



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – December 6, 2013

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – ROCK Strong Benefit - On the evening of December 4th, the Rockville High School and Vernon communities joined together to show solidarity for two members of our freshman class who are battling serious illnesses. The ROCK Strong event was organized by the RHS Unity Team whose purpose is to bring our diverse student body together. This community event was filled with music, art, poetry and culinary treats as well as a raffle to raise funds. Community members and organizations, RHS staff, together with other Vernon Public Schools staff, RHS clubs, the Vernon Police Department, and many others donated 70 baskets for the raffle. Art student, Emily Seekins, created an original poster for the event and the Art Department set up an exhibit of student work. RHS foods classes prepared many beautiful and delicious treats for the bake sale. Several students recited their original poems and the Music Department showcased the Chorus and RHS Pep Band. Two students performed a tap dance. Three bands also performed; one was a student band and the other two included RHS faculty and VPS officers. There were many freshmen student volunteers, as well as Unity Team Members and RHS staff, who helped keep everything running smoothly. We are thrilled to report that the unofficial receipts from the **ROCK Strong** event are close to \$6,000!! Thank you, RHS and our very generous Vernon Community!!

CAREER CENTER - Congratulations to Mrs. Reilly's B2 & 3 Early Childhood Education classes for completing job shadows at Vernon elementary schools and the Greater Hartford YMCA. The job shadows were part of a class project and also a requirement for students participating in the Early Childhood Career Cluster.

RHS SENIOR CROWNED MISS CONNECTICUT TEEN USA - Congratulations to senior Sydney West who will represent Connecticut at the 2014 Miss Teen USA Pageant. She was crowned earlier this month at the Miss Connecticut Teen USA 2014 Pageant, following competition at the Stamford Marriott Hotel. The Miss Teen USA Pageant is usually held in the summer in the Bahamas. West, 16, was the reigning Miss Vernon at the time of her crowning. If she is crowned Miss Teen USA, Sydney will become the second titleholder from Connecticut, the first being her sister Logan. Contestants are judged in swimsuit, evening gown, and interview categories. Good luck in the national competition, Sydney!

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – The VCMS family participated in "Feeding Children Everywhere" last year. The following information is an update regarding the VCMS Soars for Hunger shipment. The shipment of meals for Uganda left the week of November 4. The shipping company for Feeding Children Everywhere reported that the ship sailed from a NY port and is scheduled to arrive in Mombassa, Kenya on December 16. From there the container will be driven to Kampala, Uganda, and it will then be received by All God's Children International for distribution to orphanages in Uganda.

You might enjoy this website: <http://www.vesselfinder.com/> The name of the ship that the container is on is the Maersk Hartford. If you enter that in the website, you can track the shipments.



Happenings in the music department...

MUSICAL SURPRISE! The RHS Pep Band visited VCMS on November 14. This visit was meant to be a surprise for the VCMS seventh and eighth grade band. The seventh and eighth grade band students joined together after school to work jointly on a piece called *Fire Dance*. At the end of their rehearsal they performed for the RHS visitors. In turn, the RHS band members played some modern songs – *Thriller*, *Dynamite*, and *Feel This Moment* – for the VCMS students. It was a great afternoon of music, mutual admiration, and camaraderie!

Four of our students were invited to represent VCMS in the 2014 Eastern Regionals Music Festival. Sabrina Bailey (grade 7, alto) and Holly Fischer (grade 8, soprano) will be singing in the Mixed Chorus. Emily Linton (grade 7, alto saxophone) and Kyleigh Percy (grade 7, clarinet) will be playing in the Concert Band. On the weekend of March 7 and 8, these students will join together at Rockville High School with other musicians from the eastern region to prepare a concert under the direction of a guest conductor. These students auditioned alongside many other student musicians in order to earn this opportunity and we could not be more proud that they are representing our school.

Students and staff participated in our Thanksgiving Share and collected over 2,500 food items to fill turkey baskets for families in our VCMS community. We provided 24 families with turkeys and all the “fixin’s” that were packaged in boxes especially decorated by “The Friday Friends Club.”

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL – CRS has established a PBIS Teacher of the month. This month Ms. MacDonald was voted by her peer for this award. Ms. MacDonald is an amazing teacher and truly makes an impact on all of her students. She not only is positive towards students, but she is a positive role model for the staff as well. We are lucky to have her here at Center Road School!

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – 5th grade students piloted the Ten Marks Math Program this week, using it to submit their math homework.

The Giving Tree has been set up in the front hall at LSS. The “Giving Tree” project will take place from December 9th-December 18th. During this time we will be collecting items for the Cornerstone Shelter in Rockville and the HVCC Food Pantry.

MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – On Thursday, December 5, 2013 the Band students at MSS performed for the entire school and did a magnificent job. They also performed that evening for parents, guardians and friends.

On Friday, December 6th, 2013, 5th grade teachers Mr. Woods and Ms. Russell hosted their Snow Flake Fair for students to purchase gifts for their families for the upcoming holidays. Donations came from staff members and parents. A big thank you to all for the wonderful donations.

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – The amazing Northeast School PTO elves created a child friendly holiday store. Northeast School students were excited for the opportunity to browse among many inexpensive gifts perfect for Mom, Dad, or siblings. Students could buy gloves for \$1.00, a flashlight with Dad printed on it for \$2.00, or a fancy looking ring for 50 cents. Fourth grader Carolyn says, “The Holiday Store is fun and it gives kids a chance to get presents for their family.” Peyton from third grade said, “I bought a candle for my Mom.” Kaitlyn, a fourth grade student said, “You can buy things for your family and friends.” Kaitlyn bought a puzzle for her little sister. The PTO makes no money from their Holiday Store endeavor. Numerous PTO members volunteer their time and effort to help children share in the joy of giving.

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – During the week on November 27, STAR students were celebrated in a PBIS assembly. One student from each room was recognized for being Safe, Truthful, Academic, and Responsible. Parents of the students receiving an award are invited to the assembly. Students with no office referrals for the month are also recognized. The Walk to School day scheduled for November 27th was cancelled due to the pouring rain (we were all thankful it was not snow).

December 3rd was the 4th and 5th Chorus Concert and the 5th grade Band Concert. It was amazing to hear how wonderful the band students did with only three months of music lessons under their belt. Under the direction of Mrs. Stein the students performed the following songs: Flutes: Merrily We Roll Along and Hanukkah is Here, Clarinets: Old MacDonald and Jolly Old St. Nicholas, Saxophones: My Dreydl and Sounds of Kwansa, Trumpets: Cardiff by the Sea and Au Claire de la Lune; French Horns: Hot Cross Buns; Trombones: Winter Walk and Percussion: Percussion Holiday. The entire band played Jingle Bells.

The Chorus made up of 4th and 5th grade students performed six songs for the audience. On my List, Spin the Dreydl which was accompanied by students on the Tambourines and student dancers, Celebrate Kwanzaa, Santa, Can you Hear Me?, The Best Gift of All; and The Twelve Days of Christmas. Twelve students performed the parts of the 12 days by making the sound of the animal that was said. Students in the Chorus concert wowed over 200 guests in the audience with their beautiful music and fun songs they performed.

The week ended with students coming to school on Friday December 6th to make Holiday Craft.

VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Vernon Elementary School is pleased to share that our very own Mr. Camp has organized and will be playing in the first annual Rockville High School Flag Football Holiday Bowl on Friday December 6th. Fans will enjoy watching and cheering on the Vernon Public Schools staff versus Rockville High School students. Most importantly, admission is a new unwrapped toy which will be donated to local families. We are proud of our Resource Support Officer for his efforts on behalf of all Vernon children. Thank you Mr. Camp!

