



# VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent  
30 Park Street • P.O. Box 600  
Vernon, CT 06066-0600  
Fax (860) 870-6005

Website: [www.vernonpublicschools.org](http://www.vernonpublicschools.org)



## GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – May 16, 2014

**ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Art Department** - On Saturday, May 10th, the Public Works Department sponsored a Community Shred Event and a Touch-A-Truck Day. Did anyone see a giant orange safety cone along the side of the road that day? That was Sammy the Safety Cone, the Vernon Public Works mascot. This cone was designed and created by an RHS Art student. It was a great collaboration; students and staff enjoyed watching Sammy "unfold" and the art teachers enjoyed being a part of this community event.



**Video Production** - Student Nick Bartos' short film submission, "Band Aid - 2014", has been accepted by the Quiet Corner Film Festival and will be shown on Wednesday, May 28th in the Killingly High School Auditorium. The doors and red carpet open at 6pm. Films screened at the festival will be evaluated by a panel of judges and will be eligible for awards (First Place - \$500 scholarship, Second Place - \$250 scholarship, and Third Place - \$100 scholarship). The top three winners, as well as winners for Best Sound, Best Editing, Best Cinematography, and Audience Favorite will receive an original trophy designed and crafted by Barrett Kern of Kern Metal Craft. Trophies will also be given to winners for Best Sound, Best Editing, Best Cinematography, and Audience Favorite as voted on the night of the event by the audience.

**Social Studies** - On Thursday Mr. Forte, McCann, and Mr. Magouns' Social Studies classes held a Skype session with Senator Chris Murphy. The classes had written to their elected representatives earlier in the year about a variety of issues. After receiving the letters, Senator Murphy reached out to RHS because he was impressed with the high quality of writing from the students. The Skype session lasted about 20 minutes, allowing students to follow up on their issues as well as ask about the daily life of a senator.

**National Honor Society** - Twenty-five juniors and seven seniors were inducted into the George Sykes Chapter of the National Honor Society on Thursday, May 15. Senior Inductees include Patrick Breslin, Alexander Demetro, Nicholas Murray, Gabriel Rogan, Rachael Shane, Alexis Thepsiri, and Jessica Wells. Juniors include Riley Aafedt, Zachary Adams, Nicholas Bartos, Tyler Beaulieu, Igor Biahliak, Erin Brownell, Charlie Clayton, Kathryn Davis, Tatiana Dimovski, Erin Gonyeau, Haley Hasty, Tyler Johnson, James Lamoureaux, Brianna Laskey, Courtney Lavalley, Jaclyn Leonard, Aarika Mallory, Shaun Monaghan, Brett Montminy, Samantha Morales, Spencer Padget, Brennan Schlipphack, Morgan Skoly, and Elizabeth Ward.



**English Department** - Rockville High School is pleased to announce that four students will be recognized at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut Young Writers Trust Awards Ceremony. This prestigious competition is the state's longest running literary contest dedicated to encouraging youth writing and creative expression. The Connecticut Young Writers Trust has given away over \$215,000 in prize money since 1998. The students receiving awards for poetry are Mallory Chabre, grade 10; Kylie Kearney, grade 10; and Matthew Maguda, grade 11. The student receiving an award for prose is Taylor Fournier, grade 12.

The awards ceremony is being held on June 8 at CCSU at 1:00 P.M., with live music and refreshments. It is open to the public.

**VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL** – VCMS has many student musicians to be very proud of. Featured on this week's performance calendar were the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade bands, as well as a newly created woodwind ensemble that featured students from both VCMS and RHS. From ballads to movie themes our student musicians demonstrated the tremendous musical progress they have made since the December concerts.

Seventh grade Team Believe joined "Matilda's Cap Crusade". She collected 150+ caps and we made over 200 cards. "Matilda," who is Mrs. Stacey Gilinski's (a paraeducator at VCMS) daughter in fourth grade delivered the hats she collected (which included some from the sewing club at VCMS) and the cards to Hartford Hospital to the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center.

**CENTER ROAD SCHOOL** –This was a busy week for the students at Center Road School in regards to field trips. Here are the exciting field trips that our students went on this week:

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students enjoyed a trip to Belding Wildlife Refuge to help enhance their science unit on Animal Habitats.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students went to the University of Hartford to see a play starring Henry and Mudge. Students enjoyed the performance very much, and the teachers complimented how well behaved our students were during the show.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> grade students went out to Mashantucket to visit the Pequot Museum. Students will have a hands-on experience as they learn the rich history of American Indians in the state of Connecticut.
- A select number of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students went to Groton for Marine Biology day. Students went into a science lab to analyze algae and plankton from the Sound and then went on a boat ride to learn about the various fish and sea life living in the ocean.

All students in grades 1-3 enjoyed an assembly on Monday featuring Ronald McDonald. During the assembly students learned the importance of reading and why it's important not to be a bully.

Our school is slowly transferring into an underwater attraction, as the art department is working diligently to prepare for Fine Arts Night next Wednesday. Over 1,200 pieces of student art work will be decorating our halls for this event.

**LAKE STREET SCHOOL** –



Lake Street School is blooming with student artwork as we prepare for our Fine Arts Night next week. Mrs. Gottier and Mrs. Davis are working hard to be sure our school and students ready.

Congratulations to Fifth Grader, Carley Simler, who was recognized at the University of Connecticut this week. Carley's writing piece, "My Life as Mary Lyn", has been selected as an Honorable Mention in the 26th issue of the Connecticut Student Writers magazine. Her work was chosen from more than 900 entries across the state! We are very proud of Carley!

Third grade students went to the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History on Thursday. Students learned about rocks, minerals and their properties. Students also enjoyed the Egyptian exhibit and learning about the now extinct Dodo Bird.

Some fifth grade students participated in Marine Science Day, sponsored by the CT Association of Schools. Students who were interested wrote persuasive essays, which were scored and chosen by a team of teachers. Congratulations to Megan McAuliffe, Claire Santacroce, Carley Simler and Sonya Parsons, Alex Dionne, Kayla Vesco, Emily Guerrero and Liam Smith. Students had a blast, putting their biology skills to work by dissecting a squid!

LSS PTO treated our staff to a fabulous Appreciation Luncheon this week! What a delicious way to thank our dedicated staff for all that they do for LSS students!

**MAPLE STREET SCHOOL** – Selected grade 5 students attended the Marine Science field trip with Mr. Gardiner on Wednesday, May 14, 2014. The students were able to ride in a boat and throw a netted trap into the water and catch lobsters, crabs and flounder. Students dissected a squid and learned about the anatomy of the squid and used the ink from the squid to write. They had such a blast!!!

MSS grade 4 and 5 students had their band and chorus concert on Thursday, May 15, 2014. They did a fantastic job playing not only for the students during school but also at night for their respective parents, guardians and siblings. A job well done!!!

MSS had a school wide art show held by art teacher Ms. Sabal on Thursday night, May 15, 2014 for all parents and guardians to showcase this school year's art skills.

MSS third graders visited Belding Wildlife Sanctuary on Thursday, May 15, 2014. They saw a variety of wildlife habitats and had hands on experience in touching and feeling different kinds of animal fur. They were also able to see the many traps used for certain animals.

**NORTHEAST SCHOOL** – Finally! SBAC testing has been successfully completed at NES. Kudos to all the students and staff for their hard work! NES has been recognized as a School of Distinction again this year. Across the state, NES was one of ten schools making the highest academic progress. Mrs. Greene attended a breakfast to celebrate and be recognized for Northeast's achievement.

The second graders in Mrs. Leslie's published a class book called Lovely Literature on Leslie Lane. Each student wrote and illustrated their very own narrative. A copy of the book is in the school library for all to read!

Six fortunate fifth grade students were selected to attend a CAS Marine Biology Conference at Avery Point. They participated in 2 workshops on planktons and crabs and took a boat trip. They had an amazing trip, but are very thankful to have their feet back on solid ground again! NES had an awe-inspiring Pro BMX assembly that highlighted bike safety and anti-bullying. The students were wowed by numerous bike tricks, flips, and 360's. A few of our VIP students even received autographs from the BMX riders! What a fantastic week!

**SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL** –



Skinner Road third graders traveled to the Belding Wildlife Management Area on Wednesday. This field trip in Vernon teaches students how the loss of habitat is the biggest threat facing wildlife. Belding WMA provides a variety of habitat types, including fields, forest, and wetlands. Birds, such as indigo buntings and blue-winged warblers, inhabit the field edges. Black-throated green warblers and red-breasted nuthatches can be heard in the conifer forest. Ground-dwelling ovenbirds and waterthrush sing from the forest floor and along the stream. Woodcock return each spring to perform their courtship display, and wood frogs gather in vernal pools where their chorus can be heard on the first warm day of spring. Third graders learned about the animals in the area through the skulls and bones found along the trail. It was an amazing field trip for all.

Skinner Road first graders were mesmerized by thousands of species of butterflies at the Magic Wings Conservatory and Gardens in Deerfield Mass.



**VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** - Students in Mrs. Kowalczyk's class have been working hard on their math skills. Applying math vocabulary each day and practicing problems together has helped students to show growth in math this year. Keep it up, mathematicians! Science is also in bloom at VES this May! The pictures show students doing an experiment with food coloring and plants to see what will happen when plants drink colored water, and another experiment testing liquids and solids. Students review the steps of the Scientific Method, and really enjoy seeing the results!



*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.*