

February 6, 2013

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 7**

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

**February 9**

Admissions Open  
House 10-12 AM

**February 12**

First Evening of  
Readings 6-8 PM

**February 16**

Valentine's Day  
Dance 7-10 PM

**February 18**

Basketball Team  
vs Faculty and  
Parents 3-5 PM

## Need a new VCS Sweatshirt?

Look for the PACS Spirit Wear table at the Evening of Readings on Tuesday, February 12th. Please e-mail Dinah Larsen or Lisa Lillibridge for more information. Cash or Checks please.

### VCS SPIRIT WEAR

Show your school spirit!!

Tee Shirts: \$25

*NEW* Women's Cut T-shirt (green only)

Sweatshirts: \$40



Locally Printed @



Pine Street, Burlington

Contact: Dinah Larsen [dlars@gmail.com](mailto:dlars@gmail.com)

Lisa Lillibridge [llillibridge@gmail.com](mailto:llillibridge@gmail.com)

## Evening of Student Readings—Tuesday, February 12th



At 6 pm on February 12, 2013, the VCS Language Arts department will host the first of our two Evenings of Readings! This evening is a time-honored tradition at VCS, in which students from all grades share the poetry, short stories, and personal essays that they have written over the course of the year. We will hear from half of the student body on the evening of the 12th, and the rest will read on the evening of March 19th. Come support our student writers! The readings will take place in the Commons Room, and will last from 6 to around 8 pm.

Thank you! -Christie, Cara, and Jennifer.

## 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.

## Winter Encounter Week Summary

Despite the frigid temperatures, a group of students spent their winter Encounter Week in a yurt in the Vermont wilderness. They hiked the Forest City Trail on Camel's Hump and later in the week headed south on the Long Trail, reaching a overlook that provided glorious views all the way to the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Between ferociously competitive games of Scrabble and setting up mattresses in the neighboring yurt to fall like dominoes when the door opened, the students spent the week writing and processing their week together. "The whole experience of being away from everything I thought I needed to live, electricity, running water, and technology, was incredibly," said Anna Hulse. "I realized that it isn't that hard to survive when you are warm and dry."

When the end of the week rolled around, the group had become a very cohesive and capable team, realizing the goal of Encounter Week. After one last race up the hill to look at Camel's Hump and to take a group photo, the kids returned to their families in the land of electricity. "Living in a yurt for a week while braving the bitter cold with the protection of a wood stove brings us one step closer to our simplistic roots," said Miles Lamberson. "It's something I find cleansing, reinvigorating, and almost cathartic after a week of exams."

Another group of twelve students ventured to Philadelphia for the biggest Model UN conference in the Northern Hemisphere, representing the Republic of Iraq in eighteen hours of Committee Sessions from Thursday night through Sunday mornings. Mitch Leffler and Ellis Govoni negotiated ways to curb the threat of North Korea on the Disarmament and National Security Committee. Rainer Kannenstine detailed his views on the need for clear rules for mercenary soldiers as part of the Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Committee. Katiya Boudette and Leah Dinkin helped produce an international agreement about diplomatic immunity for Heads of State as part of the Legal Committee.

Nick Sears took a strong stand on issues regarding Palestinian statehood and Palestinian refugees as a member of the United Nations Relief Works Agency. Nora Hill took a get-at-the-root-of-the-problem approach to ending maritime piracy with her allies on the International Maritime Organization. Lauren Howe spoke her mind regarding the education of women as Iraq's delegate on the UN Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization. Jamie Benson helped craft resolutions regarding private sector development and environmental management and sustainability on the UN Industrial Development Organization.

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

Peter Gilmore and Christie Beveridge accompanied twelve students on a diving trip to the Bahamas after utilizing UVM's pool to receive certification. Students went animal tracking, and some members of the volleyball team went to King Street and ran a clinic for the children there; another group visited museums in New York City and went to the opera.



## The Frozen Turtles Thaw –by Mark Cline Lucy



For the 8th year in a row, a team of Frozen Turtles plunged into the icy waters of Lake Champlain as part of the Penguin Plunge. The biggest Frozen Turtles team ever, 17 students, 5 faculty, and 1 alumnus raised over \$5000 for Special Olympics Vermont. Next year we hope to take it to the next level by having our first ever Parent Plunger . . . maybe you could be the one!! Please enjoy this video that truly captures the drama of the event. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qT2iHlp7ww>

## This Week In Photos



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