



# VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## **GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – May 31, 2013**

### **ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL** – News from the Career Center

On, Tuesday, May 14, three speakers from CL&P visited Matt Kibbe's Electronics 2 class to educate our students on future opportunities at CL&P. The speakers shared career information re: lineman work, electrical engineering, and community relations and the education needed to pursue these jobs. CL&P has recently partnered with the community college system to offer a degree in Technology Studies. Accepted students work as paid interns while they complete their course work. On, Wednesday, May 16, a DNA Analyst from the State Crime Lab visited Mike Breen's Law and Order class. The speaker covered various topics in forensic science investigations including crime scene reconstruction, identification investigations, arson and DNA analysis. The class was able to relate topics learned in class to the presentation.

**VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL** – Career Day took place at VCMS on Thursday, May 30. VCMS School to Career Coordinator Laura DeMartino organized the event for students in grade 7. A kick-off assembly was held in the morning with UConn Engineering students and recent graduates serving as the key-note speakers. They spoke to the entire 7th grade about various ways engineering touches our everyday lives and the many differing careers that are available in the field. Students were also able to choose four careers from a list of two dozen for afternoon sessions. Based on these selections, students then attended small group presentations by "career ambassadors" who work in each of those fields. Some of the available career presentations were: police officer, nurse, veterinarian, military, journalist, auto technician, artist, bank manager, air traffic controller, engineer, archeologist, dancer, EMT, architect, preschool teacher, X-ray technician, lawyer, fitness instructor, chef, and photographer. The students learned a lot from the volunteer "career ambassadors" and are enthusiastic about exploring more career and education options in the future. VCMS is very grateful to all those volunteers from the community who took time to come and speak to the students.

Team Spirit eighth graders visited Rockville High School on Wednesday this week. The students attended a presentation about the high school and were able to tour the building in small groups led by RHS students and staff. Our eighth graders have many questions about becoming high school students in the fall and the visit to RHS was a great way to build excitement, while at the same time increasing confidence about the transition. Thanks to everyone at RHS who welcomed the students! The two other 8th grade teams will be visiting RHS next week.

**CENTER ROAD SCHOOL** – This week has been very busy with field trips. Our Kindergarten went to the Lincoln Theater at UHart on Thursday to see "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie". Grade 2 went to the Lincoln Theater at UHart on Wednesday to see "Click, Clack, Moo". Our Grade 5 went to Boston, MA on Thursday. They visited the African Meeting House (oldest extant black church building in the U.S.A.), the Abiel Smith School Museum (the first publicly funded schoolhouse in the country for African-American children) and then to the Freedom Trail. A fun filled day in Boston. All the children enjoyed this curriculum enrichment.

**LAKE STREET SCHOOL** – On Thursday, May 30th, Lake Street School celebrated Fine Arts Night. Families walked our colorfully decorated hallways to view original pieces of artwork from each one of our students. In addition, Lake Street School families and friends were entertained by two outstanding programs performed by our chorus and instrumental band. It was an amazing evening showcasing our students' talent in visual and performing arts. A special thank you to LSS families and teachers (Mrs. Gag, Mrs. Gottier, Mrs. Davis, and Mrs. Stein) along with other LSS staff who helped make this evening enjoyable for all!

**MAPLE STREET SCHOOL** – Students and their families filled the hallways for Maple Street School's annual Student Showcase held on Wednesday, May 22nd. Each grade-level displayed student work in the classrooms covering various topics. Student artwork lined the walls of the hallways. Grade 4 students performed on their recorders in the music room. Students also enjoyed the Book Fair. It was a great night for the MSS community.

**NORTHEAST SCHOOL** – We have been enjoying our 6 new “students” who have been visiting fifth grade this month. The “ducklings” hatched on May 20<sup>th</sup> and have been socializing with Northeast students. Students learned about candling, imprinting, and spraddle leg as they waited for the ducklings to hatch. The ducklings enjoy reading with students and going out to recess to swim in the puddles! Students in the lower grades are writing about their observations of the ducklings. The ducklings are very social and everyone has enjoyed watching them grow – when they leave next week, they will be missed!!

**SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL** – Skinner Road had the pleasure of hosting the Board of Education for the May 28th Board Meeting. Students involved in the district ESL program showcased artifacts from their respective countries. Many students came dressed in cultural attire. Sweet rice, orange chicken, spicy chicken, and various other foods were shared by all. The Board was treated to the Pakistan National Song, and two poems recited in Polish. Wednesday evening parents of incoming pre-k and kindergarten students attended an orientation for next year. Friday evening students, parents, and friends of Skinner Road are invited to the annual Spring Fling. Families can bring a picnic dinner and activities such as a bounce house, water balloon toss, and additional outdoor games will be enjoyed 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.*