



VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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GOOD NEWS OF THE WEEK – September 20, 2013

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – Education Practicum and Independent Living students had a wonderful afternoon at Johnny Appleseed's Orchard on Thursday, picking apples and pumpkins for their upcoming class projects. Childhood Education students have been working in the Career Center developing resumes, a personal philosophy, career profiles, and researching career opportunities. Students have also been informed about the Early Childhood Career Cluster and are ready for their shadowing experiences over the next several weeks. Thank you to Mrs. Adduci and Ms. O'Sullivan for their assistance and expertise in assisting these classes with their assignments, and to the staff in the Vernon schools who have volunteered to have these students visit their classrooms.

The RHS Boys Soccer Team won their first game Thursday, defeating Hartford Public High School 2-0. On Saturday, the Girls Cross Country Team came in second place in the Open House Race at the Riverfront Cross Country Festival.

Good news from the Technology Education Department - Mr. Kibbe's Principles of Engineering class will be entering a "Bring STEM to Life" photo contest sponsored by the International Technology Engineering and Educators Association (ITEEA). It is a national contest challenging educators across the country to come up with emergency power solutions. We plan to design a light duty, mobile, emergency backup generator system powered by the sun. If we win it will result in national recognition in the "tech directions," or the "technology and engineering TEACHER" magazine. In addition, our participating students will have notable accomplishments to list on future resumes and college applications. It could bring very good publicity to Vernon Public Schools and our technology education and engineering program.

The RHS Librarian in collaboration with the Freshman History Teachers has administered the TRAILS Pre-Assessment (Tools for Real-Time Assessment of Information Literacy Skills) to the freshman over the past two weeks. We will be reviewing the results and developing plans and instruction to address areas of need in students Research and Information Literacy Skills.

VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL – Open House - The 2013-2014 Open House was a huge success! Parents navigated their student's schedules for the evening. Student Council guides were an invaluable asset in directing parents to various locations within the school. Parents also perused the Book Fair while attending the Open House.

Summer Reading - The VCMS "Digging into Reading" summer reading program totaled 1,738 books which were read by the entire school population. The 150 students who read three or more books will be treated to an ice cream social on September 27 after school. Great Job!

History Day Club - VCMS is participating in Connecticut History Day/National History Day! Mrs. Cyndee McManaman and Mrs. Regina Lee have begun a History Day Club at VCMS. Students will meet after school and will have opportunities to work during Flex time in order to develop projects that fit with the theme Rights and Responsibilities. After selecting a topic, students will conduct extensive research, analyze and interpret their findings, draw conclusions about their topics' significance in history, and create final projects that present their work. These projects can be entered into a series of competitions, from the local to the national level, where professional historians and educators evaluate them. Projects can focus on many subjects, including math, science, and language arts, as long as they can be put into a historical context. They can also be presented in several different ways - research paper, performance, exhibit, documentary, or website. The first meeting is September 25 and the kickoff is October 5 at The Old State House in Hartford. This is a phenomenal opportunity for any student who is hungry for knowledge and is willing to work hard to showcase his/her research. See both of these sites for sample projects and more information: <http://www.nhd.org/StudentProjectExamples.htm> and <http://ct.nhd.org/index.htm>

Book Club - The VCMS Book Club has its first meeting on Monday, September 23. We currently have almost thirty students and staff signed up for Book Club! Our first book is *Bruiser*, by Neal Shusterman. It is the story of a boy with an unusual ability and the brother and sister who discover his secret. The Book Club will meet monthly. Students can see Mrs. Lee if they want to join. Limited copies of the book are available to borrow if a student cannot purchase a copy.

CENTER ROAD SCHOOL –CRS’s Mr. Willette started a Marathon Club with 30 students. This club meets every Tuesday/Thursday after school. They are working toward a 26.2 mile run. Way to go!

Our school is starting to brighten up with the student’s artwork from all grades. It is amazing what is created in art class in a short time. We have some talented students.

The Roadrunner Riches are starting to tally up. Students earn these riches by following the school motto – Respect – Responsible – Reliable. They have to earn 25 riches and they receive a certificate. The more riches they earn the bigger reward - including lunch with the principal, assistant principal, pencils, erasers and all kinds of goodies.

LAKE STREET SCHOOL – LSS celebrated its annual Open House on Wednesday. A whopping 82% of Grade 3 and 80% of Grade 1 families attended! Several parents made comments such as, “My child can’t wait to come to school.”

Fourth grade students dug into their science units by visiting the Belding Wildlife Sanctuary, where they learned about the local wildlife and their habitats. It was a great day of active learning!

MAPLE STREET SCHOOL – Our district Reading Coaches instructed model lessons in all grade levels again this week using the Reader’s Workshop. Our students have been great participants with our guest teachers. We are all busy reading every day in our classrooms.

Our fourth grade students went on a field trip to the Belding Wildlife Management Area. They had a beautiful day and had a great time! Thanks to the parents who went with them as chaperones.

NORTHEAST SCHOOL – Nearly 100 Northeast School families attended Open House on Wednesday, September 18th. Through the guidance of the Northeast School Governance Council, a new schedule was planned that allowed parents to focus on teacher presentations while children enjoyed games and crafts in the cafeteria. Student leaders from Rockville High School volunteered their time to add fun to the children’s activities. A very successful evening was enjoyed by all! Next week students and their families can look forward to the Book Fair and the Ice Cream Social.

SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL – It has been a great week at Skinner Road School. Forty students have signed up to run as a relay team in the Hartford Marathon. Twice a week they practice running after school. On Wednesday students who handed in their summer reading slips got to duct tape Mrs. Simon to the wall in the gym. When all the tape was on we pulled out the mats she was standing on and the entire school did a choral read of a book.



Students and staff had a great time. We hope to have 100% of our students participate in next year’s Principals Reading Challenge. This year every classroom is doing Readers and Writers Workshop. Students are learning how to find the heart of the story they are writing and to S-T-R-E-A-T-C-H it out. Mrs. Eckbloom and Mrs. Clark and the district Language Arts Coaches have been working in classrooms to model lessons. Students are happily engaged in learning.

Dates to remember: September 24th Open House, September 27th Dance Marathon

VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - This week technology came to Vernon Elementary School. All classrooms are now equipped with student computers. Students are excited to use computers to conduct research and publish their writing. Children are also able to earn technology breaks during which they are permitted to play educational games for a specific amount of time. Technology is a highly desirable tool at Vernon Elementary School.

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.