

April 11, 2013

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 12**

Last Day For  
Seniors

**April 18**

PACS Coffee  
Hour 7:45-  
8:45 AM

**April 19-26**

Spring Vacation

**May 9**

State of the  
School 6-8 PM

**May 17**

4th Quarter  
Ends

## We Are So Close –Jeff Govoni, Annual Fund Chair



With your help we can get to our goal of  
**\$150,000 & 100% Participation!**

Wow! This **Vermont Commons Community** is a pretty remarkable thing. Thanks to the generosity of over 190 of **you** we have raised a whopping \$123,960.36! That means we only have \$26,039.64 more to go to hit our goal of \$150,000 and that is really quite something. So, on behalf of Mary and Adriana in the Development Office and the entire VCS faculty and staff ... Thank you!

**But** ... we are not at our goal yet. How does that saying go? It's the last few yards that are the hardest? I don't know; I've never been much of a sports person. Whatever the right saying is, the fact is these last \$26,039.64 (to be precise) will be the hardest to raise and that's why I'm writing you today. Yes, we are very close and with your help we will get there.

Will **YOU** join us?

## PACS Coffee Hour



Thursday, April 18th is the next PACS sponsored Coffee Hour. Please join us for great coffee and conversation with parents, faculty, and staff in the lunch room from 7:45-8:45 a.m.

## Congrats to the Cast and Crew of Twelfth Night!



Vermont Commons performed Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* to much acclaim from family, friends, and fans of Shakespeare from the Burlington area last weekend. Missed the performance? Look for a video to be available soon!

## College Counseling Corner –by Sarah Soule



As we prepare to launch the Class of 2013 on their senior projects, I am pleased to share the exciting news that our eleven seniors have been awarded \$915,000 in merit scholarship money based on their academic achievements at Vermont Commons School. It is a wonderful testimony to their hard work during the course of their enrollment at our school.

Earlier this week our juniors attended a college fair held at CVU and met with representatives from a variety of institutions. Many of them will be touring campuses during our April break.

## Trip Up North –by Charlotte Rutz

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, the VCS Spanish classes went to Montreal to explore the Latin side of the city. There, we explored two different Latino markets, Lima Limon and Sabor Latino, and purchased traditional foods such as tamales and Inca Kola. We had to use our Spanish skills to actually purchase the items and understand what the attendant was asking us. One of the owners offered us “manjarblanco” (super sweet!) and we asked her about the displays with food at the store. We got to sample tamales and empanadas right on the spot.

For lunch, we were handed a map and we were asked to walk to a Cuban café where we sampled three different meat dishes: ropa vieja (shredded pork with spices), bistec (a steak filet) and pollo al jugo (juicy chicken). All of them were accompanied by patacones, fried plantains, beans and rice, staples of Caribbean food. We asked many questions to the restaurant owner about his life in Montreal and in Cuba. We discovered that there is a substantial Hispanic population in Montreal and that they enjoy living in that multicultural city. After lunch, the students were allowed to wander around the city and explore more of the markets.

The last portion of the trip was spent in an art museum, looking at traditional Peruvian art and sculptures at the Museum of Fine Arts in downtown Montreal.

We gained a cultural experience, we spoke in Spanish all day, and we ate great food. It was a wonderful trip!





## Congratulations Aidan and Nora! –by Jillian Casey



On Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Nora Hill and Aidan Villani-Holland participated in a symposium at the Doubletree Hotel in South Burlington where they presented a poster detailing fieldwork they had completed through RACC and EPSCoR. For this year's undergraduate research symposium, each group was assigned a particular river or stream in Vermont, and after taking samples and performing some tests, the students were tasked with creating a poster to represent their findings.

"We took soil and water samples, and then completed a research project using systems dynamic modeling about water chemistry in the Huntington River," said Nora Hill. "It was the first real field experience I've ever done, and having that experience was really beneficial."

At the symposium on April 4<sup>th</sup>, Aidan and Nora had to present their poster and field questions regarding their results and the overall experience. "I have always loved science," Aidan Villani-Holland said, "and this project included interesting field work and a presentation, which was really great."

"The teachers we have at VCS are absolutely wonderful," Nora said, "and working with Peter Goff on this project has really influenced my interest in science. He is such a mentor and inspiration to me."

For their thorough research, their poster, and their ability to field questions from professors and world-renown researchers, Nora and Aidan won the Best High School Poster Presentation Award at the symposium, besting nearly fifty other high schools from Vermont, New York, and even Puerto Rico.

## This Week in Photos







**Vermont Commons School Congratulates the Class of 2013 on their college acceptances!**  
**Colleges recently admitting our students include:**

- |                           |                                   |                                    |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Acadia University         | Florida Institute of Technology   | New York University                |
| Allegheny College         | Fordham University                | University of North Carolina       |
| American University       | Goucher College                   | University of Redlands             |
| Beloit College            | Grinnell College                  | University of Richmond             |
| Bentley University        | Hamilton College                  | St. Michael's College              |
| Carleton College          | Hobart William Smith College      | Savannah College of Art and Design |
| Champlain College         | Johns Hopkins University          | Skidmore College                   |
| Clark University          | Johnson and Wales University      | St. Lawrence University            |
| University of Colorado    | Kenyon College                    | Trinity College                    |
| University of Connecticut | Lewis and Clark College           | Tufts University                   |
| Colby College             | Marist College                    | Tulane University                  |
| Colorado College          | Maryland Institute College of Art | Union College                      |
| Cornell University        | Massachusetts College of Art      | University of Vermont              |
| Eckerd College            | University of Miami               | Wheaton College                    |
| Earlham College           | Middlebury College                | University of Wisconsin            |
| Elon University           | Mount Holyoke College             | College of Wooster                 |
|                           | New College                       |                                    |



SAT averages for the Class of 2013  
 Critical Reading: 633  
 Math: 570  
 Writing: 612

*As a class, our eleven seniors have received \$915,000 in merit based academic scholarships from the colleges and universities offering them admission.*

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