



# VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – December 13, 2013

**ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Technology Education** - Matthew Kibbe and his engineering class won second place honors in the “Bring STEM to Life” nationwide photo contest sponsored by the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA). The photo, related to Mr. Kibbe’s Green Machine STEM education concept, shows engineering students watching TV “totally green and totally off the grid.” One of two photos entered will appear in the next “STEM Connections” magazine. The article link and photo can be viewed at <http://www.iteea.org/Publications/STEMconnections/STEMconnections12-13.pdf>.

**Family and Consumer Sciences** - Thank you to the many faculty and staff at Rockville High School for participating in and contributing to the Empty Bowls fundraiser sponsored by the Family and Consumer Sciences culinary classes and their two very hard working teachers, Mrs. Lori Gilmore and Ms. Elizabeth Harding. Over \$925 dollars was raised and will be donated to the Hockanum Valley Community Council Food Bank.

Mr. Scott Zahner, owner of Zahner's Men’s Clothing in Vernon, was a guest speaker for Fashion Trends students. He discussed an array of topics with the students including how he selects clothing to be sold in his store, how clothing is custom made, and much more.

**Allied Health** - The Allied Health I students have completed their job shadows for the year. Job shadows included three visits to various departments at Rockville General Hospital, the Family Birthing Center at Manchester Memorial Hospital, and a day of lecture and lab work at Manchester Community College. The students also attended a field trip with the Allied Health II class to the John A. DeQuattro Cancer Center.

More than 100 toys and 85 soft and cuddly teddy bears were collected through the annual toy drive, sponsored by the RHS National Honor Society, and the RHS staff teddy bear collection. The toys and bears will be donated to the Cornerstone Shelter Holiday Party for Children.

**VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – CADET SARAH GOODMAN** - On Wednesday, November 27, our students were treated to a glimpse into the life of a West Point student, Cadet Sarah Goodman, daughter of mathematics teacher, Mrs. Maria Goodman. The students were very attentive and amazed with the information that Cadet Goodman shared with them. She emphasized the importance of following and always continuing to reach for your goals.

**FAMILY NIGHT** - Our first Family Night on Friday, December 6, was a HUGE success with over 300 parents, grandparents, and children in attendance. There were games, prizes, dancing, volleyball, and of course FOOD! We had a wonderful time and are anxiously awaiting our next family activity.

**SPLASH?! WHAT SPLASH?** - VCMS participated in The Artic Splash at Valley Falls, on Saturday, December 7. We were able to raise \$225.00 which will send three children to summer camp. We were proud to accept the coveted "Most School Spirit Award" as more than half of our staff was represented as "plungers" and cheerleaders. Sooooo, next year’s challenge is 100% attendance.

**CENTER ROAD SCHOOL** – The Spirit of the Season has come to CRS. Our social worker, Karen Schiffmacher, set up a giving tree for our needy students to receive gifts this holiday season that they may not have received without it. The tree had ornament gift tags with gift requests from some of our school's less privileged students. Staff members could take as many tags and buy the gift, wrap it and return the gift under the tree. All the tags were taken and the gifts distributed to the family of those students confidentially.

This is what Mrs. Schiffmacher had to say about her peers at CRS, “I am feeling so blessed to be part of the CRS staff. On Monday, I put 50 tags on the tree in the lounge. My husband had asked me if I had a back-up plan for the gift tags that did not get picked up, there were no tags left! Many of you have already purchased or volunteered extra gifts. Some of you have provided CRS students and their families with amazing experiences for the holidays. I am beaming with pride and filled with the holiday spirit because of you all. You are truly amazing!”

**LAKE STREET SCHOOL** – Kindergarten students are learning to retell stories using story structure. Students are able to identify characters, setting and discuss whether the story had a problem to be solved.

Fourth grade students are participating in an interdistrict opportunity to learn about and appreciate diversity. This week, Mrs. Soffer Roberts, from East Conn, met with our students to discuss cultures and diversity. The students also learned about the “Wikispace” that they will utilize throughout the year.

Do you know if an instrument will make a high pitch or a low pitch, by looking at its length? Grade 5 students experimented with different instruments and determined that when you have two instruments: The shorter instrument will have a higher pitch. The longer instrument will have a lower pitch.

We are enjoying our opportunities with parents and families during our Conference Week! Our PTO is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair, with tremendous time and energy from Deb McAuliffe! Students browsed the selections during the week and are excited about the possibility of adding some of these titles to their personal libraries.

**MAPLE STREET SCHOOL** – On Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, Maple Street School had our 1<sup>st</sup> round of Parent/Teacher conferences along with the Book Fair where children along with their families were able to buy books. The children have had a wonderful time at the fair looking at the wide selection of books and purchasing them.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Parent/Teacher conferences is being held today, Friday, December 13, 2013 immediately following early release. The fair continues on.

**NORTHEAST SCHOOL** – Do you know any words that start and end with the same letter? Each day during morning announcements, Northeast School students are challenged with a brain teaser question. Students demonstrate initiative and critical thinking by submitting their answers to be read during the next day’s morning announcements. This week’s answers included noon, evolve, nonagon, hatch, and nation. During their weekly art class, Northeast kindergarten students are developing an early understanding of geometry. The students are using shapes to create animal drawings. Our youngsters have produced some amazing animals including horses, one of the most difficult animals to draw. Fifth grade students who have read at least seven novels during the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester celebrated with a special after school event. Our dedicated readers enjoyed a movie, popcorn, games and time with friends. What a great way to reward reading!

**SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL** – It has been a busy week at Skinner Road School. The students and staff at Skinner have the opportunity to join in an after school activity to improve their physical fitness. While the students are working with Mr. Uthgenannt on cardio fitness and games galore, the staff are working with a personal trainer one day a week on physical fitness. As a school we are committed to a healthy life style.

The SRS Family of staff and students collected gifts for the town toy drive. In addition we are collecting food for the holidays and gifts for families in need of a helping hand.

During the week the Scholastic Book Fair was held. Students had the opportunity to win a book or a pencil in the café during a fun fact activity sponsored by the principal and the school that cares fund. The money raised by the book fair is used by the PTO to enrich the school experience by providing assemblies during the year, author visits, classroom books, and numerous other activities. We are very thankful to our PTO who is such a support to our school.

The week ended with report card conferences. This is an opportunity for parents and teachers to come together as a team to insure that all students have a successful school experience. Skinner Road Staff believe that parents are an important partner in each child’s education.

**VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** - Nelson Mandella has been the topic of much discussion here at Vernon Elementary School. Students learned about the impact Mr. Mandella had on not only his own country, but the rest of the world as well. Students asked questions such as, “Where did he live?” and “Why was he in prison?” Some students noted the similarities with Martin Luther King.

*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.*