

April 3, 2013

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 5 & 6

VCS Presents Shakespeare's
Twelfth Night 7-9 PM at
Contois Auditorium

April 9

Second Evening
of Student
Readings 6-8 PM

April 10

10th and 11th
Grade potluck

April 12

Last Day For
Seniors

Support VCS Students in Their Performance of Twelfth Night



Please join us this Friday and Saturday evening for the presentation of *Twelfth Night*. The play will take place at Contois Auditorium in downtown Burlington from 7-9 pm. Tickets will be sold at the door.

We hope you come watch our very talented cast and crew in action! See you there.



Second Evening of Student Readings—April 9th



We invite you to attend the second Evening of Student Readings on April 9, 2013 at 6 pm hosted by the Language Arts Department.

This evening is a time-honored tradition at VCS, when students from all grades share the poetry, short stories, and personal essays that they have written over the course of the year

Come support our student writers! The readings will take place in the Commons Room, and will last from 6 to around 8 pm.

College Counseling Corner –by Sarah Soule



Reminder to all juniors, that this Thursday, April 4th at 7 p.m. at South Burlington High School on Dorset Street is the Canadian College Fair. Several VCS graduates have gone on to pursue higher education in Canada and have enrolled at Bishop's University, Concordia University, Queens University and the University of British Columbia. Please consider attending to learn more about the options available north of the border.

Next Monday, all juniors will be attending the college fair at CVU. We will depart VCS at the onset of lunch (eating in the bus while en route to Hinesburg) and we will return in time for fifth period. A list of the colleges and universities attending the college fair will be emailed home to all juniors .

This Friday, April 5th is the deadline to register for the May SAT test date. To register, go to the College Board's link on your Naviance account. See Sarah with any questions.

VCS Students in the Community



Vermont Energy Independence Day was Thursday, March 21st, and featured the premiere of Vermont's first crowd-sourced film, which included a brief clip shot by one of our students, Lincoln Pierce, class of 2016. The project was organized by Bright Blue EcoMedia, a Moretown-based non-profit that produced the Emmy-award winning PBS series "Bloom." For a look at the movie and Lincoln's role in the film, please see the link on our school's Facebook page.

Nora Hill and Aidan Villani-Holland will be presenting their system dynamics model of the Huntington River, based on their summer research with the Research on Adaptations to Climate Change program.



RACC
Research on Adaptation
to Climate Change

5th Annual
Vermont EPSCoR
Student Research Symposium

April 4th, 2013
3:00-8:00pm
DoubleTree Hotel
South Burlington, VT

NSF VERMONT EPSCoR CWDD
Center for Workforce Development & Diversity
AT SAINT MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

Funding provided by NSF EPS Grant #1101317

Research & Service: Public Art –by Jillian Casey



Vermont Commons School (VCS) is deeply committed to place-based education, service learning, and ecological stewardship, and those values are manifested in the school's Research & Service (R&S) Program. The mission of R&S is to go beyond the traditional disciplines, to go beyond the classroom walls, and to connect learning to community engagement and environmental stewardship in a fun, hands-on and rewarding way. Ultimately, the Research and Service experience teaches students that with knowledge comes responsibility, and they can and should take active roles in improving their communities.



Program director Mark Cline Lucey, along with a committee of students, faculty, and trustees, have been recently devising ways to enhance the program over the next three years to ensure R&S experiences are not only education, but also fun and interactive. One major improvement to the program is the notion of student empowerment and leadership, giving them the opportunity to take a hands-on approach in their own learning.



VCS teacher Adriana Comtois took that into consideration when deploying her R&S students on their next project: examining public art as a discipline in Burlington. The streets are splattered with murals and painting, public art planned and executed with the specific intention of making a statement, to affect the viewer, to make an impact on the community in which it is displayed. Adriana stated her desire to become more of a mediator in the process, giving the students the opportunity to control the project and learn for themselves.

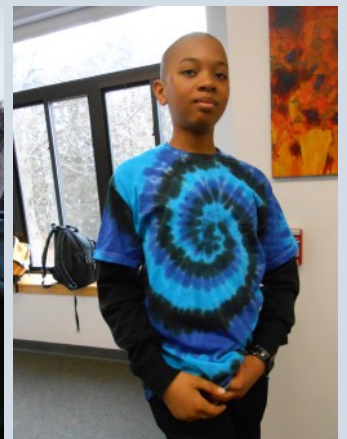


On Wednesday, March 20th, Adriana bused students to Church Street in Burlington where they were tasked with photographing different types of street art in preparation for a round-table discussion to be held later in the month. Students split into groups to take pictures of the various art forms, from murals to graffiti, and to speak with the owners of the buildings where the art found.

"We took a picture of a coin slot decorated as Champ," said Sasha Pearson.

The round-table discussion will give the R&S students the opportunity to ask questions about and examine the effect of public art on the city of Burlington. The project will culminate in a student-produced video.

This Week in Photos





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