

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lt. Governor Phil Scott teaches first and second graders at Union Memorial School

Montpelier, VT - Lt. Governor Phil Scott went back to school yesterday, working at Union Memorial Elementary School in Colchester.

Scott taught spelling and reading comprehension exercises to small groups of first and second graders at Union Memorial, one of two K-2 schools in Colchester.

The exercises demonstrated a wide range of innovative education techniques teachers have incorporated into Union's curriculum. In the first classroom, Lt. Gov. Scott held flash cards for students who bounced on a small trampoline while spelling difficult "sight words" - common words whose spelling needs to be memorized.

Scott also worked with learning-challenged children in a combined Title 1/special education classroom, designed to provide more 1-on-1 tutoring to students who need extra help. The Lt. Governor delivered a book report and talked to students about empathizing with characters in a story. After the morning classes, he helped serve lunch in the school cafeteria.

He also had an opportunity to talk with the principal and teachers about the challenges faced by public schools in Vermont.

"It was great to have the Lt. Governor experience firsthand what we do every day," said Principal Chris Antonicci. "We were able to show him some of the ways we've responded to budget reductions and to better serve the growing educational, physical and emotional needs of our students. We had a great conversation, and he asked some good questions. We were glad to have him work with us."

"I was really impressed with the school," said Lt. Gov. Scott. "It was obvious how much every teacher and staff member cares about the students. Principal Antonicci knows every child by name. Although the teachers make the job look easy, they do a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes to build lessons that are engaging and educational. I could tell the kids were having a lot of fun."

"I was also intrigued by the creativity at work in these classrooms. They've found a way to make rote learning a lot more meaningful by adding physical activity, which is something that's unfortunately disappearing from a lot of America's schools. Teachers use a team approach to tutor Title 1 and special education students, working together to design customized lesson plans. Even the lunch hour was an opportunity to learn, with the designation of Mondays as "red food days" and the introduction of new and healthy red foods like radishes, apples and red peppers."

About Lt. Gov. Phil Scott's "Vermont Everyday Jobs" Initiative

Lt. Governor Phil Scott started his "Vermont Everyday Jobs" initiative to promote Vermont businesses and highlight

the hard work that Vermonters do every day in all areas of our economy. By finding out firsthand, and in a hands-on manner, what it takes to make Vermont businesses work, the Lt. Governor will gain a better understanding of what state government can do to help those businesses work better. The tour will also help to facilitate relationships and ongoing dialogue between Vermont business leaders and their representatives in state government.

In previous "Vermont Everyday Jobs," Lt. Governor Scott has assembled a solar tracker at AllEarth Renewables, checked lift tickets at Stowe Mountain Resort, worked in the Emergency Department at Porter Hospital, worked with a Green Mountain Power line team, and changed oil at Vermont Quicklube.

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