



## CENTER ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

APRIL 2017

NEWSLETTER

*Jocelyn Poglitsch, Principal*  
*Michael DeBellis, Vice Principal*

Center Road School is proud to announce the implementation of a new electronic visitor management system that will be used in all Vernon school buildings as of Monday, April 3, 2017. This new system upgrade has been acquired to better protect our children by tracking visitors, contractors, and volunteers who come into our schools.

Upon entering our school, all visitors will be required to report to the Main Office and present a valid, government issued, photo identification which will be scanned into our electronic visitor management system. A current photo will be taken, and a temporary visitors badge will be printed, to be worn during your stay in our building.

Checking into the visitor system will not be required for anyone dropping off or picking up an item in the Main Office. However, if you need to sign out your student during the school day, you should have your photo identification ready in the event that school staff needs to verify your identity. Additional information and a frequently asked question's guide are available on our website at [www.vernonpublicschools.org/visitors](http://www.vernonpublicschools.org/visitors).

**As of Monday, April 3, 2017, you will be required to present a valid, government issued, photo identification each and every time you visit our school.** The safety and security of our students and staff is our top priority and we appreciate your cooperation and support in enhancing our school security procedures. As always, we are available to answer any questions you may have.

As most of you know, every family at Center Road School received a copy of Lulu and The Brontosaurus at the beginning of March. This book was given to each family with the hope that you and your children would spend time together reading at home enjoying this entertaining story. To encourage this, Center Road School will be having another activity where students have the opportunity to submit a picture of themselves reading Lulu and The Brontosaurus with a family member. All pictures can be e-mailed to Mr. DeBellis at [michael.debellis@vernonct.org](mailto:michael.debellis@vernonct.org)). All entries will be entered to win a \$50 gift certificate. Good luck!

# GRADE LEVEL NEWS



## KINDERGARTEN

What makes Kindergarteners mad? Come venture down our hallway to see our best mad faces and to read about our own March Madness! During Writer's Workshop, we also wrote many "All About" books and read lots of non-fiction books during reading. In math, we added, subtracted, created number bonds, and wrote equations for numbers to 10. We are beginning to work with tricky teen numbers, and finding that teen numbers are a group of 10 ones and some more. Finally, we can't forget how the month began! We celebrated Read Across America and honored Dr. Seuss on his birthday! And to think that we did ALL of this on CRS street!



## GRADE ONE

First graders are excited to be learning more about non-fiction. Our focus is on identifying the main topic and key details in what they read. It is challenging for them to pick out the important information, so when you read at home talk about those key details. For our non-fiction unit in reading, they are choosing a topic to research, and will be completing a research journal. They will then use their information to write an "All About" book on their topic during writer's workshop.

In math, the kids are learning to compare numbers, tell which is greater/less and tell how they know. They are learning to use tens and ones to make numbers, and then are adding and subtracting two digit numbers. Their number sense and computational skills are really improving! Our next unit in math will focus on geometry, including 2D and 3D shapes.



## GRADE TWO

We kicked off March with an exciting week of reading celebrations in honor of Dr. Seuss. We enjoyed having many guest readers as well as reading with our buddy classes. In addition, we have been studying the characters in our series more closely, getting to know them like a real friend. We have started opinion writing, where the focus will be on writing about the characters in our books. We are excited to begin learning about geometry, time, and fractions, in math. On March 22, the second graders at CRS had an in-school field trip. Students worked cooperatively to learn about plants and what they need to grow.



### GRADE THREE

We can't believe that March is almost over, and better yet, Spring is here! In reading, the students have been working hard and diving into their chosen biography subject. They are becoming an expert on their subject and gathering information to create a poster, speech and ultimately a presentation where they "become" their subject in a wax museum. In math we wrapped up our fraction unit and have been working on multiplication and how it relates to area. Students continue to practice good accountable math talk and being precise in their oral and written explanations. As always, continued practice of multiplication and division fact fluency is an important thing to do at home daily. In writing, our third graders are working on their persuasive writing pieces, using bold and convincing language to persuade their audience. We wrote a good introduction with a bold thesis, and we are including plenty of details and examples to support our topics. Our third graders have been working hard reviewing the CRS core values of Respect, Responsibility, and Reliability through our Second Step program.



### GRADE FOUR

Spring has sprung and our 4th graders are enjoying the prospect of more outdoor recess and sunshine! Inside we are staying busy working on so many new things! In reading we have been looking at various types of figurative language such as idioms and allusions. We also have been reading more than one myth to look for common themes. In writing, we are finishing up our fantasy literary essays. Students found a theme in their fantasy book and used evidence from the book to support their theme. They also had to reflect back on how learning about that theme could transfer into their own lives. In math, we are finishing up the second part of our fraction unit. Students have been adding and subtracting mixed fractions and multiplying fractions. We continue to practice comparing, ordering and finding equivalent fractions. Next in math, as we anticipate SBAC testing in April, we will shift our focus to both geometry and decimals to provide an introduction to both concepts. Our 4th graders are very excited for our upcoming field trip to Lincoln Theater to see The Lightning Thief! Please remember to turn in your child's permission slip so that they are able to attend.



### GRADE FIVE

5th grade has been very busy as the school-year continues to fly by! In reading we are wrapping up our current unit on "social issues" where we focused on identifying multiple themes and identifying supporting details throughout a text. We will continue to expand on these skills in our new reading unit which focuses on historical fiction.

In math we are close to completing our fourth module where we have been learning how to multiply and divide both fractions and decimals. The 5th graders as a whole have done very well throughout with this module. It has been clear throughout this unit however that students who are proficient with their multiplication facts are having a much greater rate of success. If you see your child struggling, please continue to review their multiplication facts at home with them whenever possible.

Science has seen us continue to explore the states of matter as well as the Periodic Table of Elements. We have also begun learning about the phases of the moon. Students are filling out a moon calendar every night that reflects the

various phases of the moon. Our Invention Convention process has come to an end and the students inventions look fabulous! Please remember that Thursday March 30th from 6-7 P.M. is your chance as parents to come see all the hard work that our students have put into their boards and inventions. Students chosen to move on will be attending the regional convention at Goodwin College in East Hartford on Sunday, April 9th.

In Social Studies, we're continuing to learn about the Revolutionary War and its aftermath in preparation for our Boston trip in late May.

Please feel free to get in touch with any of the 5th grade teachers if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks for all you do!



## NOTES FROM MRS. ROBINSON'S ART ROOM

**The Opening Reception of Vernon Public Schools Annual Art Exhibit** was enjoyed by many Center Road School budding artists, their families and teachers. Fifty pieces of our K-5 students artwork is in this year's exhibit and will remain until April 15th, in Art Center East's beautiful gallery. - Gallery Hours: Thurs. - Sun. 1 - 5 p.m., admission free, donations welcomed.

Center Road School is situated in the perfect location for our families to fully enjoy all of the exhibits at the art center. A much welcomed springtime walk to enjoy the exhibit with your child is a must.

**Save the Date!** All K-5 Center Road School students will have artwork displayed for our **Fine Arts Night, Wednesday, May, 17th**. This year's theme: "**At Home**". With five hundred pieces of art in progress at all times, Miss Johnson's and Mrs. Robinson's art rooms are overflowing with work to be shared.

**Volunteers Will Soon Be Needed.** No previous experience is required. All that is necessary is the desire to want to help us to display the children's art work here at their home away from home. Please e-mail me [sally.robinson@vernonct.org](mailto:sally.robinson@vernonct.org) if you are willing to help. Last year some families reserved their hallway display jobs in advance so they could make plans with friends to pack a picnic dinner and come and work together. Others just show up offering their help when they had an hour to give. Come and make yourself at home with us. Home is after all where the art is!



## NOTES FROM MRS. RUBINSTEIN'S MUSIC ROOM

Center Road School celebrated Read Across America Day on March 2 and honored the birthday of Dr. Seuss. In music class, we continued to support the importance of reading by hearing stories about music. The children enjoyed a wide variety of genres including fiction, biography, and historical fiction. Kindergarten was treated to Berlioz, the Bear, a beautifully illustrated book by Jan Brett about musicians trying to get to their job on time. Grade 1 enjoyed Catfish Kate and the Sweet Swamp Band, a silly book with amusing pictures and valuable lesson about learning to compromise. Grade 2 heard a fictional story, Indigo and the Whale, about a boy and his love for music, and Moose Music, a hilarious tale of a moose who finds a violin. Third Graders heard Follow the Drinking Gourd, a story about a family during the times of slavery who were taught a song to aid in their escape to freedom. We are now working on

learning the song, too. The Bat Boy and His Violin was the book that was read to the Fourth grades. It is a touching story of a young boy's passion for his music, and how it touches others. Fifth graders read the book Duke Ellington and His Orchestra, learned about the great composer and listened to his jazz music.



## NOTES FROM THE GYMNASIUM

Happy Spring to everyone! With daylight savings time and warmer temperatures, this is a great time to get outdoors and be physically active!

Our physical education classes were “springing forward” developing new skills, learning terminology and applying their knowledge to cooperative activities and games during the month of March.

Mrs. Plevyak’s grades kindergarten, 1 & 2 classes continued developing their different rope skills using: single jump ropes, long jump ropes, Chinese jump ropes, jump the shot, partner jump rope and skip-it. Grades 3, 4 and 5 learned volleyball skills, practiced their skills with small groups and played games exhibiting teamwork and communication. “March Madness” was evident during Mr. Johnson’s physical education classes with students learning basketball skills, terminology and modified games! Future UCONN Huskies players??

Mark your calendars for the following April events:

Sunday, April 9- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Strong Family Chicken Run.

Kids run ¼ mile , 2 mile walk and 5K run

[www.strongfamilyfarm.org](http://www.strongfamilyfarm.org)

Saturday, April 29- 2017 Fishing Derby at Valley Falls Park from 8:00-11:00AM.

[www.vernonrec.org](http://www.vernonrec.org)



## NOTES FROM THE READING LAB

Last month, all of the students at CRS had fun getting to know LuLu, a slightly obnoxious little girl that came to life here at CRS from one of Judith Viorst’s books called LuLu and the Brontosaurus. Students were buzzing with excitement after LuLu stopped by our monthly meeting to tell the students that she was heading out to find herself a real live brontosaurus. We had wonderful, lively discussions here at school about her behavior and her journey into the forest. We hope you and your family enjoyed reading about LuLu and sharing in her adventure.

One of the things we kept hearing from our students was how much they enjoyed reading and laughing at the silliness of the book. To try and keep that laughter flowing and to help you find a few more books that you could read together at home, here are some suggested titles from a New York Public library article called, Make 'Em Laugh: Gut-Busting Picture Books That'll Have 'Em Rolling in the Aisles by Elizabeth Bird, Youth Materials Specialist, BookOps for New York Public Library. You can find the full version of the article with a description of each title at [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

[Unicorn Thinks He's Pretty Great](#) by Bob Shea

[Cute and Cuter](#) by Michael Townsend

[Dragons Love Tacos](#) by Adam Rubin

[Battle Bunny](#) by Jon Scieszka and Mac Barnett

[Crankenstein](#) by Samantha Berger, illustrated by Dan Santat

[Mustache Baby](#) by Bridget Heos

[Moo!](#) by David LaRochelle,

[It's a Tiger](#) by David LaRochelle

[A Pig Parade is a Terrible Idea](#) by Michael Ian Black, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes

[What Animals Really Like](#) by Fiona Robinson



## NOTES FROM MRS. DAVIS & MRS. SCHIFFMACHER'S OFFICE

### **BULLYING**

Bullying is a subject that touches many students, parents, and teacher's lives. It often brings up strong emotions in us. As adults, we can become offensive, angry, judgmental, and even defensive when discussing it. Bullying is an unwanted aggressive behavior that leaves the target feeling unsafe (can be a real or perceived threat). Both students who bully and students who are bullied can have lasting negative problems that affects them socially, emotionally, behaviorally, and academically. At Center Road School, when we talk to the students about what bullying is and is not, we use the following 3 identifiers:

- Repetition: Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.
- Intentional: This harmful act is done to harm another student on purpose – it is not accidental.
- An Imbalance of Power: Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.

#### There are 4 types of Bullying

Physical: The use of physical force used to harm or intimidate another student

Verbal: When a student uses harmful words to intimidate another student. This could be through the use of name calling, threatening, insulting, intimidating, put downs, and ridicule.

Relational: Using social influence to isolate another student. This is done deliberately by leaving out the other student (either directly or indirectly) through the use of excluding, gossiping, ostracizing, and/or scapegoating.

Cyber: Using the web, internet, and/or cellphones to bully another student. This is done by sending threats or insulting messages through the internet. It can be done (direct or indirectly) by posting embarrassing pictures or rumors about another student.

#### What can parents do?

- Continue to have an open dialogue with your child
- Model kindness and empathy
- Educate yourself using websites such as
  - [www.thebullyproject.com/parents](http://www.thebullyproject.com/parents)

- <https://www.stopbullying.gov/what-you-can-do/parents/>
- [www.stompoutbullying.org/index.php/information-and-resources/parents-page/](http://www.stompoutbullying.org/index.php/information-and-resources/parents-page/)

All students in grade 3-5 have had anti-bullying lessons. Ask your student to share what they learned.



## NOTES FROM MRS. ARCE'S OFFICE

**From the Nurse's Desk...** Now we can say spring is officially here!

It's a wonderful time of year, nature awakens from its' dormancy, the days get longer and the warming temperatures sure feel so good! However, allergies return much to the dismay of seasonal sufferers. If your child requires any medication during school hours please remember that a doctor's order with your authorizing signature is required. The prescribed medication must be brought into school in its original dispensed container by an adult.

It is also tick season so please observe your children for any ticks/bites especially after play in wooded and or on grassy areas. Tick borne illnesses respond well with prompt care and treatment.

As a reminder please follow up with any referrals that you may have received for vision/hearing. I need to be informed of the outcome and of any changes made. It is important for your child's learning. Also the report has to be charted in the student medical files.

The mobile dentist is planning its spring return in May. They will see all children who are signed up. They always welcome new students to their program. Please contact me for a sign-up sheet if you would like to enroll your child. The form can also be downloaded from our website.

Finally with regard to recess, weather permitting, children enjoy it with great energy and vigor. I would kindly urge you to ensure that your children wear the appropriate footwear for comfort and prevention of foot and or other related injuries. Proper footwear and attire are also necessary for gym days too. We do appreciate parent cooperation; it certainly helps us all to stay safe, well and healthy...

Enjoy April!



## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Welcome Spring! Registration for next year's Kindergarten class has begun. If you have a child turning 5 years old on or before December 31, 2017, they are eligible to start Kindergarten in the fall. Please come in to the school to register, and bring the student's original full sized birth certificate, 2 proofs of residence, photo ID and current medical with immunizations. Orientation for incoming kindergarteners will be Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00 p.m..

Transportation request forms for the 17-18 school year will be going home in May. If your child will be going to a day care/address any other than home address, please complete the form and return it. Transportation requests need to be submitted by current year end for the upcoming school year. Transportation will only be accommodated for CRS district requests. Transportation request need to be submitted with every new calendar school year.

If you will be moving or have a change in phone numbers, please let us know. It is important to keep our student data up-to date.

**Just a reminder that as of Monday, April 3, 2017, you will be required to present a valid, government issued, photo identification each and every time you visit our school. Please be sure to read about our new Visitor Management System on page 1.**



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### **Vacation Week Zentangle for Children (Ages 7 – 13)**

Zentangle is a fun and relaxing drawing activity for children. Tangling involves making short strokes that create intricate patterns that can be used to create all kinds of two- and three-dimensional art. Children take to it easily and will learn several tangles each day. They will use their new skills to make really cool art projects to bring home. Sign your child up for a fun-filled week!

**Instructor** Elizabeth Krall is a certified Zentangle teacher who received her BA from Trinity College and her M.A.L.S. with a concentration in studio arts from Wesleyan. Her work has been shown in galleries throughout Connecticut.

**Dates:** April 10 – 14

**Time:** 9 a.m. - noon

**Fee:** \$175 + \$20 for materials. Make checks payable to Arts Center East or pay online at [artscentereast.org](http://artscentereast.org). 10% discount for family members



### **Vernon Public Schools Annual Exhibit**

**Elementary Schools Reception:** Thursday, March 23, 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

**VCMS & RHS Reception:** Thursday, March 23, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

**Exhibit Dates:** March 23 – April 15

**Gallery Hours:** Thursday – Sunday 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm