



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – May 2, 2014

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – The RHS Relay for Life Team held a tag and bake sale on April 26 to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The team raised \$672.33!

The Rockville High School Drama Club is proud to announce that they will be presenting Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on May 9th and 10th at 7:00 p.m.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – VCMS Drama Club presented a performance of "A Walk in the Woods" Friday, May 2, 2014. The students worked tirelessly on creating unique sets and practicing endless dialogue. Their hard work and effort resulted in a fabulous show enjoyed by all in attendance.

The VCMS Art Department was invited to the New Britain Museum of American Art with RHS art students – a trip that was fully grant funded! EPOCH art students in seventh and eighth grade enjoyed a day at the museum which included a tour of the James Prosek exhibit titled "Wondrous Strange". The students in eighth grade saw a clear connection to Surreal works they had studied in art class this year. Following the tour we were asked to create "Hybrids" or drawings that combined two or more animals into a new creature in the style of Prosek. All of these intriguing drawings are on display at VCMS.

On Tuesday, May 6, we have been invited to go to Real Art Ways - a trip that has also been fully grant funded! Only the "This I Believe" volunteers and EPOCH art students in seventh and eighth grade will attend! We will be viewing a film titled, "A Place at the Table", which is a documentary film. As described on the web site: "Narrated entirely by adolescents, this historical account tells the stories of individuals and groups who have toppled barriers that their forefathers faced and emerged with tolerance and compassion where prejudice and hate used to lie." We will discuss the film as well as get a docent led tour of the current gallery exhibits. This will be a nice way to celebrate the creation of our own, "This I Believe", documentary.

Students at VCMS will have the opportunity to attend two more artistic field trips before the end of the year. We are so pleased to offer all of these trips to our artistic population at no cost to them. These real world experiences help to enhance all that these students do in the art rooms!

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL – Eight of our 5th grade students were selected to attend the statewide Invention Convention this weekend at Gampel Pavilion. We wish them the best of luck and know that they will make CRS proud.

All students in grades 1-4 enjoyed a presentation from an author / illustrator who the non-fiction *The Great Elephant Escape*, which was nominated for the Crystal Kite Award. During the presentation students discussed the differences between fiction and non-fiction texts, how the book was written, and learned some fun facts about elephants.

The PBIS analyzed behavior data, and our office discipline referrals have decreased by over 20% from last year. Keep up the good work CRS students!

We want to thank the over 200 parents who took the time to complete the climate survey. This was our best turnout, and we value all of your input.

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – Students and staff at LSS started gave our Friday a boost with our school wide assembly. Pride Club members led the school in a review of our expectations. Students shared sample work and activities from their classes. Pride Club students led the entire school in a rousing Cha Cha to start our day right!

Officer Friendly has come to LSS! Vernon Police Officer Kate Rooney has been talking to students in all classes, Pre-K-5, about her job and how students can be safe in their home community. It's a fabulous opportunity for students to learn strategies to keep safe.

Fifth grade students have been passionately researching and preparing to debate against one another. Students have created amazing Power Point visuals to accompany their work on the following topics: school uniforms, green energy, bottled water, competitive sports and vending machines. Parents are joining us for the final debates on Friday.

MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – The students at Maple Street School used the months of March and April to conduct research in order to complete a learning fair project. Students practiced researching skills, learned how to manage their time in order to meet all of the project deadlines, and worked hard on following the given guidelines and rubrics for their written reports and visual presentation of the project. There were many wonderful projects on display for viewing! First, second and third place ribbons were given to each participating class.

Kindergarten students had been working hard on their non-fiction books during writer's workshop. They must be very proud of their projects. Parents joined us on Friday, May 2, 2014 to celebrate the completion of this book. Many parents and invited guests attended this celebration and the children were very proud to share their work with their families.

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – Spirit Day at Northeast School had a different “look” this week! Grade levels dressed up as one of the parts of speech. Kindergarten and first grade students dressed like nouns. We saw a princess, a teacher, a cowboy and a ballplayer. Second and third grade used their clothing to describe something. They were demonstrating adjectives. One student wore a shirt with a smiley face to show ‘happy’ and another student wore clothes covered in glitter to show ‘sparkly’. The fourth and fifth grade students were in charge of verbs. A running suit illustrated the verb ‘jog’ and a pair of pajamas reminded us that ‘sleep’ is a verb. Our unique Spirit Day was a terrific way to stimulate thinking and learning about the use of language in our speaking and writing.

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – The rain this week caused SRS to cancel our Spring Sprint for Grades 3-5. This will be rescheduled for next week. Grade K-2 had a successful Spring Sprint on Monday after school. Grade four participated in Games Galore with Mr. U in the gym.

Fifth grade students went to Three Rivers College on Friday and participated in Laser Camp at Three Rivers Community College. This is a fun filled science day for our fifth grade students.

This Saturday the SRS Twirlers and Chorus will perform at the New Britain Stadium during the Rock Cats game. Our students have been practicing for this event and look forward to wowing the crowd.

The entire school walked for Cystic Fibrosis (CF) on Friday at 2:30. SRS has Team Kayla who will be walking during the Great Strides walk to find a cure for CF. The staff have raised money and will participate in the walk which is being held at Wickham Park in East Hartford Saturday May third. Donations can be made on line at www.greatstridesmanchester.com. Look for Team Kayla.

VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Students in Mrs. Kowalczyk's class have been listening to James and the Giant Peach during our read aloud time. This is the latest of several Roald Dahl books they've enjoyed this year. As we wrap up the story, students are writing about their own imaginary adventures. They are rolling in a huge object of their choice, just like James did in the giant peach. They've even been asking us, “Is it writing time yet?” so they can continue typing up their stories on the computer. We look forward to them reading their finished work to VES staff and students!

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.