

January 30, 2013

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2

Noon Dismissal
Afternoon Classes
Parent Conferences

February 7

7th Grade
Potluck 6-8 PM
At Peter Gilmore's

February 9

Admissions Open
House 10-12 PM

February 12

First Evening of
Readings 6-8 PM

February 16

Valentine's Day
Dance 7-10 PM

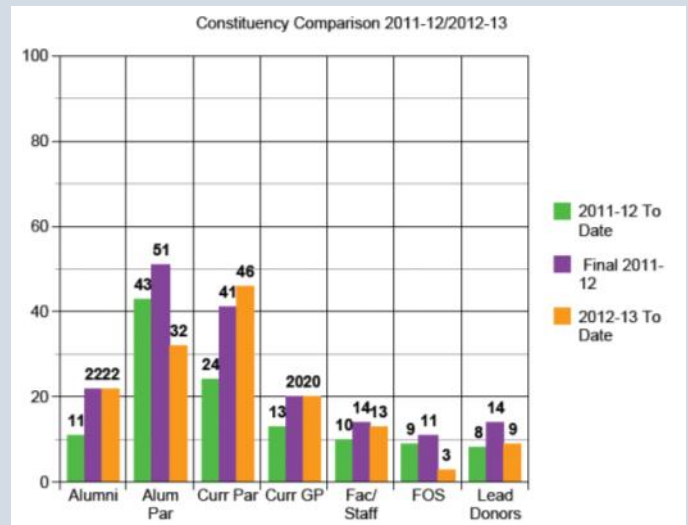
The Last Annual Fund Letter from Vermont

To the VCS Community,

The next time you hear from me, it will be from sunny (hopefully) Los Angeles! I want to thank everyone who has been so helpful getting us where we are with the **2012-13 Annual Fund**.

This community's generosity is something to behold. The volunteers who have helped in the Development Office with mailings, marketing expertise, care packages, events and more, have been essential to the smooth operations of all our endeavors. So thank you all for every way you give of yourselves.

Below you will find a graph that compares in **actual numbers of gifts**, this year's Annual Fund to last year's both to date and at the end of the year. I think you'll be as impressed with the numbers as we are!



So, keep it up. We are aiming for **100% PARTICIPATION!** For those of you who have not given, we still have a ways to go, so please make your donation now by [clicking here](#).

Best,

Mary (on the road again...)

Admissions Open House –by Sarah Soule



Vermont Commons School is hosting an Admissions Open House on **Saturday, February 9th at 10 a.m.** We hosted a similar event in November which was highly successful and we anticipate another record number of attendees on the 9th! We've found that the majority of the prospective families that inquire at our school do so because they've heard about us through current families who have children who are now attending our school. We appreciate your enthusiasm and your help in spreading the word about VCS to interested prospective students! We will also be at the School and Camp Fair at the Hilton Hotel on Saturday, February 2nd at 10 am.

Please share our Open House with any interested families by directing them to our website: www.vermontcommons.org. Thank you!

Flu Season Information –by Cara Simone



With flu on the rise in Vermont, here are a few tips and additional resources that you may find useful:

- Get vaccinated. Vaccination is still the best protection against the flu. It is not too late to get vaccinated this season.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or sleeve when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you or your child gets sick with a respiratory illness like flu, limit contact with others as much as possible to help prevent spreading illness. Stay home (or keep your child home) for at least 24 hours after fever is gone except to seek medical care or for other necessities. Fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
- Conduct routine cleaning and disinfecting. Flu viruses are relatively fragile, so standard cleaning and disinfecting practices are sufficient to remove or kill them.

The CDC has an excellent website dedicated to influenza. Please check it out at: www.cdc.gov/flu

College Counseling Corner –by Sarah Soule



Sophomores and Juniors, and their parents, are reminded to register for College Pathways which is scheduled for Saturday, March 16th at St. Michael's College in Colchester. Further information can be found at:

<http://services.vvac.org/wps/wcm/connect/vvac/VVAC/General/Calendar+of+Events/College+Pathways/>

This is an excellent opportunity to meet with college admission officers from around Vermont and learn about the process of applying to college and financial aid.

Juniors: Reminders about upcoming registration deadlines for the ACT and SAT in March and April (check your Naviance accounts for further information):

February 8, 2013 - registration deadline for March 9 SAT

March 8, 2013 - registration deadline for April 13 ACT test

Pizza Fridays Reminder



Pizza Fridays are back and will start this coming Friday (2/1). The dates we are offering lunch will continue through mid-May! Please log onto ParentsWeb to order the lunch. Afterwards mail in or drop off a check for the amount due (\$5 per order). Please place your order at least 48 hours in advance to ensure your portion.

All proceeds will benefit the trip to Paris this spring. Thank you for supporting the Trips Program!

A Collection of Student Work

Silence versus Sound—by Nora Hill, '15, published by the Young Writer's Project in the Burlington Free Press

What can you break with one word?

Silence.

The world is broken up into those who speak and those who don't.

Silence and stillness can lead a person to a higher place,

transcend our material world,

or it lead to the road of insanity, starved for human contact,

when one could save you.

Too much sound and your nervous system will overload,

crash into a pit of forced silence,

a balancing act between the two; the more

you walk, the thinner the rope becomes

till it snaps and you fall into a world of sounds and silence.

Things you don't want to hear will be told

to you; the truths you denied,

things you want so desperately to hear will be forever out of reach.

Your ability to speak when needed and to stay quiet when necessary is key.

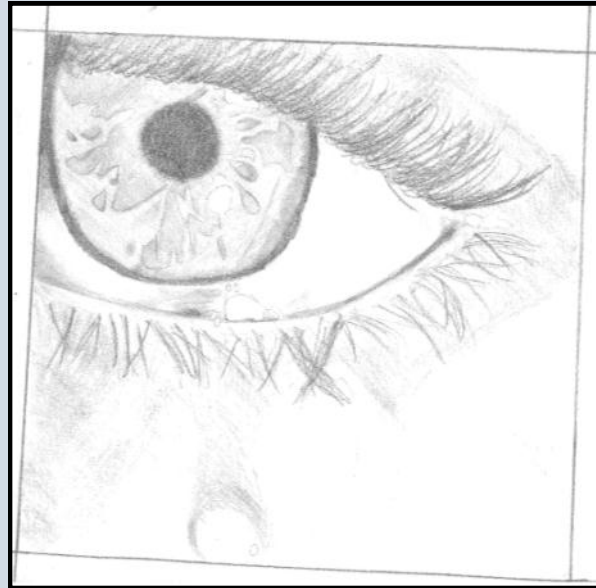
Because at some time in our lives our rope will break and we will fall.

When we fall we will be tested, tested to our very soul.

It is then in that pain that we can look inside ourselves,

whether through silence or sound we will look;

it's up to us to determine if we like what we hear.



Sketch by Auburn Sendra, '16

Warm, Soft Comfort—by Eli Hulse, '15, published by the Young Writer's Project in the Burlington Free Press

I lie here enveloped in my cocoon of polypropylene,
My own body, heating the 2 inch space above my skin,
A warm bliss.

Outside the frigid world waits for my exodus,

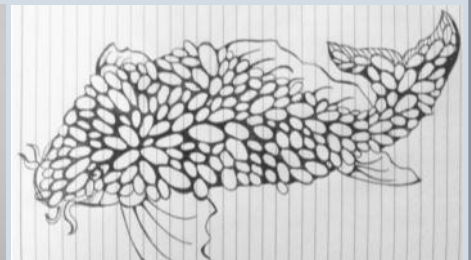
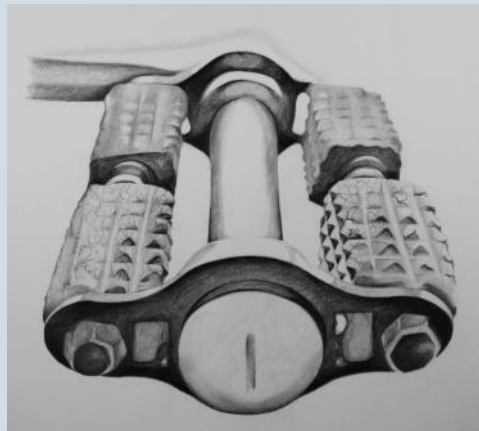
The clawing cold,

The howling wind,

Waiting to eat away at the flesh of any unprotected body.

I take one second, and brace myself,

Then I step into the cold, out of my sleeping bus.



Three sketches by Mia Jager, '13

Model UN Takes on UPenn –by Mark Cline Lucy



Twelve VCS students ventured to Philadelphia for "the biggest Model UN conference in the Northern Hemisphere" this week. Katiya Boudette (Class of '13 and one of our veteran MUNsters), Mitch Leffler and Ellis Govoni (Class of '14 and also hardened debaters), Nora Hill & Jamie Benson (Class of '15 and new to the game) and Camille Bartsch, Leah Dinkin, Eli Hinds, Lauren Howe, Rainer Kannenstine & Nick Sears (Class of '16 and all relatively new to the delegate world) spent 18 hours in Committee Sessions from Thursday night through Sunday morning, all representing the Republic of Iraq. Mitch and Ellis negotiated ways to curb the threat of North Korean on the Disarmament and National Security Committee. Rainer put forth his views on the need for clear rules for mercenary soldiers as part of the Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Committee. Camille & Eli wrestled with the UN's role in monitoring elections on the Special Political and Decolonization Committee. Katiya & Leah helped produce an international agreement about diplomatic immunity for Heads of State as part of the Legal Committee. Galen railed against the destructive effects of economic sanctions as a delegate on the Economic and Financial Affairs Committee. Nick took a strong stand on issues regarding Palestinian statehood and Palestinian refugees as a member of the United Nations Relief Works Agency. Nora took a get-at-the-root-of-the-problem approach to ending maritime piracy (Yarr!) with her allies on the International Maritime Organization. Lauren spoke her mind regarding the education of women as Iraq's delegate on the UN Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization. And Jamie helped craft resolutions regarding private sector development and environmental management & sustainability on the UN Industrial Development Organization.

Outside of committee sessions the students had a lot of good times and good laughs, swimming in the hotel pool, celebrating Camille's 15th birthday, and trying not to get trampled underfoot at the Delegate Dance.

This Week In Photos



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