

# VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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## GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – March 7, 2014

**ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL** – On Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, nine Interact Club members and two 2013 RHS graduates, who were Interact officers last year, participated in the Rockville Rotary Club's Bowling Event at Spare Time Lanes in Vernon. The Rotary Club planned the event to raise money to help end the struggle with polio worldwide. The students interacted with the Rotarians and other adults for two hours of bowling, raffles, fun, and community spirit. A special thanks to members of the Rotary Club for the invitation to participate, as well as for the donation of the tickets for these eleven students!

Junior Erin Gonyeau is Rockville High School's 2014 Poetry Out Loud champion! She will be competing for the title of state champion on March 12<sup>th</sup> at Central Connecticut State University. Also, congratulations to English Teacher Victoria Nordlund, who is so dedicated to her students!

**VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL** – On Friday, March 14, the Relay for Life Team will be sponsoring an activity night for students from 7-9 PM. The team is planning on having volleyball, a basketball shooting contest, a fortune telling booth, mind challenges, cup stacking, and more! A student's mother has volunteered to donate her face painting and balloon animal services as well. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

**CENTER ROAD SCHOOL** –“Students were greeted Monday morning by The Cat and The Hat and Thing #1 to kickoff Read Across America Day! The entire school met for a monthly meeting where members of the staff read a Dr. Seuss story to all the students. From there, classes had guest readers come in and out of their classrooms to celebrate the joys of reading, and to share a favorite book with them. Guests included police officers, parents, grandparents, and Central Office Administrators. All students were also given opportunities throughout the day to read to themselves or with a partner. A special thanks to Mrs. Phillimore and Mrs. Piscitelli who helped organize the day's events.

On Tuesday morning, the students were given a special treat as they were allowed to have free samples of fruit smoothies in our cafeteria. More than 300 students went through the line to sample delicious smoothie flavors such as; Strawbana, Very Berry, and Peach/Mango. Students voted on their favorite flavors, and are now awaiting the results!

The final count is in and our students raised over \$3,800 for the American Heart Association during Jump Rope for Heart. We are all so proud of the generosity of our students and staff at Center Road School!”

**LAKE STREET SCHOOL** Welcome to Camp Read-A-Lot, the Lake Street School celebration of Read Across America! Students looked in awe at the gym as it was transformed into a camp site, complete with kayaks, tents, canoe and picnic areas. After a school wide reading of We're Going on a Bear Hunt, students in Pre-K -5 enjoyed hearing their guest reader share a book with them. Camp-Read-A-Lot extended into the evening with families rotating into 4 different stations, from building S'Mores, fishing for words to reading together at the camp site. As one of our students said, “ Best. Day. Ever!”

Congratulations to Katie Galvin on being Fire Prevention Contest Winner! Thanks to Lauren Gottier, Katie's poster, along with those of other LSS Students, was submitted for selection. The VFD and Dr. Conway presented Katie with a certificate and framed her poster. She also got to go on a cool ride in the fire truck! Katie will participate in the Town Selection Committee next year. We are very proud of her!

**MAPLE STREET SCHOOL** – The Community School has had a lot of success within its programs recently. All of our programs at the Community School have been growing and improving different skills in our students. Some good news from some of our programs are as follows:

Many of our children have a new favorite hobby—COOKING! Currently, Cooking Club, facilitated by *FoodCorps* service member Catherine Hallisey has about fifteen students who are learning basic cooking skills, from cutting to measuring, and applying these skills in healthy recipes that are made every week. Kale salad, fruit smoothies, and black bean corn salsa are just some of the amazing dishes that have been created so far. Each week students add to their own personal cookbooks, with their thoughts on the recipes, such as “I give this smoothie 100 thumbs up!” Meanwhile, we’re getting families involved with a *Cooking Matters* class at night, which spends an hour learning about anything from added fats to sugars to smart spending when grocery shopping; and then another hour cooking a full meal and shorting it as a class. Recently we made a great batch of pasta, greens, and beans with a side of apple yogurt salad. Containing all five food groups, the meal was delicious and nutritious!

The *Good News Club* sponsored by Union Church & CEF CT continues to meet this year. We have had over 20 children enrolled and attendance is good. In the fall we studied the life of Joseph, and Jesus, learning about making good choices, that God has a plan for their lives and He always wants the best for them. This winter and spring we will study the life of Esther and then Peter, and how their lives can be an example of courage and strength. This year we have set a new record of verses memorized, even our early readers are memorizing scripture!

The Cub Scouts of Pack 20, Maple St School, have been working very hard. All Scouts, regardless of age, have earned the rank of Bobcat. To earn this rank the Scouts must know the Pledge of Allegiance, The Scout Sign, Salute, Promise, Handshake, Motto, and the Law of the Pack. After completing the Bobcat, kindergarten and first grade scouts will be earning the Tiger badge, second graders will be earning the Wolf badge, third graders will earn the Bear badge and fourth and fifth graders will earn the Webelos badge. Scouts have been presented with "progress" beads to signify their accomplishments as they work their way toward these ranks. The Scouts are having fun and at the same time they are learning about responsibility, personal fitness, leadership, citizenship and more.

Started recently, we have partnered up with the UCONN Community Outreach department and have expanded their students’ involvement at the Community School from not only in the ever so popular 4H program but now offering tutoring time to our students in classrooms. We have 12 UCONN students coming Monday and Wednesdays to offer their assistance to students academically and then some even stay for the 4H program afterwards.

The Community School is looking forward for the warmer weather so that our students will be able to enjoy the outside in their programs. We have many new activities coming in the next months and look forward to what new opportunities they will bring for our students.

On Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, MSS celebrated Dr. Seuss’s birthday. We had guest speaker Superintendent Dr. Conway visit MSS and read to our students.

This week at MSS it is D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read), Read Across America week and we have had a number of guest reader’s visiting our classrooms and reading to our kids

**NORTHEAST SCHOOL** – This week Northeast School turned into Seussville! In honor of Read across America Day, classroom doors were decorated with everything Dr. Seuss. Everywhere you looked, a lorax, a fox in sox, or a blue fish was looking back! Many classes went on “door tours” to hunt for a beloved Dr. Seuss character. Guest readers including Mayor Dan Champagne visited classrooms to share their love of reading. Some fourth and fifth grade students picked their favorite Dr. Seuss book.

They headed down to kindergarten and preschool to practice their leadership skills and to be role models in reading. It was a wonderful week of reading!!!

**SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL** – This was a very busy and productive week at Skinner Road School. On Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup> students in upper grades were paired with younger students for a buddy read in honor of Dr. Seuss's Read Across America Week. On Wednesday we had a guest reader, Dr. Conway came to Mrs. Willette's class and read to the students. Our Kindergarten students were invited by the Library to join Maple Street K students for an evening with Famed Story Teller and Play Writer Jim Harriman. Jim had all of the students and parents engaged and laughing as he read the Mem Fox story, Tough Boris. Students and parents had the opportunity to read and act out the story. Every K parent left with a copy of the book. Thursday morning we had a surprise visit by the fire department. One of our students, Simon Percy, was honored by the fire department for his fire prevention poster. Simon's poster will be on display at town hall. Congratulations Simon for a job well done. On Friday the Lutz Museum came to SRS to work with our K students. The Lutz brought a number of animals to teach the students about animals and their habitats. Students guessed what animals they would see. Among the list were lions, zebra's and snakes. The month of March is March Madness at SRS. Every Friday the staff and students end the week with a spirit day. This Friday in honor of Dr. Seuss we had red and white day.

**VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** - Read Across America Day was in full swing on Monday at Vernon Elementary School. Mrs. Patti Buell and Officer Steve Langlais were invited to be guest readers in two of the classes. Officer Langlais read the book "Katy And The Big Snow" by Virginia Lee Burton. Mrs. Buell read Doreen Cronin's "Thump, Quack, Moo". As an extension activity Mrs. Buell brought the students carpentry tools, wood and safety goggles. With these items the students participated in a wood working project. A great time was had by all!



*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.*