



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



GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – May 30, 2014

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Unity Team - On May 23rd, members of the RHS Unity Team attended the Youth Empowerment Summit at Central Connecticut State University along with about one hundred other high school students throughout the state. Through activities and powerful discussions, students considered the impact social constructs have on our identities as they explored the importance of diversity and tolerance in our schools and communities. Calvin Terrell was the guest speaker at this event and he made it a fun and educational experience for all. The Unity Team is excited to bring these concepts and activities back to our school community to build a more positive school climate.

Career Center - On May 22nd, nine seniors were recognized at a special breakfast last week for completing the Early Childhood Career Cluster. In collaboration with the Career Center and the Early Childhood Education Program, each student was required to compile a portfolio including a personal philosophy, resume, activity plans for nursery school, observation reports of assigned nursery school children, reflections of two shadowing experiences, a child profile, letters of recommendation, and a photo essay showing work with young children. In addition, the students selected three electives related to early childhood such as Effective Communication, Sociology, Education Practicum, or Psychology. Students shared their portfolios and talked about their experiences with the career cluster. Upon successful completion of the program, students will have the tools needed either to enter into the workforce in an entry-level position in their field or continue their studies in a post-secondary institution. A special thanks to Melissa Adduci, Maureen O'Sullivan, Sara Jane Reilly, and Patricia Goff for all of their support to make this program successful. Also, thanks to teachers in the Vernon Public Elementary Schools for hosting students in their classrooms throughout the year. Congratulations to: Sara Pare, Kiara Ruesta, Cameron Neal, Leah Abrahamson, Emily Burg, Katherine Cutting, Chelsea Poloski, Claire Ufongene, and Sarah Vincze.

World Languages - The Connecticut Council of Languages has recognized several Rockville High School students for excellence and achievement by conferring upon them the **CT COLT Award for Excellence in World Languages**. In order to qualify for this award, the student must maintain an average of 90 or better for three consecutive marking periods in the same language. These students, selected by their teachers, must also give evidence of a positive attitude toward language and culture by using the language beyond the classroom and/or participating in language clubs. The honorees are as follows: **Spanish 4**: Asia Chuaviriya, Alicia Dillman, Brett Montminy, Spencer Padgett and Cassandra Schambach; **Spanish 3**: Paul Jeffers, Haley Mistretta, Andrew Simard, Vivian Ufongene, Kenny Zheng; **Spanish 2**: Megan Hasty, Hanna Johnston, Hannah Ramsdell; **Spanish 1**: Keith Callahan, Janeleen Negron; **French 3**: Sierra Buckley, Brianna Markunas, Renee Rogan; **French 2**: Alyssa D'Alessandro; **French 1**: Mechelle Horelick; **German 1**: Megan Lueckel.

These students will also have their names published in the **Connecticut Council of Language Teachers News Exchange**. In addition, the students being recognized for Spanish 4 receive a medal engraved with "**For Excellence in World Language**".

Student Video Award - Nicholas Bartos won the "Best Editing" Award at the Quiet Corner Film Festival in Killingly on May 28th. After a red carpet entrance and a screening of all the films, his "Bandaid 2104" video took home the "Best Editing" award. Nick was truly up against all the best videographers from eastern Connecticut. Nick puts his heart and soul into all his videos at RHS and the honor was well deserved! The video is posted on the RHS website, and it is the lead video in the "VPS Presents" section of Vernonpublicschools.org.

Activities Based Learning - The ABL (Activities Based Learning) students made Graduation gifts for the graduating seniors in the Education Practicum class. It was a fun activity!



Senior Awards and Scholarship Evening - On May 29th, Rockville High School held its annual Senior Awards and Scholarship Evening. One hundred twenty-two members of the Rockville High School Class of 2014 were honored for their academic, artistic, and athletic accomplishments and community service involvement during this very special evening. A total of \$340,410 was awarded to graduating seniors. This includes \$152,000 from the Morey and Helen McCarthy Miller Scholarship Fund, and an additional \$188,410 from the Greater Vernon community. The 2014 total is an increase of \$74,069 (21.8%) over the total awarded last year. In light of the still-struggling economy, this amount is extremely impressive and should be a source of pride for Rockville High School and the Vernon Public Schools. We congratulate all of the award recipients!

English/Creative Writing - On May 27th, Vicky Nordlund and thirty-five creative writing students traveled to multiple elementary schools throughout the district to read original illustrated children's stories to first, second, and third graders. Her classes also performed their original poetry to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes at VCMS.

Career Center - The United States Army visited Rockville High School on May 29th to present a self-contained mobile aviation exhibit and simulation system. Students had the opportunity to experience flight simulators including: AH 64 Helicopter Flight Simulator, OH 58 Helicopter Flight Simulator and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Flight Simulator

Almost 300 students attended!



VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – HUMP DAY PAR-TAY - The VCMS EPOCH Art students and Mrs. Nevins hosted a Hump Day Par-tay on Wednesday, May 28, to raise awareness about sustainable farming and to raise money to purchase a camel for a needy family in a third world country. The event included food, games, raffles, and visiting alpacas! Students have raised almost \$700 towards the \$850 purchase price of the camel. There will be further events next week to help "get over the last hump" and raise another \$150.



CAREER DAY - On Thursday, May 29, the 7th Graders participated in Career Day. The event started off with the UCONN Engineering Ambassadors sharing Engineering Careers with the students during an all grade assembly. In the afternoon, 27 guest speakers came to share their professions with the 7th Grade students in smaller group sessions. Each student was able to select the top four careers that interested them. The purpose of this program is to expose students to a variety of career opportunities, to show the skills and training that are necessary for success and to transition grade seven students into the grade eight School to Career course.



CENTER ROAD SCHOOL – The 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders enjoyed a wonderful Field Day on Thursday. Students participated in 14 different stations. Favorites were limbo, tug of war, Jolly Ball, basketball shoot out, and the famous water relay.

Students in our 3rd and 4th grades finally got to meet their pen pals this week at school. Students have been writing to each other throughout the year.

1st grade students had an Author's Breakfast on Friday where they had a chance to share some of their great writing with family members. Mothers, fathers and grandparents all came to enjoy the stories and then have a wonderful breakfast together.

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – LSS students in Grades 1, 2 and 3 enjoyed children's books created by students of Rockville High School. Students from Victoria Nordlund's Creative Writing Class created their own children's books and traveled to read them to our students. Huddled in small groups, students great and small were absorbed into stories involving numbers, dogs and porcupines!

Grade 5 students traveled to Boston on Thursday for a historical tour of Boston via a trolley ride. At the Tea Party Museum, portraits of Samuel Adams and others came to life to describe the events of the Revolution. Students disguised themselves and threw tea into the Boston Harbor! All were able to visit Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market before returning to LSS. Students, teachers and our parent chaperones had a wonderful time!

MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – Grade 4 - Fourth graders have been hard at work researching all about colonial life in America. We are excited to be learning so much about how the Pilgrims lived and worked. It is surprising to see that there are some similarities to modern life as well as many and varied differences. We are learning how to use nonfiction text features in our books to locate specific information pertaining to our topics. We are also learning how to navigate the internet to find reliable sources for good information. While we practice presenting our information in front of our classmates, we are also preparing for our culminating field trip to Old Sturbridge Village. On this trip, we will get to have first-hand experiences of colonial life. We can't wait!

Grade 2 - This week second grade students have been extremely hard at work! In reading students have been exploring fairy tale stories. They have been working on understanding the narrators and directors roles in the story.

They have also been comparing and contrasting similar stories from different cultures. They are getting really excited to move towards Readers Theater where they will be performing a fairy tale in front of their peers. In math students have begun learning the foundations of multiplication! They have been working with arrays, counters and repeated addition. In writing, students have been hard at work on their poetry skills. They are using their poet's eyes to view the world around them and elaborate those details within their writing.

First grade teachers are just wrapping up their testing for the year and we are so proud of the progress our first graders have made in Reading, Writing and Math. First graders have become more fluent as they read and are able to use different strategies to aid in their comprehension! We continuing to read for "Meaningful Messages" in the last weeks of school and enjoy studying different genre's to discuss them. Writing has been quite enjoyable for our first graders the past week. We enjoy sharing our realistic fiction stories and have become quite imaginative! We took our math last math test this week and it was amazing to witness everyone using different strategies to answer questions. Students created math fact flash cards this week and enjoyed quizzing their peers.

Physical Education - Some good news that has happened in Physical Education is that we are practicing for field day and the kids are very excited. It should be a great time next week filled with fun, laughter, and teamwork. The pre-school students also will be involved and they are learning the games and preparing for kindergarten.

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – There is magic happening at Northeast School! The wonder of science is present in first grade. The students are learning how caterpillars change in form to become butterflies through the amazement of metamorphosis. Fifth grade students have learned that animals have sense organs that help them survive. This lesson was brought to life when the fifth graders had the opportunity to observe the survival instincts of eight newly hatched ducklings. Student art graces the halls of Northeast School in preparation for Fine Arts Night. The sound of music astounded all present at the chorus and band concerts this week. The student band performed a jazz piece with some improvisation. The student chorus got the whole school clapping along to their rendition of "Firework". The song was dedicated to believing in yourself. Northeast students have good reason to believe in their amazing abilities.

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – This week Mr. Uthgenannt ran a Sports Month Celebration Run for students in grades K -5. The Twirlers performed for the PBIS Star Student of the Month Assembly. SRS had a great Kindergarten orientation on Thursday evening. Parents were given an overview of the Kindergarten program and a tour of the building with a question and answer session.

Friday evening was the annual SRS Spring Fling. Students, parents and staff ate a picnic dinner together, played games and participated in a parade honoring our three retirees this year: Sharon Grzysiewicz, Anne Willette, and Gerry Breault. While they will be missed next year we wish them the best in their retirement.

VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Students in Mrs. Kowalczyk's class have been taking reading to new heights! This past month they have been reading interesting nonfiction books about aerodynamics, including: [Life in Space](#), [The World of NASCAR](#), and [Catching Air](#), a book about wind sports. Next week students will apply what they've learned by conducting a science experiment. They will create miniature parachutes to test air pressure and gravity. VES students continue to SOAR to success as our school year wraps up!

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.