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NOVEMBER 28TH, 2016

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 29th**  
#GivingTuesday  
at Vermont Commons!

**November 30th**  
Parent Coffee w/  
Dexter & the Faculty

**December 2nd**  
Progress Reports  
sent home

**December 3rd**  
SATs



Last year there was March of the Turtles...

Now those turtles are marching toward #GivingTuesday - TOMORROW! #GivingTuesday is a Global Day of Giving created in response to Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

We are hoping you will participate and make *your* Commons Fund gift tomorrow, Tuesday, November 29th! We have Challenge Gifts to double your donations! Look for us on social media for #GivingTuesday and make a donation toward *Financial Aid!*

### Thoughts...

- every student and family brings a wealth of experience and a richness to our community
- the average amount of Financial Aid at Vermont Commons School is \$10,000
- 30% of our students receive Financial Assistance
- imagine if there were 30% fewer students in our *COMMUNITY*

**PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT.**





FROM FEATHERS  
TO IRON

-John Keats

NEW WORKS OF GILDED FLOWERS AND THE APOCALYPSE BY

**BEN PATRICK**

Opening December 2nd 5:00-7:00pm

Alchemy Jewelry Arts Gallery  
2 Howard Street  
Burlington, VT

## Bernie Sanders Announces Annual State of the Union Essay Contest

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders launched his seventh annual State of the Union essay contest Tuesday, calling on Vermont's high school students to address what they view as the major issues facing the United States.

Last year, nearly 800 students from 39 Vermont high schools wrote essays detailing their own view of the "state of the union."

The U.S. Constitution calls for the president to "give to the Congress information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." Sanders is again asking Vermont's high school students to consider writing an essay of 250-500 words detailing their own view of the state of the union.

Sanders' annual essay contest is an opportunity for Vermont high school students to articulate what issues they would prioritize if they were president. A panel of Vermont teachers will judge the essays and select a winner. The finalists will have their essays entered into the Congressional Record -- the official archive of the United States Senate and House of Representatives. Sanders will also hold a roundtable discussion with the finalists.

*Background Photo by Graham Byers '18*

"Our students are the future of our country -- and they must be involved in the discussion about where our country needs to go. This is a great opportunity for students to articulate their views and concerns," said Sanders, who serves on the Senate education committee.

"We need our students to be engaged, to help find solutions for the problems that face our country. That's what democracy is all about," Sanders said.

Since Sanders' State of the Union essay contest was first held, roughly 2,400 students from schools throughout Vermont have written essays on topics such as the declining middle class, climate change, health care reform, the rising cost of a college education, and many other issues.

The deadline for student essay submissions is Wednesday, January 11th, 2017. More information can be found on the senator's webpage [here](#) or by calling (800) 339-9834.

### Looking Ahead

Tuesday, December 6th: **Sibling Day**

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**ENGAGING STUDENTS WITH THE WORLD**