with peer partners helps students to meet their individual goals!

Lunch is an adventure as students are sampling new dishes! As students are eating, they are given the opportunity to try a taste of a new menu item. The overwhelming reaction is YUM!!

**MAPLE STREET SCHOOL** – The fifth grade band is off to an excellent start! The students have been learning to read music and all band members now know at least five notes on their instruments. The students have also been learning proper care and maintenance of their instruments. We look forward to sharing what we have learned and the band and chorus concert on December 5th!!!!

Fourth grade went to the New England Air Museum and learned about the forces of flight. Students had fun creating and testing their own fliers.

**NORTHEAST SCHOOL** – Mrs. Maxwell and the 5th grade students from Mrs. Havorsen's class at Northeast School participated in a community event that turned out to be a huge success!

On Thursday, October 24th, Charlie Chatterton (Eastern CT State University faculty member & parent of children in the Vernon Public School System) ran the Vernon Schools Marathon as part of the Taking Strides to Brake the Cycle of Poverty Marathon Initiative. He ran a mile with the students and spoke briefly with them on the topic of poverty and the benefits of a physically active lifestyle. Charlie has run 55 marathons in honor of the 46.5 million people who live in poverty in our nation.

In conjunction with the Vernon Schools Marathon, the Northeast School Community will also be holding a food drive to benefit the Hockanum Valley Community Council's Food Pantry. The food drive will take place during the month of November (from Monday, November 4th to Friday, November 22nd).



The family dance was great. Rockville High students led dances with the students. It was a fun filled evening of dancing!

**SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL** – Students in grades K – 5 participated in the SRS FALL FUN RUN. This was an after school event where students raced in grade level heats. Congratulations to all those who participated.

The 7th Annual Book Character Parade took place on Thursday. Students dressed up as their favorite book character. The entire school met in the gym for a reenactment of the book, Tacky the Penguin. A special thank you to Ms. Bonacci, Ms. Fafalla, and Mr. Devrey who played the parts of Tacky, Perfect, and the Fishermen. The book was read in a choral read, with students participating. Students, staff, and parents all commented on what a great way this was to celebrate our love of reading.

On Thursday after the Book Reading the school celebrated our PBIS stars of the month. Each classroom teacher nominated one student who has exhibited STAR behavior all week. Star behaviors are Safe, Truthful, Academic, and Respectful. 96% of the students in the building will be earning a star for their school Lanyard, as they have received no office referrals this month. We are very proud of the wonderful behaviors our students exhibit each and every day.

Skinner Road School is proud to announce that we are taking part in the district initiative for the Healthy School Alliance. The school has reached the distinction of a Bronze Level. Due to our healthy behaviors we will be applying for national recognition as a Bronze Level School. Stay tuned for updates on this exciting endeavor.

**VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** - Vernon Elementary School is pleased to welcome Mrs. Rebecca Kowalczyk to the staff. Mrs. Kowalczyk comes to us from recent teaching positions in Manchester and the Village School. She is excited to join our team and will be teaching in our upper elementary classroom, third through fifth grade. Welcome Mrs. Kowalczyk!

*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.*