

March 27, 2013

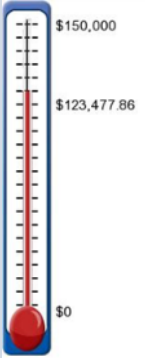
# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>March 28</b>	<b>April 1-5</b>	<b>April 3</b>	<b>April 9</b>	<b>April 12</b>
PACS Coffee Hour 7:15-8:45 AM	Spirit Week	Noon Dismissal Morning Schedule	Second Evening of Student Readings 6-8 PM	Last Day For Seniors

## Annual Fund Update



We are getting there folks! Please make your gift if you have not yet had a chance to. It is School Spirit Week! Show your spirit for Vermont Commons and help us make our goal!

Thank you to everyone who has donated thus far. You are awesome! -Mary Hamilton-Homer

## Common Hour Presentation



Karen Archer from Prevent Child Abuse Vermont was our speaker this week. She spoke about Teen Safety in Cyberspace. Having taught for many years and presented to schools and organizations in New England on this topic for the past few, she came highly regarded. Students and faculty enjoyed her presentation.

## Green/Gray Food Drive Competition



The Student Senate Service Committee is putting on a Green/Gray food drive for the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf. Be sure to bring in some non-perishable items. There are two bins located in the lunch room, labeled GREEN and GRAY, and the contributions to each bin will be graded on weight, diversity, and volume.

## Spirit Week Schedule—April 1-5



This year, the Student Senate is planning a second spirit week to offset the effects of the mud season doldrums. With the realization that this time of year can be especially stressful for students, we are hoping that these themes can brighten the mood at VCS. Below, we have the themes for each day.

- Tie Day Monday
- Super Classy Tuesday
- Wacky Wednesday
- Green and Grey Thursday
- Friday: Vermon' Day

These will be announced at Morning Meeting, and further explained. If you have any questions, please ask any Student Senate member.

-The Student Senate

## Montreal Trip en Espanol –by Adriana Comtois



### Montreal Trip *en Español* - Thursday, March 28th - 8.30 to 6 p.m. - \$15

As you read in the e-mail I sent previously, the World Language Department will be taking the Spanish classes (from level II and above) to Montreal for a little cultural exploration of the Latin communities in that city. Many of you have already returned the permission form, passport copy and the \$15 check made to the school, but if you have not done it yet, please do not forget to send that ASAP. Also, if you would like us to pick up or drop off your child along I-89 let us know so we can plan accordingly. Hasta la vista!

## PACS News –by Dinah Larsen and Lisa Lillibridge



Please volunteer! Lisa and I are hoping to get some potential PACS chair interest in the next few months so we can hand off the leadership of the organization to the next generation of parents, as we will be seniors next year. We, as well as other past chairs, are more than willing to be mentors, but we need some new blood! Please email, call or feel free to approach us in person. We don't bite!

Upcoming Dates Dates:

- PACS Coffee on Thurs. Mar 28 from 7:45-8:45 AM
- 10th/11th Grade Potluck Dinner on April 10 at Lillibridge/Govoni home 6-8 PM

Show your VCS spirit! [Click here](#) for a Spirit Wear order form.

## International Students are on the way! –by Peter Gilmore

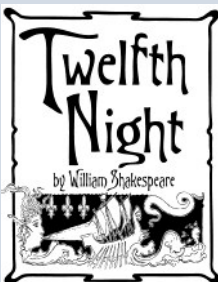


Diversity at VCS will be taking a big leap forward as we put into gear the program to recruit, admit, and enroll students from China for next September. Our new International Student Coordinator, Ben Wang, will be working hard to find just the right kids for the program. Meanwhile we need to identify families willing to house international students in their homes for next year. Ideally many of these families will be VCS folks, but they do not have to be, so please let us know immediately if you or someone you know is interested. Families are well compensated for housing students, and there is an experienced private company that works with them to oversee the homestays as well. Contact Ben Wang at: x21.

## Big Trips Applications—due Friday 3/29

Reminder: Big Trip 2014 applications are due this Friday. Please submit them to Chance Cardamone-Knewstub. Please [click here](#) to download the application.

## Support the Cast and Crew of Twelfth Night



Place a playbill ad for the Vermont Commons School's production of *Twelfth Night*.

Business Card Sized: \$25, Quarter of a page: \$50, Half a page: \$75,  
Full page: \$100

Please send a check made out to Vermont Commons School to Cara or Liz's attention. Please include a copy of the ad that you would like us place when you send us the check or email an electronic copy of the ad to [lpeck@vermontcommons.org](mailto:lpeck@vermontcommons.org).

# Extinctus Boutique Bags for Sale

Extinctus: A new corporation by Ben Patrick and student artists!

Our Mission: To provide reusable bags in order to eliminate waste produced by plastic or paper bags. In doing so, we can promote awareness of endangered species as well as raise money to protect them.

Please join us this Saturday, March 30th at Healthy Living from 12-3 PM where the students will be selling bags for \$5 a piece.

Limited production, high fashion. Do not miss out! Extinctus.



Photo Credits: Oliver Bijur '18

# World Language Student Work—by Jeiru Wang



Vermont Foreign Language Association holds 2013 Essay Contest in elementary school, middle school and high school. Students are required to write their essay in English and compose a short 75 word autobiography or profile in their target language to accompany their essays. For high school students, the title is *Many Languages, One United Voice*. Two 9<sup>th</sup> graders from Chinese II class, **Camille Bartsch and Jordan Cannon**, participated in the contest. They sent out their essay, on March 15th. Hope we can hear the trumpet soon.

We Are All One, The Only One —by Camille Bartsch

If we want Many Languages, with One United Voice, what will it take for us to achieve this goal? Through international diplomacy, nations can respect each other for our differences and our strengths. The United States wants to be the leader, bringing all languages and nations together; however, we must realize that America will not have the last word in all peace talks. Our international diplomacy will learn and grow from the respect that we show to regions of the world including: Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

Europe is filled with forward thinking movements in alternative energy such as a greater use of solar, wind and hydro energy. The Europeans have also been able to serve their people incredibly well when it comes to health care. Through our diplomats, the United States must be open to hearing new ideas, and it's how we learn to respect these different viewpoints that we establish a more united voice.

Asia's economy, infrastructure, and middle class are rising right now. Even though our relations with Asia are a bit tense based upon different views on government, we have to respect and learn from them when it comes to rebuilding our economy and their focus on education to make the next generation stronger.

Finally, the Middle East is showing desire for change in their region. The United States needs to support these future leaders, while encouraging young American students to also push for improvements in their own government. We also need to teach our students how to respect others, and sometimes agree to disagree at times, but to always be diplomatic.

The Many Languages, One United Voice project is trying to bring fresh new forward-thinking concepts into a more united world. Through diplomacy, we can learn from other nations how we can support shared goals while taking a leadership role as a nation. There are many languages around the world; however, we can be one language of leadership and respect.

## One World, One Voice—by Jordan Cannon

Three years ago, I went to Hong Kong's Chungking mansions, an apartment-like building filled with people from all over the world. As I walked through the crowded halls, listening to all the different languages and passing sari shops, African restaurants, and Chinese tailors, I felt like I was in a microcosm of the world. I only wished that I could understand the many languages I heard. In today's globalized world, it is especially important that students learn to communicate across cultures so that they can share ideas and learn from each other.

Students have a valuable opportunity to work toward one united voice by studying foreign languages at school. With just over a year of Chinese language study, I have already experienced the power of speaking across cultures. This past fall, my Chinese class went to Montreal to visit Chinatown and the Chinese garden. While there, our teacher sent us on a scavenger hunt. We had to use our language skills to find the items on our list. To our surprise, people understood us and helped us get the things we needed. Our ability to communicate in a foreign language made it possible for us to work together to solve a problem.

However, studying language is not enough to truly speak with one united voice. To communicate effectively, one must also understand other cultures. When I visited China, I was amazed by how much more open and friendly people were when I showed that I knew something about their culture.

Students can also work toward developing one united voice by interacting with people from other cultures. Right here in Vermont, I have connected with refugees from Nepal by helping them learn English. When they understood what I was saying and I understood what they were saying, we felt united.

The world is full of many voices, each offering different perspectives and ideas. Being able to understand these voices allows us to work together to creatively solve universal problems. Moreover, when we understand each other there is less chance of conflict. We all benefit from realizing we are one united voice.

## This Week in Photos



VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL - 75 GREEN MOUNTAIN DRIVE, SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT 05403  
P: 802-865-8084 F: 802-865-2429 EMAIL: INFO@VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG

[WWW.VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG](http://WWW.VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG)