



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – March 21, 2014

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Darcy Davis initiated an interdisciplinary activity with the Music Department and the Social Studies Department. During a combined choral and band concert Wednesday evening, Mr. Davis and the band did an outstanding job playing a musical piece about the life of Abraham Lincoln. During the piece, five members of the Social Studies department read a dialogue of quotes from Abraham Lincoln. It was a great opportunity to pair the two departments and work with students outside of the traditional classroom.

This past Monday, students from Rockville High School and Vernon Center Middle School participated in a poetry contest organized by the CT Council of Language Teachers. The students worked very hard, with assistance from their teachers, practicing their poems during the last month. Maria Meier received a second place for her recitation of a poem by German Poet Wilhelm Busch. Cheyenne West, Gabriel Rogan, and Aiman Hameed also recited poems in French and German. Thanks also to Mr. Chris Lewis and Mrs. Gabriela Zorca for making this activity possible for our students.

The Rockville High School Drama Club performed the student written show, *Negative Space* at VCMS on Friday, March 21st. It was a huge success!

Round one of the third annual Cupcake Wars was a huge success! Fifteen of Mrs. Lori Gilmore's Creative Foods and Baking Class students paired up with RHS faculty, staff, and the school resource officer, for a friendly competition on March 19th. Six teams will move forward to the final competition, which will be held on April 3rd at 6pm at the Cupcake Extravaganza. Cupcakes will be available to the entire community, and the proceeds will be donated to the Hockanum Valley Community Council.

Tickets are \$10.00 and will entitle the recipient to choose four gourmet and novelty cupcakes. Tickets are available at Rockville High School (860) 870-6050 and HVCC (860) 872-7727. Thank you to the following competitors in Round One: Renee Rogan and Miss Shuttleworth, Jessica LaRose and Mrs. Reilly, Erin Gonyeau and Ms. Hoffman, Amanda Hoover and Mrs. Adduci, Becca Landry and Mrs. O'Sullivan, John Drost and Mrs. Fitzgerald, Thomson Lester and Mr. O'Brian, Kat Lowell and Mr. Wetmore, Alexis Thepsiri and Mr. Breen, Melissa Works and Mrs. Clark, Rachel Shane and Miss Rebecchi, Matt Bilmes and Officer Langlais, Haley Mistretta and Ms. Brennan, Alicia Dillman and Mrs. Nordlund, and Shannon Turgeon and Mrs. Simmons.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – SPIRIT WEEK...VCMS is welcoming March Madness 24th-28 by showing our "Spirit"! The students voted by using their SOAR tickets for the following:

Monday Dress Like a Twin
Tuesday Purple Day
Wednesday Mismatched Clothing
Thursday Superhero day
Friday Favorite Sports Team Day

It should be a great showing of the Spirit that we have in OUR school!

CONGRATULATIONS...On Monday March 17, seventh grade French student Aiman Hameed represented VCMS at the annual World Language Poetry Recitation Contest at CCSU. She recited the French poem 'L'escargot', by Paul Savatier. Congratulations, Aiman, and thank you for your contribution!

IN MEMORY...Jason Magao, Regina Lee, Jean McDermott, Sherri Nevins, Ann Nolan, Linda Schubert, and Joyce Sepulveda are a team that joined together and are willing to do their best to make the following project a special and meaningful way to remember our music teacher, Miss Susan Spadjinske. Being a music teacher was an important part of Miss Spadjinske's life, and the VCMS family lost a compassionate and dedicated teacher when she died on December 5, 2013.

The inspiration for a memorial project came from a January 4-5, 2014, article about Sue in the Journal Inquirer. According to the article, Robert Siragusa and Sue "met online and e-mailed each other before finally meeting at a bookstore in Glastonbury." Rob and Sue were together for ten years before the cancer conquered her body. Sue left a final message from her hospital bed – "Tell Rob I'll meet him at the bookstore."

A sign came to Joyce Sepulveda like a lightning bolt when she re-read the article about Sue, and the "Meet Me at the Bookstore" memorial plan came to life. Books and eBooks appropriate for the middle school can be purchased in Sue's memory and donated to the VCMS library. As an outdoor tribute to her, courtyard garden donations are also being accepted for a memorial bench and flowering tree. Please see the attached flyer and donation form for more details. The flyer, donation form, and book list can also be found on the VCMS website (www.vernonpublicschools.org/vcms-homepage<<http://www.vernonpublicschools.org/vcms-homepage>>).

Your support will make certain Miss Susan Spadjinske's impact is felt for many years to come. We look forward to spring, enjoying the garden, and reading a book under our newly planted tree as a lasting tribute to a member of our VCMS family.

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL – "34 of our students submitted pictures to the Elks of Rockville for their annual Coloring Book Program, and six of our students have been pushed forward to the District and State Elks Association finals. We are proud of all the students who entered this completion.

Our 5th grade students just completed the Science portion of the CMTs. The teachers and administration were all proud of the effort that our students gave during this test.

The popular gymnastics unit has begun for all students during their physical education classes. Students are busy practicing their tumbling skills on mats, as well as showing off their moves on the springboard. Some of the older students also have opportunities to climb a 20 foot rope, and design their own gymnastics routine."

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – Grade One students are completing their All About Books and getting ready for their celebration and sharing! These books include a table of contents, glossary of important words and illustrations.

Grade 5 students worked with the Discovery Center this week to explore different roles in times of conflict. Students role played scenarios, taking part of the perpetrator, target, bystander and upstander. Students presented two versions of the scenario, where the bystander became the upstander. Our work with Discovery Center helped students explore social situations, deepen their understanding and develop social skills to navigate their world successfully.

MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – Students in Grades 3, 4 and 5 at MSS are looking forward to our Learning Fair that will take place in May. Seventeen students participated in the first offered help session to get started on their research and note taking.

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – This week was a week of celebrations! Northeast not only celebrated St. Patty's Day on Monday, but we also remembered Mrs. Shea by wearing green, Red Sox or Peanuts gear. The sea of green was accompanied by memories and lessons we all shared and learned from Mrs. Shea; a true tribute. At our Spirit Assembly this week, the students learned about dedication and commitment from our friends in the Study Lab. The skit helped the students really see what true commitment looks like.

Students and staff will be reppin' their team colors on Tuesday to demonstrate their commitment to their favorite teams. As Northeast prepares to show what they know during the upcoming SBAC testing, the students were able to spend this week using the new technology in our school and become technologically savvy – you can feel the excitement in the air! Next week is another busy week and students will be ready to show that test who is boss!!

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – The Dental Bus was a huge hit at SRS this week. Students in PreK – Grade five had the opportunity to have their teeth cleaned and examined. It was amazing to see how happy students were leaving the dental bus. Please check out the pictures on our Facebook page and Web Site. If you are interested in more information about this important service please call the nurses office at SRS at 860 870-6180.

Wednesday March 19th our fourth grade students visited the Connecticut Science Center. Students have been studying force and motion in science and were able to learn more about this topic at the Science Center on their Force and Motion Exhibit.

This week second grade students and their parent, as well as SRS teachers, joined Maple Street students and parents to hear Jim Harriman tell the story of Horton Hears a Who? Parents, students and teachers all had a great time. Jim had everyone in the room laughing and helping to act out the story of Horton Hears a Who? Next week students in grade three will have the opportunity to experience this wonderful opportunity. SRS thanks the library and Maple Street School for including us in this wonderful program. There were 63 people present.



VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Students at Vernon Elementary School have been preparing for the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) that begins this week. Students tried practice tests on the computer, and reviewed different computer skills and vocabulary they will need to know in order to complete the SBAC independently. Students always enjoy working on the computer, so we anticipate them putting in their best efforts during the upcoming weeks!

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.