

VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – May 3, 2013

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – On Monday, published poet and master teaching artist Maureen O'Brian led two engaging writing workshops for creative writing students. RHS was able to host Ms. O'Brian through a grant from the Hill Stead Museum.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – The Pringles Challenge results are in! A group of VCMS students met after school to design and test a package to safely ship a single Pringles potato chip through the US Postal Service to another school. The goal was to engineer the package to have the smallest mass and volume while protecting the chip so it arrived at its destination undamaged. Thirty-two VCMS students took on the challenge. Within our school, the winning team was seventh graders Aaron Maney and Jacob Neault. In second place were sixth graders Jordyn Ransom and Melina Toolan. Third place went to seventh graders Brittany Lowell and Shannon Kelly. Mrs. Wolfgang is very proud of all the sixth and seventh grade students that participated...they put a lot of thought into their designs. Thank you again to Mrs. Hoyt and Mr. Sylvestre for their help as well. Be sure to check out the VCMS library after the book fair to see pictures of design and the scores!

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL – Our good news for this week is our visit from Children's Author, Jerry Pallotta, who has written many books including: *The Airplane Alphabet Book*, *One hundred ways to get to 100*, *Dory Story*, *The Bird Alphabet Book*, *Pizza Fractions*, *Who will Guide My Sleigh Tonight*. All grade levels enjoyed listening to Jerry tell his story. Also, we participated in the ACES Walk – All Children Exercise Simultaneously. The entire school went for a walk around the grounds and enjoyed the beautiful day.

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – On Thursday May 2, 2013 from 6:30-8pm we held our annual LSS Spring Science Fair, Ice Cream Social, and Book Fair. Parents and students were amazed by the numerous science projects on display in our gymnasium. We had over 100 projects on display! All projects followed the scientific method and were an extension of grade level curriculum. Some of the topics included: *Does a higher battery voltage create a stronger electromagnet?* *Can electricity affect water flow?*, *What causes lightning?*, and *How does a camera work?* We also enjoyed ice cream sundaes, time to visit with each other, and purchase a book at our Spring book fair.

MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – The 3rd annual Maple Street School Spring Fling will be held this Saturday, May 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Maple Street School PTO and the Rockville Community Alliance. The event will feature games, food, demonstrations, and information from community organizations. This is a great collaborative effort between the school and community.

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – A lot of great things happening at Northeast! We had our annual Science/Academic fair where students showed off their interest in Science and other academic areas. Some third graders traveled with "Flat Stanley" receiving letters and cards from Stanley's stops all over the world. Other students displayed research on animals, the solar system, investigated which cleaning product was the best, showed how much sugar is in popular drinks and one student extracted the DNA of a strawberry to analyze and compare with other fruit. A third grade class had "junk wars" where students worked in teams to create trash/junk contraptions to launch from the roof of the school. The contraptions contained an egg and the goal was to have the egg land safely - all the eggs survived the NES drop! Students were excited to share their projects with parents during the evening event.

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – Third through fifth grade students at Skinner Road have begun the pilot testing for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and the Common Core State Standards Alignment Test. Both tests are computer based. On May 1st the entire school participated in an ACES walk. ACES is a national program that encourages all children to exercise at the same time. Thank you to Mr. Uthgenannt for organizing this event and the numerous afterschool activities that he runs to promote healthy habits for all 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.