



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – February 7, 2014

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Thirty-eight Rockville High School students are winners in the 2014 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards presented by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. RHS students received 85 awards this year, the highest number of any participating high school in the state of Connecticut. In the past five years alone, submissions to this competition have topped 700,000 works, and students have been eligible for over 25 million dollars in awards and scholarships.

We also received the only Gold Writing Portfolio Award in the state, and we garnered two of the three Silver Writing Portfolio Awards as well!

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition continues to be the longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in the U.S. and the largest source of scholarships for young artists and writers. In past years, the awards have recognized some of America's most celebrated authors and artists including Truman Capote, Sylvia Plath, Bernard Malamud, Joyce Carol Oates, and Andy Warhol. Gold Keys, the highest awards bestowed upon competitors, are now automatically forwarded to the national level of judging. Students whose works merit a national award are considered for scholarships, publication opportunities, and national exhibition.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – So far, VCMS has sold 103 copies of Neal Shusterman's and Eric Elfman's new book, *Tesla's Attic*. Famous author Neal Shusterman will be coming to VCMS on March 25 to present a school-wide assembly about the writing process. In addition, Eric Elfman will run a writing workshop for about twenty-five students. We have committed to purchasing 200 copies of the new **hardcover, autographed** book in order for these two great authors to visit us. There is still time to purchase a copy. The cost is \$11.00. Please contact Regina Lee at VCMS for an order form.

The VCMS school-wide Spelling Bee will take place on February 14, Valentine's Day. There are fifty students participating in the Bee. It will be a perfect day for those who LOVE WORDS!

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL –“Despite the snowing weather, exciting things continue to happen at Center Road School.

- Eight of our 5th grade students, who recently attended a statewide Leadership Conference, were recognized at our school's monthly meeting.
- Two of our fifth grade students were just honored at the Aqua Turf this week for their excellence in Art and Music. Our two students and their families enjoyed a night out including a pasta, pizza, taco, and ice cream sundae buffet, followed by some great live entertainment.
- Our 1st and 3rd graders continued their pen pal letters to each other. Over the past month students in these two grades are slowly getting to learn more and more about their pen pal, and many 1st grade students are getting very excited for the day when they get to meet their 3rd grade pen pals in person.
- In Kindergarten, our students have been working hard on a reader's theatre, and this week performed for one another. Students decorated their own hats for the performance, and read their lines with conviction. Some students even memorized their lines prior to their final performance. Great job!”

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – On Tuesday, students in Kindergarten, First and Second Grade celebrated our **100th Day of School!!!** Kindergarten students shared 100 items that they brought from home and decorated hats. First and Second Grade Students counted to 100 in a variety of ways: by 10's, 2's, 5's and 1's! Then the students read and sang two 100 Day songs, led by Mrs. Jones. Students then participated in a variety of centers, decorating 100 Day crowns and glasses, listening to a story, writing a math story and sharing what they would do with \$100!!! Thanks to the collaboration and assistance from all of the teachers and many parents, the students had a wonderful celebration!

Two of our Fifth Grade Students, Alex Dionne and Alexandra Kaminski, were recognized at the CT Association of Schools' Celebration of the Arts at the Aquaturf on Wednesday evening! Mrs. Davis nominated Alexandra for her

work in the Performing Arts. Alex was nominated by Mrs. Gottier for his work in the Visual Arts. Alexandra and Alex represented our school well, with their families in tow. Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Gottier, Mrs. Leach, Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Sinacola joined the celebration of these students! Congratulations, Alexandra and Alex, we are very proud of you!



MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – On Tuesday, February 4th, members of the Mystic Aquarium visited the Kindergarten classes at MSS and the 3rd grade class of Ms. Roos to which the students immensely enjoyed their water animals presentations!!!

"On Tuesday, two fifth graders from MSS were honored at the Connecticut Arts Awards Ceremony sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools. Congratulations to Sam Wheeler for his excellent work in Music and Selena Colletti for her accomplishments in Art class. Thank you to Mrs. Perrett and Ms. Sabal for nominating our students based on their excellent work. CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN!!"

On Thursday, February 6th, students of MSS Kindergarten celebrated the 100th day of school and made wreaths with 100 things on them. Our 2nd graders made necklaces with items such as popcorn, cereal, beads, stickers and many other items. The students had so much fun creating the wreaths and necklaces.

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – NES kindergarteners were very busy creating posters and crowns that featured hundreds of details, patterns and designs in celebration of the 100th day of school. The 5th grade hosted a Wax Museum that featured many famous people from history and today. The students did an excellent job of choosing costumes that matched their persona and sharing information and facts about their character. On Tuesday, the Connecticut Association of Schools hosted their annual Elementary Arts Recognition Festival at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, CT. 5th grade students, Mariah Shivers and Olivia Tourtelotte, received awards for musical and visual arts!

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – This week Skinner Road School celebrated the 3rd Annual Skinner Road Winter Olympics. Each class represented a different country. The class paraded into the gym and shared a fact about the country they represented. Students are earning metals during the month of February by exhibiting STAR Behavior at Home and at School. Students need to have parents sign a form that states they were: Safe, Truthful, Academic and Respectful. There will be a closing ceremony at the end of the month.



VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Students in Mrs. Kowalczyk's class at Vernon Elementary School really enjoy learning about animals! That's why over the past two weeks, students have read about wildlife in different parts of the world. They also learned a lot by looking at many pictures from Mrs. Kowalczyk's mother, a volunteer wildlife rehabilitator. Did you know that food is often scarce for many animals during the winter months? That's why students designed their own bird feeders filled with seed to hang outside of our classroom window. Currently, they are planning their own projects to further explore their interest in animals. One student is producing a puppet show to teach what he's learned to younger students in our school. Another student is considering creating a diorama of an animal in its natural habitat.

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.