



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – November 8, 2013

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Student Recognition - Three RHS seniors were recognized as Commended Students by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (Bryan Blik, Alyssa Condon, and Andrew Uzdejczyk). Commended students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2014 competition by taking the 2012 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). These Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success.

Math Department - On October 22nd, the four upperclassman from the RHS Math Team participated in a meet at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Gabe Rogan was awarded a \$1000 scholarship to WPI for having the top score from our team.

Interact Club - The Rockville High School Interact Club continued its fall service activities on Thursday, November 7, assisting with the Cornerstone Foundation's annual SoupFest event at Saint Beranrd's Church in Rockville. Four Interactors and their advisors, Rita and Paul Courtois, helped with the set-up of the church hall, moving tables, making decorations, setting the tables, etc. Another crew of Interactors arrived later to help with the soup contest, serving soups, salads and beverages, and with the clean-up after the event.

The group is looking forward to helping the Rockville Rotary Club on November 21st with their annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Pitkat Congregate Center on Franklin Street. The residents there eagerly anticipate this meal every year and it is wonderful to see the interaction between the generations as the Interactors and the Rotarians serve a delicious turkey dinner to a packed dining hall of hungry residents. The Club will also assist with the Hockanum Valley Community Council's food drives at both Stop and Shop locations (Vernon and Rockville) during the weekends of November 16th & 17th and November 23rd & 24th.

Special Education - Mrs. Knowlton's Learning Strategies class heard a wonderful presentation about Veteran's Day from Mr. Jon Graham. Jon is a social studies teacher at RHS and a Veteran. In addition to teaching the students about Veteran's Day, he also shared many of his own personal experiences and photos from his military tour in Afghanistan. Her students will be creating blogs about the presentation. Thanks Mr. Graham!

Career Center - Manchester Community College hosted a panel discussion on various careers in the criminal justice fields. The speakers included: a State Police Major, Manchester Police Department Detective, State of CT Corrections Officer, and Lieutenant from the New Haven Police Department. Twenty students from RHS signed up to attend this at MCC.

Family and Consumer Science - This week, two representatives from ECHN were guest speakers in the Parenting, Preparing and Protecting Young Children class at RHS. Amanda Johnston, MSW with the ECHN Family Development Center presented "The Impact of Trauma on Children"

and Jonathan Clements, Family Development Educator with ECHN presented “The Importance of Father Involvement in Parenting”. We thank them for their time and expertise and helping to make our student’s learning important and relevant.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – VCMS held a Dress-Up Your Teacher Day! Students voted for the teachers to wear specific costumes. We had clowns, princesses, Cousin It, a Sumo ballerina, banana, a pirate, and many more. The students were able to vote using the SOAR cards they had earned for demonstrating the school's values. The students used 654 SOAR cards to cast their votes! It was a fun day for the students and staff.



CENTER ROAD SCHOOL – Our Grade 2 students visited the Connecticut Historical Society and Museum last week enjoying every minute of this field trip. They were very busy developing and creating their own “hands on” community town map. The students were exposed to the right to vote and voting for a pool or playground in their community. And finally they experience what it would be like to work in a factory setting, assembling different parts and were exposed to an assembly line.

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – Lake Street School celebrated student learning at its school wide assembly this week. At the assembly, student leaders in our Pride Club reviewed our school expectations of respect, responsibility, cooperation and safety. The Pride Club then demonstrated scenarios to which students rated a thumbs up if these scenarios demonstrated respect or thumbs down if they did not.

Students representing classes K-5 shared examples of student learning to the school audience. Students shared:

- ways to expand numbers: $450 = 400 + 50 + 0$
- definitions of polygons and tessellations
- comparisons of texts by the same author
- results of student inquiry to determine how much water a lima bean would absorb: Three different student-led experiments concluded that a lima bean will absorb 20 ml of water. The students also concluded that the beans would absorb the same amount of water, regardless of the amount of water in the container, over 20 ml.

Our Wall of Honor displays stars with Veterans in our LSS community, in preparation for our Celebration of Veterans next week

MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – Students at Maple Street School had a wonderful Cultural Arts exhibit today of Endangered Birds that was sponsored by the PTO. Thank you to the PTO as the kids enjoyed every bit of the show!!!!

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – It has been a wonderful, busy week here at Northeast School! Mrs. Leslie's 2nd grade class wrote to Judy Bloom after reading her book Freckle Juice. She told the students that she is working on a new book. It will take her two years to complete it. The kindergarten classes had a visit from the staff at Mystic Aquarium. They learned about sea animals and got to touch real live creatures like horseshoe crabs, spider crabs and snails! NES won the Superintendent's Challenge by creating the most Veteran's Day cards. Go Northeast! The preschoolers are delighted with their new playground and grateful to the PTO for funding the installation.

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – Fifty-five students in grades K – 5 participated in the "Jumpin Jonnie's" Skinner event from 6 – 8 pm on November 4th. This event was sponsored by the PTO. A great time was had by all students in attendance. Students in grades K – 5 received their picture ID's. Each ID has the child's lunch number bar coded into the ID. Students can now swipe their ID cards in the café when purchasing lunch.

The staff at Skinner road is very proud of their student's behavior. 96% of the students have not had an office referral and have received a third star for their lanyard. To be a STAR at SRS students must be Safe, Truthful, Academic, and Respectful. Once a month each teacher chooses one student from their class who is celebrated for their positive behaviors at a STAR STUDENT ASSEMBLY.

November 5th was a professional learning day for the Vernon School District. The Skinner Road teachers worked as a grade level staff to align curriculum to the Common Core State Standards, develop lessons for Readers Workshop, and Writers Workshop. Staff had the opportunity to discuss school benchmark data across the grades. The entire staff at SRS is committed to working with each and every student so that he/she gets the best education possible.

VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Sixth grade students at Vernon Elementary School presented projects this week related to their study of the scientific method. Students chose an old wives tale to research and had to determine if they were based on truth. Students investigated such topics as...

Does eating ice cream at night give you nightmares?

Does a full moon cause people with seizure disorders to have one?

Is hot water cleaner than cold?

Each student developed a hypothesis, conducted research and/or experiments, shared their results with an audience, and came to some very interesting conclusions!

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.