



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

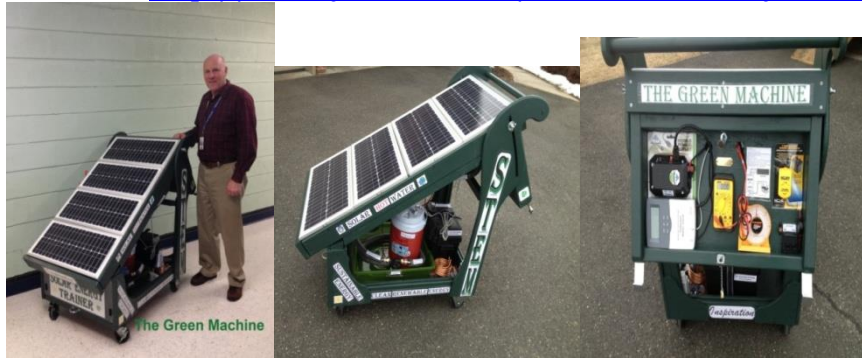
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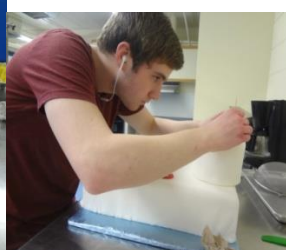


GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – March 28, 2014

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Technology Education - This year's International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA) Conference takes place in Orlando, Florida, from March 27th to 29th. The conference focus will be on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. Teachers from across the nation and internationally will be able to showcase the STEM activities they are currently doing in their classrooms. It is called, "Bring STEM to Life." After winning 2nd place in a national "Bring STEM to Life" photo contest, Mr. Matt Kibbe was personally invited by the ITEEA to showcase his new patent-pending invention, called the "Green Machine." Mr. Kibbe's STEM education invention can be viewed in operation at this link: <http://youtu.be/N663vIABI3s>. Mr. Kibbe plans to bring back to VPS some new concepts and tactics about teaching STEM education to share with others. Click on this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMINnyPfkM0>



Family and Consumer Sciences – The Family and Consumer Sciences Department is proud of the following Baking II students who, under the guidance of Mrs. Lori Gilmore, competed in the Cake and Sugar Arts Competition sponsored by the Connecticut Chef's Association in Hartford on Sunday March 23rd: Erin Gonyeau, Thomson Lester, Renee Rogan, Alicia Dillman, John Drost, Heather Bousquet, Alexis Thepsiri, Melissa Works, Melissa Champagne. Their outstanding work is currently on display at the high school.



Renee Rogan

Melissa Champagne Thomson Lester

Renee Rogan

English - Congratulations to Jacqueline Ose, who is a 2014 Scholastic National Medal Recipient. Jackie received a Silver Medal for her writing portfolio. She will be honored along with her teacher, Vicky Nordlund, during an awards ceremony on June 6th at Carnegie Hall. Medalists and their teachers will also have the opportunity to attend workshops in New York City, where they will meet with artists and writers to learn about creative professions. This year, 255,000 works of art and writing were submitted to regional programs across the nation, making this award truly an amazing accomplishment for Jackie.

Library Media Center -The RHS Library Club Fundraiser cleared about \$ 436 by selling refreshments (including many healthy choices) during last weekend's Elite Performance National Dance Competition. which was held in the RHS Auditorium. A big thank you to the library staff, Mrs. Parenchuck, and two library student volunteers, Ally Parenchuck and Marilyn Lowell. Marilyn and Ally will each get to choose four books, which will be purchased for the RHS Library. The remaining proceeds will be used to purchase more Ebooks, as well as a few more print titles of high interest.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – Renowned authors Neal Shusterman and Eric Elfman visited VCMS on March 25. The authors spoke to the whole school about their latest book, *Tesla's Attic*. They presented their research about the inspiration for the story, inventor Nikola Tesla, and answered many student questions about the process of writing. Students were also asked to vote on the title for the latest novel in the series. After the school-wide assembly, twenty-seven students, who were selected by their language arts teachers (three from each academic team), participated in a writing workshop with Eric Elfman.

Neal Shusterman has written over forty-four books, including the popular Unwind Series, *Bruiser*, *The Schwa Was Here*, and *Everlost*. Eric Elfman has written over fourteen books, many articles and screenplays, including the *Almanac of the Gross*, *Disgusting*, and *Totally Repulsive*, three X-Files novels, and the sequel to the Curious George movie.

Many students and staff members have been able to purchase autographed, hardcover copies of *Tesla's Attic* and are enjoying the story. Autographed books are still available for sale for \$11.00 by contacting Mrs. Regina Lee at VCMS.



CENTER ROAD SCHOOL –“Center Road School just received 56 Chrome Books for our students to use in their classrooms. Already the Kindergarten students tried them out in their classrooms, and they work great. All students were able to go on-line and do individualized reading activities on Lexia.

The SBAC has started for 3rd graders this week, and they have been going very well. Our students have given their best effort, and enjoy taking the test on computers. Some of the students are actually taking the test on the Chrome Books that we received.”

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – Parent Conferences are a great success! Thank you to the parents and teachers who came together to discuss their child’s academic progress.

Third and Fourth grade students are working hard on their SBAC assessments. Overall, our first week has gone very smoothly! Students have reported the experience as fun! Meanwhile, our Kindergarten students are looking forward to spring!



MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – On Tuesday, March 25th students in Pre-K and Kindergarten enjoyed a hands-on presentation from Mystic Aquarium on small animals in their classrooms.

MSS held their report card conferences on Thursday, March 27 and Friday, March 28, 2014.

Fourth grade students at MSS were busy taking the first part of the SBAC exams all this week.

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – Northeast sure does have team spirit!! We started off the week here by showing off pride for our favorite sports teams. We had it all, from hockey to soccer, basketball, football, and baseball, too! Luckily, the Jets' Jerseys were few and far between! Fourth graders also kicked off the first wave of SBAC testing! Everyone is having a great time showing what they know! The students are cool, calm and collected when breezing through these tests. This week has been fun, but it was made even better by our Scholastic Book Fair in the library. There's a “just right” book for everyone!

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – It has been another busy week at Skinner Road School. Report card conferences were held for students. A thank you to all the parents who have completed the Parent Climate Survey. Your comments and feedback help us to improve our services to you and your children. Our mission statement is: Skinner Road School is a collaborative community of learners where our expectations encourage each individual to reach the highest level of excellence. Our school fosters an environment where individuals feel comfortable, wanted, valued, accepted, and safe. In partnership with family and community, our mission is to provide students with a strong educational foundation that will prepare them for success in life. The survey closes April 30th so there is still time to give us feedback!

83 Students, parents, and staff from third grade at Maple Street and Skinner Road were wowed by Jim Harriman and his story hour this past Wednesday. While many students have read the book “Where the Wild Things Are”, Jim brought a new perspective to the group. This is the third parent/student story hour and each and every one was amazing. Next week Jim will be doing a storytelling evening for students in grades K-3.

SBAC Testing started this week for third graders at Skinner Road School. We are all proud of how well the students did. While the test is challenging it is interactive and requires the students to problem solve. Our students worked hard and did their best.

VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Students at Vernon Elementary School have been working hard in their reading groups. They've been participating each day in learning new vocabulary words, practicing their decoding and comprehension skills with different activities, and making reading fun by playing games like word Go Fish and synonyms basketball. It's rewarding for the staff to see how students really look forward to reading group time with their peers, and it's just as rewarding to see our students becoming stronger readers!