

May 3rd, 2013

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## Upcoming Events

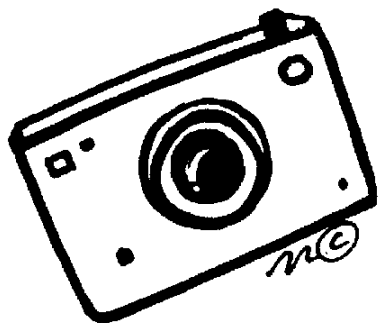
**May 20th-May 24th**  
Spring Encounter Week

**May 28th**  
Night of Glory

**May 31st**  
Field Day

**June 7th**  
Graduation

## High School Photo Competition– Luke Donforth



Are you a shutter bug? Want to showcase your pictures in a national competition that will expose your work to your peers around the world? You still have time to enter the annual photo contest hosted by the American Association of Physics Teachers.

Entries consist of a photograph and a 250 word essay describing some physics in the picture. If you have a stunning photograph, I guarantee there's some interesting physics going on in it, and I'd be happy to talk with you about it.

There are different categories for natural, contrived, or composite images. The competition is open until May 15th. It's only open to high school students, but 7th and 8th graders can start building a portfolio. Talk to me if you're interested. There's more information at <http://www.aapt.org/Programs/contests/photocontest.cfm>.

## VCS Class of 2013

Katiya Boudette: Arcadia University, Pennsylvania

Justin Decatur: University of Vermont

Henry Frantz: Johnson & Wales University, Rhode Island

Ross Hiatt: Eckerd College, Florida

Mia Jager: Massachusetts College of Art & Design

Jonah Kraynak: Marist College, New York

Gabe Mantegna: Johns Hopkins University, Maryland

Madison Roberts: Centennial College, Quebec

Charlotte Rutz: Gap program, Where There Be Dragons, in Bolivia and Peru, then Colorado College in the fall of 2014

Henry Sadler: Eckerd College, Florida

Ivan Voinov: The Peabody Institute (music conservatory) of Johns Hopkins University, Maryland



The Class of 2013 has been awarded \$925,000 in merit based academic scholarship aid toward the cost of attending college. Congratulations!

## ***Your Little Girl*, a poem by Anna Hulse**

The Language Arts department is proud to announce the recent recognition that Anna Hulse received for her poem, "Your Little Girl." Out of the hundreds of writings that Vermont schools submit to the Young Writer's Project each week, Anna's poem was selected by the program's founder, Geoff Gevalt, for presentation at a recent YWP event at Main Street Landing, on the Burlington waterfront. Since the event occurred over our spring break, Anna was unfortunately not able to attend the reading. Still, we applaud her for being chosen for this incredibly honor!

Congratulations, Anna! Please read her selected poem here.



### ***Your Little Girl* by Anna Hulse**

**I promised you I would always be your little girl  
With a flaming imagination and excitement for life  
But you feel me slipping away into the world  
I know you do,  
So you open your arms for an embrace  
Hoping I will look back over my shoulder,  
And run to the safety of your love.**

**You try to hide your tears as I struggle,  
Life shoving me off a cliff, barely holding on.  
But you smile at my successes  
Knowing it will all make sense in the end  
All you can do is watch from the nest  
As I fly away free, but still frightened.**

**And when it seems like I'm not good enough,  
I will always know I'm perfect to you,  
It kills you to think about the horrors of life  
The judgmental critics commenting on every-  
thing you love about me**

**But I have to learn myself  
experience, feel.  
You've spent your life protecting me  
It's time to let go.**

**The makeup I smear on my face,  
covering up the special features only you know  
are there  
the freckles shaped like the big dipper  
the birthmark on my chin  
and my smaller left eye  
You hate it, trust me, I know.  
Life isn't easy anymore  
I wish I were little again, and could cuddle up  
against you  
Listening to your heart pound against your chest**

**So thank you for being my safety net  
as I jump out into the world  
I'm not your little girl anymore,  
But when life scares me away from my dreams  
I will always come running home  
To your warm embrace.**

## Common Hour Speaker— Emily Unger

Emily Unger '07 spoke during the first Common Hour of the month on May 1st. Emily was a double major at Dartmouth, biology and anthropology with a focus in public health. She left VCS with an interest in biology, primarily ecology due to some of the great classes she took here, but she also liked the idea of studying medicine, combining science with anthropology. Emily graduated from Dartmouth in 2012, but as an undergraduate she studied in Costa Rica and the Cayman Islands, then did a semester in Ghana, West Africa interning at a maternity hospital.

Until the end of January 2013, Emily was doing research at Dartmouth primarily on Native American health care systems and how we can improve them in the United States. She was also a photographer and had the chance to travel and take pictures of Dartmouth students participating in study abroad experiences. Emily took two months off to study for the MCATs for medical school, and her current interest is in women's health as well as public health in underdeveloped settings.



## 8th Graders Hike Mount Philo— Luke Donforth



On April 18th, our 8th grade Flying Turtles took to the hills to search for signs of spring while investigating local geological features. We spent the morning hiking up Mount Philo, an excellent example of Cambrian metamorphic quartzite (~520,000,000 years old) thrusting up through the Ordovician sedimentary shale (~480,000,000 years old) that covers much of Charlotte. In addition to discussing the rocks and features that we encountered on the hike, we used the fabulous view from the top to look out at the Vermont landscape and discuss larger scale geological processes.



Special thanks to Mark Cline Lucey for coming along, grabbing pictures, and putting together a video of the event at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHyl24uW5zU>. If that looks like fun, ask an 8th grader to take you up Mount Philo and share what they know. (Don't worry, you only have to go through the cave if you want to.)

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