

February 13, 2013

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 16

Valentine's Day Dance 7-10 PM

February 18

Basketball Team vs Faculty and Parents 3-5 PM

February 25– March 4

February Vacation

March 7

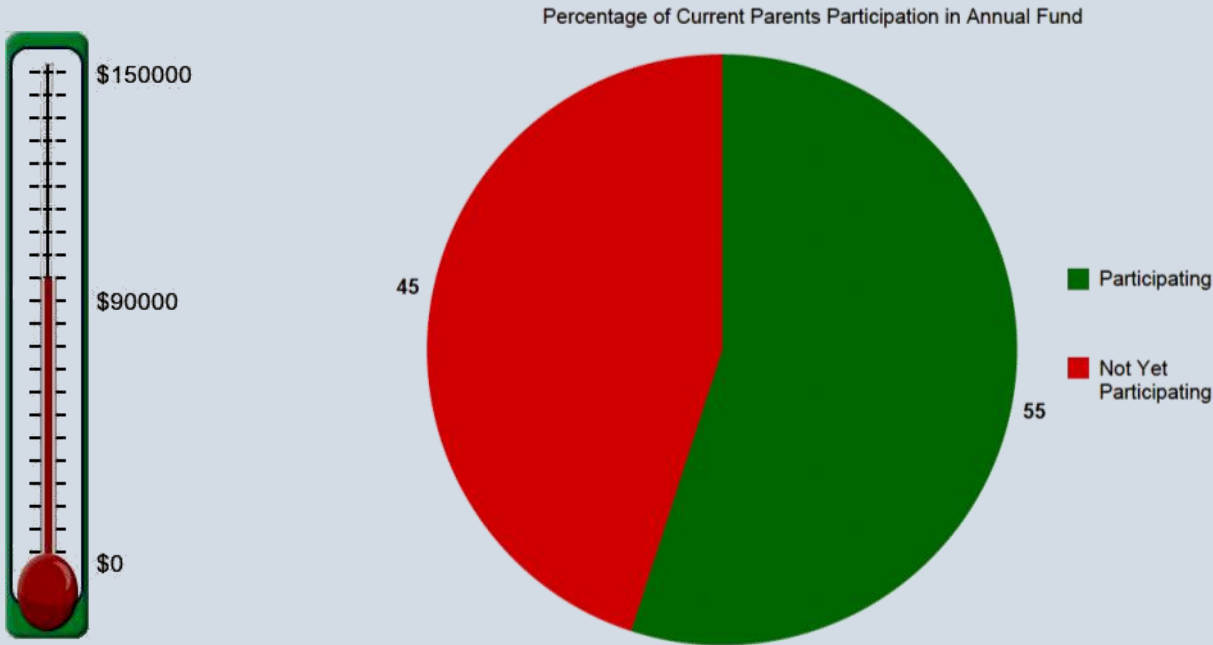
8th-Grade Potluck 6-8 PM @ Peter Gilmore's

Annual Fund Update –by Mary Hamilton-Homer

Hello from sunny California! Despite my absence from my desk, I am very much there in spirit and miss you all. AND I am still very much engaged in our quest for success with our Annual Fund!

The thermometer and the pie chart tell it all.

Please join Jeff Govoni, Annual Fund Chair, me and 55% of our parent population and give generously to the Annual Fund. It's about our kids and their experience at Vermont Commons School!



The Trustees are Coming!



Trustees Day at Vermont Commons: The VCS Board of Trustees will be spending the morning with us on Friday, February 15th. They will tour the school, attend Morning Meeting, sit in on classes, and have lunch with the student senate. There is also rumor of a Pete Goff Green/Gray event involving everyone! This is a great opportunity for us to learn more about each other. Please extend a warm welcome when they visit.

PACS News



We have started a Facebook page for the parents of Vermont Commons. You don't need to "friend" us, just "like" the page. Our intention is for this page to be used as an informational resource. For example: Do you need a pair of hiking boots for an Encounter Week? Do you need a ride home for your child after play practice? The page is titled "Vermont Commons School Parent Association of the Commons School."

What this is NOT is a complaint forum. We are working for positive forms of communication. School issues and concerns should be addressed with the school administration. Direct communication with the school is the best method. We do not want to dilute that process. We did see a need for a bulletin board type of forum so suggestions are welcome.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Dinah Larsen - dinars99@gmail.com, Lisa Lillibridge - lillibridge@gmail.com

Valentine's Day Dance –by Gabe Mantegna, '13



On Saturday, February 16th, there will be a Valentine's Day Dance in the VCS Great Room. Come from 7:30-10:30 pm for an evening of fun and dancing, DJed by our very own Ivan Voinov! You can buy a ticket in advance from Chance for \$5, or you can get in at the door for \$10. There will also be a photo booth, so you will be able to get pictures of you and your friends taken at no charge!

Giving 8 for 100 Announces its First Award



Giving 8 for 100: *Helping provide a student a window into another world*

The Giving 8 for 100 grant is an opportunity to have an impact in the life of a Vermont Commons School Student by providing a financial opportunity in exchange for community service. The student, *whose properly submitted application is selected*, completes 8 hours of community service to receive a \$100 award; the grant will be directly applied to offset the student's financial obligation to participate in a special VCS Encounter Week trip*.

The Giving 8 for 100 committee is pleased to announce it has chosen Spencer Reed, a Junior at Vermont Commons, to be the recipient of its first award. In his application, Spencer stated he would like to perform his community service working with animals, perhaps at the Chittenden County Humane Society. In Spencer's own words "Volunteering for local organizations is an excellent way to find what you're passionate about, and eventually, the creativity and passion sparked by something small could grow into something much larger." We are looking forward to receiving Spencer's Community Service Log and finalizing his award in support of his upcoming Encounter Week trip to Paris this spring.

Congratulations Spencer!

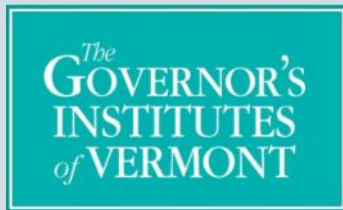
*A special Vermont Commons Encounter Week trip is a trip which requires funds from the participating student to meet the financial obligation of the trip (i.e. the financial obligation is above and beyond that covered by regular Vermont Commons School tuition for an Encounter Week trip).

Open House Recap –by Sarah Soule



Vermont Commons hosted a highly successful Open House on Saturday, February 9th. Despite the snowstorm on Friday, we welcomed a large group of prospective students and their parents who came to our school to learn more about our academic programs. Many who came said they did so at the recommendation of their friends who have children who are currently attending the school. We truly appreciate our families who share their enthusiasm about VCS with others! Thank you very much.

The Governor's Institute of Vermont (GIV) 2013 Information



GIV empowers young people with intensive, hands-on learning experiences in college settings which inspire their academic and creative passions, build confidence and leadership, and expand their sense of possibility.

GIV summer Institutes are for any Vermont 9th-11th grader with a passion for or particular interest in the arts, engineering, world cultures and events, math, science, technology, or activism. Students who enjoy GIV tend to have a strong intellectual or artistic curiosity, possess academic skills equal to or above their grade level, and function well in a highly independent learning environment. Most Institutes select students based on their grades. Ability to pay is never a factor.

Student applications and scholarship applications are available at www.giv.org. All applications along with the non-refundable \$25 application fee are due on March 15th at the front office.

Math 9 in the Real World –by Jasmine Walker



This week, Math 9 students are learning about trigonometric ratios. On a very chilly Thursday, they went outside to measure angles of elevation using clinometers (a measuring device used by architects, arborists and ship builders). Using several lines of sight, they estimated the height of the school building, a light pole and a tree. It's fun to see how trigonometry is used out in the world.

Photos From the Evening of Student Readings



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