

October 10, 2012

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 11	October 12	October 17	October 18	October 19
PACS Coffee Hour 7:45-8:45 AM	Common Text Day	PSAT Testing for 9-11 Graders	Fall Break Parent Conferences	Fall Break

The Most Excellent Annual Fund Trivia Quiz Continued... -by Mary Hamilton-Homer



4. What is this year's goal for the 2012-2013 Annual Fund Campaign???
 - a. \$150,000
 - b. \$250,000
 - c. \$300,000
 - d. As much as we can get...
5. What percentage of the VCS parent population contributed to last year's Annual Fund?
 - a. 85%
 - b. 90%
 - c. 50%
 - d. less than 50%
6. How much are we looking for from YOU??
 - a. any amount is appreciated
 - b. a \$5,000 gift would be freaking awesome... but any amount is appreciated
 - c. give until it hurts (just a little twinge)
 - d. All of the above.

Answers upside down and backwards on last page.

Classifieds



Development Office seeking help "moving VCS out of the building and into the Community". We need **brain-stormers, planners and creative thinkers** to help design a **VCS Dinner Series** offering guest speakers covering any variety of topics related to our mission, our students, life in Vermont, life in this world. There is **NO** asking for \$ involved. Contact Mary Hamilton-Homer at extension 13 or at mhamiltonhomer@vermontcommons.org. Thank you!

Picture Day Photos Now Available!



Stop by the front desk to pick up your photos from Picture Day! If you did not special order individual photos, there is still a class picture and student ID available for all.

If you would still like to order portraits or candids please go to www.ambientphotography.zenfolio.com, password: VTCom2012. If you have any questions about ordering please call Ambient Photography at 802-872-0905.

Dissatisfied with your picture? Did you miss photo day? Retakes are on Monday 10/29.

Academic Enrichment Center



As First Quarter is winding down, it is time to think about Enrichment sign-ups for the Second Quarter! Please [click here](#) to find more information on Enrichment and to view the form and fees. Please print out the form and hand it in with payment to Jennifer Cohen. Contact Jennifer with any questions at jcohen@vermontcommons.org.

PACS News –by Dinah Larsen and Lisa Lillibridge, PACS Co-Chairs



Encounter Week Lunch - Last Friday we had our first return from Encounter Week lunch for all our adventurers. It was a huge success with lots of delicious food contributions by our community and a lot of volunteers helping. A big thank you to Colleen Leffler for her extra efforts that day. Our class parents were excellent organizers and our kids and staff reaped the benefits. Thank you to everyone for contributing time, food, and community!



PACS Coffee Hour - This Thursday morning we are having our monthly PACS coffee beginning at 7:45. Please stop in for a cup of coffee and a few minutes visiting with parents. This month's coffee will be sponsored by the 12th grade. Sponsorship by a grade means the 12th grade faculty make an attempt to attend and 12th grade parents help organize the event. EVERYONE is welcome, however.



Class Potluck - October 24th is the potluck dinner for 8th grade parents. Soon, you will receive an official invitation, but we also want to remind you. This a parent only event with an opportunity for parents to get to know each other.

Admissions Update –by Sarah Soule



Vermont Commons School is hosting several receptions in the coming weeks for prospective families, and we encourage you to invite your friends with children who might be interested in learning more about our school. Our college preparatory, hands-on curriculum and small classes with engaged teachers offers students the opportunity to thrive!

The dates and times of our receptions are:

Thursday, October 11th at 4:30 p.m. at the home of Tess Stimson and Erik Oliver, parents of Henry Sadler '13, in Burlington.

Wednesday, October 17th at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Bridget and Doug Kerr, parents of Sean '17, in South Hero.

Monday, October 22nd at 5:00 p.m. at the Middlebury Inn in Middlebury, with the Reed, Beach, and Lloyd/Fastie families.

Our Open House is scheduled for **Sunday, November 4th** at 1:00 p.m. and it will be held here at Vermont Commons School in the Commons Room.

Families should contact Sarah Soule, Director of Admissions to RSVP: ssoule@vermontcommons.org or call [802-865-8084, ext. 27](tel:802-865-8084).

Wellness Corner –by Kim Evans



Vermont Commons School hosted our first Wellness guest speaker last Common Hour. It was a rich and lively discussion, I am always so proud and impressed by our student body. Bree Greenberg-Benjamin from Vermont Center for Integrative Therapy facilitated a discussion on mind body awareness. In the discussion she asked our students to contemplate the body, the mind, and the brain. The value of knowing one's own inner experience and fostering a sense of curiosity was reinforced. Sarah Soule's asked the great question of "How do we find the time?" or how do we create the space for quiet. This is a great opportunity to ask ourselves this question as it relates to the school community. Where and when at Vermont Commons do we create the space and the time for inner-reflections and quiet?



Mark your calendar: The Best Brain Foods for Test Takers Grocery Store Tour!

On Wednesday Oct 17 we will be offering a Vermont Commons grocery store tour at Healthy Living Market. The tour will take place from 1:30-2:30 for parents of students at VCS. We will meet outside of the learning kitchen. Be prepared to sample brain-licious foods along the way. If you are interested in attending please send me an email to reserve your spot. Kimevans11@comcast.net.

Encounter Week Bike Trip –by Eli Hulse '15

On Monday, at 9:00 in the morning, a group of 21 bikers, and one truck driver left VCS on IDX drive heading north towards the Colchester Bike Path, and the Champlain Islands.

We traveled a total distance amounting to over 200 miles. Over this week, the 9th grade class became closer, and like previous class', every student learned more about one another. Every year, this trip is a crucial part to a class' development; the students did extremely well really getting to know each other, and making new friends.

The first day, we biked from VCS to Carly Lagasse's (VCS '09) house. Then, on Tuesday, we biked from Carly's house to the exact opposite side of the lake: Cumberland Head. There, we stayed at the Homers' house in comfortable beds. Wednesday has always been the most difficult day of this trip, and this year, nothing was different. We woke up early and biked up countless hills, through large mountains, and over many miles. After a weary day, everyone arrived safely at a campsite near Westport, NY. After a good nights sleep, we got up, and returned to Vermont over the Crown Point Bridge. We stayed the night at Button Bay. On Friday, we had a late wakeup, and a warm breakfast at the Basin Hill Club.

The glorious ride up IDX drive will probably be the most memorable moments in the students' minds because it concluded the 220 mile trek.

Thank you to all the parents who supported us, the Homers for a warm house and truck, the Langasses for allowing us to use there yard, and Jasmine, Christie and Rick for leading such a fun Encounter Week.



This Week in Photos



Quiz Answers
from pg. 1
6. d
5. c l
4. a

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