

May 17, 2013

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS MAY

20-25	27	28-30	28	30	31
Spring Encounter Week	Memorial Day No School	Exam Review Normal Dismissal	NOG 6 pm	Senior Exit Projects	Field Day: drop off (8:30 a.m.) and pick up (3:30) at Oakledge Prom: Boat leaves at

Annual Fund Participation Percentages

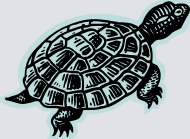
Faculty/Staff	100%
Trustees	100%
Current Parents	69%
Alumni Parents	30%
Alumni	16%

UNSAVE the DATE!

Turtle Fest is Postponed!

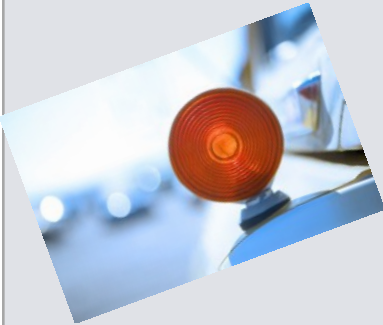
Due to the numbers of events, gatherings, celebrations, e-weeks, exams, graduations, etcetera, etcetera, we have decided to remove this PARTAY from the calendar...

Stay tuned next year!



**WE ARE AT
\$143,130.10!!**

**These are AWESOME numbers!
Thank You...
and there is still time!
Please make your donation
today!**



PACS News: CAUTION! Fun Ahead!!

If your kids need VCS t-shirts or hoodies for Encounter Week - we have them! Shirts are \$25 and hoodies are \$40. These would also be useful for Field Days! Please let us know if you need/want some spirit clothes!

Our final Encounter Week Luncheon is on Friday, May 24 at VCS. Suzanne Mantegna has sent out a Sign Up Genius doc to solicit food donations. VCS provides the pizza, and parents bring desserts, salads and beverages. Please sign up!

Tuesday afternoon, May 28, Miles and Jill's father, Paul Lamberson, will be giving a talk on Financial Literacy to our students in the Computer Lab at VCS. This is a free event giving information and explaining terminology. This is the afternoon of the Night of Glory event.

Friday, May 31 is Field Day at VCS. Our final **GREY vs. GREEN** festivity! PACS volunteers will be helping that day - WE HAVE ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS! Yippee!

Graduation is Friday, June 7 at 10:30. All students participate in the ceremony. The junior class parents typically lead the volunteer effort on this day. If you would like to help that day and are not a junior parent, please contact us. We want your help!

Graduation Note: If you are a parent at VCS and your child is not in the senior or junior class, we encourage you to attend the ceremony anyway. It is a beautiful and intimate expression of all you hoped and wished for your children when you sent them to VCS. The incredible bond between students and teachers is on display that day in particular. If you have ever wondered if the efforts you make for your child to attend VCS are worth it, consider attending graduation. You will know on that morning what makes this school so special. And bring your tissues. Ok, lecture is over.

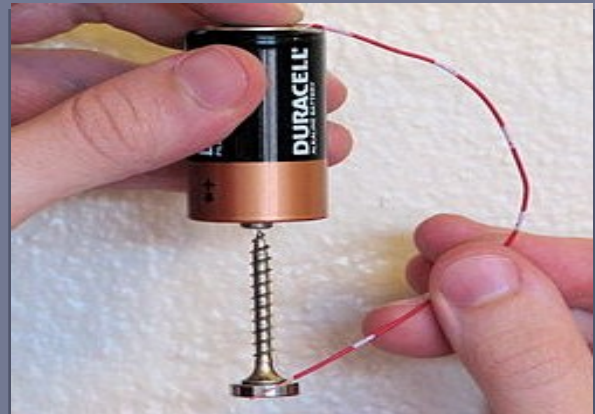
SCIENCE JOURNAL by Luke Donforth

Geology

As a final review project for the 8th graders are writing parodies of songs of their choosing. Ask an 8th grader for their masterpiece, and you might get a riff on "Thrift Shop", "Jingle Bells", or "I'm Sexy & I Know It", that teaches you about geology and how imaginative VCS students can be. Encourage them to perform their song for class during review week to help their friends study.



Elsewhere in the science department, **Lauren Howe** helped Luke develop a Fire Tornado demo to showcase at today's Morning Meeting!



HOMOPOLAR MOTORS

The juniors are building homopolar motors as their final project to bring the Spring Physics Semester to a close.

Spanish Class Goes to the Future by Lorenzo Castro

Students in the advanced Spanish Class have been working on a creative writing assignment these last few weeks. The theme for the stories was the future, although some students chose to invent their own storyline.

It was not, however, just the imaginary worlds and the well-structured stories put onto paper that were most impressive, rather, it was the exceptional level of Spanish with which the students created, mystified and carried us all away to new and dreamed of places.

Below are a few extracts of their work (translated into English), enjoy!



Mikhal Yudien, "La Aventura de Esteban".

Esteban decidió intentar escapar del coche. En ese momento, Esteban sintió algo por el interior de la parte trasera del coche y encontró una palanca pequeña, oculta en la esquina. No sabía que era, pero la empujó. La puerta grande se abrió y el niño se tiró a la pista. Cuando Esteban cayó, se raspó los dos codos y rodillas. Empezó a llorar, más porque la pista y el petróleo y la suciedad se mezclaban en las abrasiones y se quemó mucho. Pero Esteban era un chico muy valiente y así se levantó y sacudió el polvo de su ropa. Trató de terminar de llorar y continuó caminando por la calle. Pero había un problema: no tenía ni idea donde estaba.

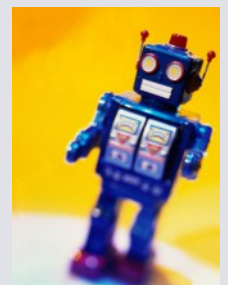
Esteban decided to try to escape from the car. At that moment, Esteban felt along the inside of trunk of the car and found a small button hidden in the corner. He did not know what it was, but he pressed it anyway. The large door opened and the boy was thrown to the pavement. When Esteban fell, he scraped both his elbows and knees. He began to cry even more as the pavement, the gas, and the dirt mixed in his cuts and started to burn. However, Esteban was a very brave boy and, thus, stood up and wiped the dust from his clothes. He tried to stop crying and continued walking down the road. But there was a problem: he had no idea where he was.



Miles Lamberson, "El robot que quería nadar"

Cada verano había una gran competición entre todos los chicos del barrio. Todos los chicos y chicas, de todos los partes del barrio competieron. Solo había un robot inscrito, Jorge, quien estaba decido a ganar. Solo tenía tres días mas para practicar, pero Jorge estaba seguro. El necesitaba comer muchas baterías y comprobar todos sus circuitos. En el "Gran día" Jorge se sentía muy bien. Todas sus baterías fueron cargadas y sus motores estaban muy lubricados. Jorge fue además con su traje especial para nadar. Durante la competición, estaba adelante de todos los otros chicos. El era menor que muchos chicos, pero era muy rápido. Su amigo Eduardo estaba muy cerca de él, pero nunca pasó a Jorge. De esta manera, Jorge fue el primer robot en ganar la competencia de fin del verano. Y todos fueron felices.

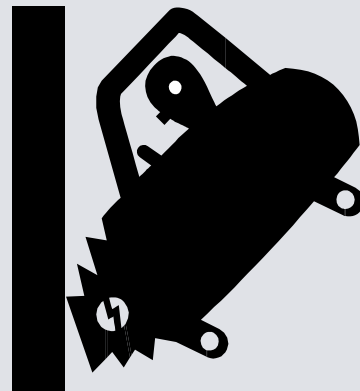
Every summer, there was a big competition with all the neighborhood kids. All ages up to 15 years old, the girls and the boys, from all the parts of the neighborhood competed. There was only one robot, but Jorge was set on winning. There were only three more days to practice, but Jorge was sure. Now, all he had to do was freshen up his batteries, and check all of his circuits. On the "big day," Jorge felt great. All of his batteries were fully charged, y his motors were well lubricated. There was only one Robot, and it was Jorge with his special swimming suit. During the competition, Jorge was in front of all the kids for the entire time. He was younger than many of the kids, but he was still very fast. The whole time Eduardo was very close, but he never passed Jorge. Jorge was the first robot to win the end of summer competition, and everyone was happy.



Mitchell Leffler, "Doblando la esquina"

... Hice el problema (de matemáticas), y corrí por la puerta. Había terminado con mi examen! Había mucha nieve fresca afuera y no hacía demasiado frío, era un tiempo perfecto para esquiar, pero necesitaba ir al Starbucks. Subí a mi coche y empecé a conducir por Green Mountain Drive a través de la nieve, a pesar de que no tenía neumáticos para la nieve. La canción, "Thrift Shop" de Macklemore sonaba en la radio, y estaba cantando ruidosamente. Me acerque la esquina muy rápido. Giré el volante y nada pasó, grité, "Oh \$#&@!" y escuche un "BOOM!"

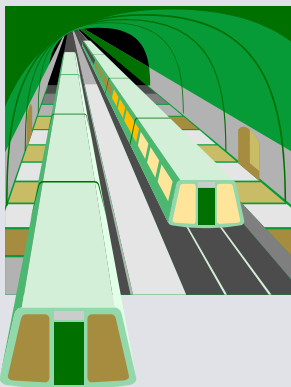
... I did the (math) problem, and I ran for the door. I finished the test! There was fresh snow outside, and it wasn't too cold, it was perfect weather for skiing, but first I had to go to Starbucks. I got into my car and started to drive down Green Mountain Drive through the snow. My car did not have snow tires. The song "Thrift Shop" by Macklemore was on the radio, and I was singing very loudly. I approached the corner very fast. I turned the steering wheel and nothing happened, yelled, "Oh \$#&@!" and heard a "BOOM!"



Aidan Villani-Holland, "Las ciudades subterráneas"

Un sonido como el grito de un lobo vino de la pared y todo del túnel se agitó cuando el tren pasó en el túnel paralelo. "¿Por qué los trenes no pueden quedarse?" dijo Alonso, tranquilamente. "Ellos saben que estoy tratando de arreglar esta línea de electricidad, pero los trenes siguen pasando." No había nadie más allí, además de Alonso, pero él necesitaba hablar para evitar la locura. El año es 2346, el mundo no es tan avanzado con la tecnología, pero el reparto de poder es muy diferente que en el siglo XX. El capitalismo se extendió en casi todo el mundo. Pero también, el capitalismo es mucho más extremo y casi cada país es gobernado por una compañía. Todavía había gobiernos en los países, pero ya no tienen tanto poder. Debido a que la población continuó creciendo, no había suficiente espacio en la superficie. Por eso, la compañía "Transit Corp" construyó algunas ciudades bajo la tierra y el mar, usando la energía del sol y el viento del exterior.

A sound like the cry of a wolf came from the tunnel wall and all stirred when the train went into the tunnel parallel. Why can't they just stop the trains?" Alonso said quietly. They know I'm trying to fix this power line, but they keep coming. There was no one there besides Alonso, but he talked to avoid madness. The year was 2346. The world was not



so advanced with technology, but the distribution of power was quite different from the twentieth century. Capitalism had spread across practically the entire world. It was far more extreme, and most countries were ruled by some company. There were still governments, but they had almost no power. As the population continued to grow, there was not enough space on the surface. Therefore, a company called, "Transit Corp" built some cities under ground and below the sea. Using energy from the sun and wind, they could power these cities.

El Fin (The End)

NIGHT OF GLOOOOORRRRYYY

Tuesday, May 28th at 6 pm

Commons Room

Please come for a family night of celebration of **A**cademics (National Honor Society Induction),

Athletics and the **A**rt of the stage!

CALCULUS HITS THE REAL WORLD!!

By Peter Larsen '14 and Eli Hulse '15



The trip that Eli, Jasmine, and I made to Dealer.com was phenomenal. The friendly atmosphere made for a comfortable yet high tech setting that seemed to allow the best benefits for the employees while still being able to work efficiently and effectively. I especially enjoyed the areas where we talked to Brendan, as many of the office spaces had been personalized and opened up, giving each area its own unique and fun touch. I also liked the fact that the cafeteria had Rookie's Rootbeer, the best in the world, on tap. Overall, the trip was informational and effective at demonstrating to Eli and I what the field of calculus could lead to for employment. -PL

Since the VCS calculus class has lost the majority of its students to senior project, Peter Larsen, and I have been doing advanced math with Jasmine. This has deepened our knowledge of math, and it has allowed us to explore topics that usually aren't covered in the math curriculum. However, on the side, we have been going to different places that are math related, or that use some application of math. For example, two weeks ago, we went for a tour at the UVM physics and engineering lab. We looked at their senior exit projects, and at some of the labs. Next, we visited Dealer.com, the company that makes websites for car dealerships. The workspace there is amazing, and the people there were all extremely smart, and all of them use math all the time, whether they are analyzing the website views, or designing a new algorithm for the websites. These careers showed me how important having a solid base in mathematics is, and reinforced my want to study in the mathematical sciences. -EH



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