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DECEMBER 19TH, 2016

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 20th**  
Faculty & Staff  
Appreciation Luncheon

**December 24th - January 8th**  
Winter Break

**January 10th**  
First Friday on Tuesday  
Alumni Event

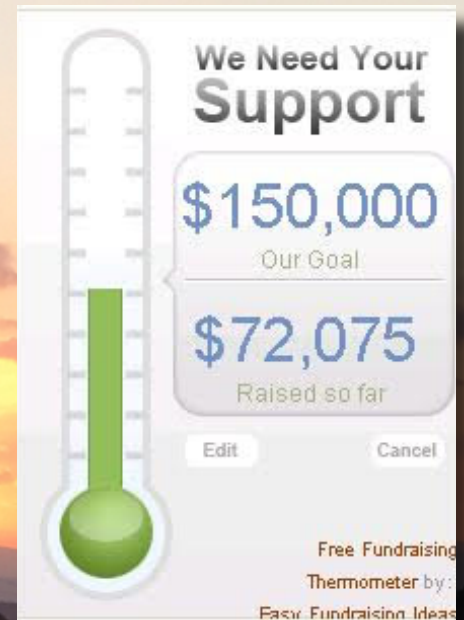
## Commencing Countdown, Engines On...

We're at **48%** of our **\$150,000** goal!

Please consider a year-end gift and let's break the 50% mark!

### So many ways to give!

- Join the "[Turtles All the Way Down!](#)" Monthly Giving Club!
- [Make a Pledge!](#)
- [Make an Online Donation!](#)
- **Gift Stocks or Securities!** (Call or email Mary for info on how to complete a transaction)
- **Keep the US Postal Service in business and mail in a check!**



## Gifts for Children of Vermont Prisoners

*by Nimaya Lemal*

We are looking for volunteers to anonymously send a holiday gift (under \$25) to VT children with parents in prison. Huge thanks to the students and faculty members who have already signed up, but there are more kids than we can keep track of -- we are looking to match up another 30 children with a VCS student or family. Many of these children are under 5 years old, so if families have any children's toys, books, or dolls to donate or send directly, it would be an incredible help. If you have the means, please contact Nimaya at [nlemaal@vermontcommons.org](mailto:nlemaal@vermontcommons.org).

## NHS Food Drive

*by Jalen Gibbs*

This is a friendly reminder that NHS is still running its food bank drive for the local food shelf. Bring in your non-perishable items before the end of this week so we can help as many local families as we can. I know VCS can rally and fill up several bins for a very worthwhile and necessary cause. So clean out those pantries and cabinets, or stop by your local grocery store to pick up items. Let's show the food bank that the VCS community is committed to helping others. Please bring in items **by this Wednesday (12/21)** so we can deliver the food Thursday. Go Turtles!

## VCS Parent Resource Survey

*by Leslie Halperin*

We recognize that the VCS community is brimming with resources and expertise that could benefit our students and school. If you've been wanting to get more involved at VCS and you have a resource or expertise you'd be willing to share, please take a moment to complete this quick online survey. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Halperin (parent of Ella Dunkiel, '20) at [leslie.halperin@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.halperin@gmail.com) or 802-238-3675. Thank you!

[Click here to view the survey](#)

## Seeking Homestay for Visiting Student

*by Dexter Mahaffey*

We are looking for a homestay for a student from Colombia for a month in the late winter/early spring. He will have just graduated high school and will be coming to Burlington for a language and culture immersion experience, hopefully joining Vermont Commons as a student for that month. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Dexter at [dmahaffey@vermontcommons.org](mailto:dmahaffey@vermontcommons.org) or 865-8084.

## Ski Program

*by Ben Patrick*

In January 2017 we will begin Vermont Commons School's ski program. All students, regardless of age or experience are welcome to join us. This program has been running for twelve years, and it is an experience where students ski in small groups, have fun and get some exercise. The cost for transportation will be **\$130** and it will pay for five trips in a bus to the mountain and back. This is a package deal, and we will not be able to reimburse families if dates are missed. Independent of transportation will be ticket sales. The approximate cost of a ticket will be **\$13.00** per an evening of skiing or boarding. Participants in the program will pay on the evening they are joining us if they do not already own a season pass. Skiers and Boarders will leave the school at 2:30pm on Friday and will arrive back to school at 8:30pm. **Students must be picked up at the school at 8:30pm.** The dates for the program are as follows:

January 20th & 27th

February 10th & 17th

March 10th

All school rules apply to the Vermont Commons School ski program. Students will not ski or ride without a helmet. Students will always ski/ride in a group, never alone, as this is a community, all inclusive Vermont Commons style activity. If interested, **please bring a check made out to VCS to the front desk for \$130 by December 23rd** to secure your spot on the bus. Thank you, and let it snow!

# Early Spring After School Programming

by Heather Moore

The first week of Spring Semester (beginning 1/16) starts our third round of After School Programming. Please let me know if you are interested in any of these programs before winter break (particularly Ben's program as he will need to order kits). Checks are due the Wednesday after break. They should be made out to Vermont Commons School and be brought to Katherine. All programming runs from 3:45-4:45. Let me know if you have any questions.

**Mondays: VCS Band Jazz and Beyond with Matt:** 1/16, 1/23, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20; \$100

Open to all grade levels, the VCS band will rehearse and perform a mix of jazz, rock, funk and more! Students with experience playing woodwind, brass, percussion, keyboard and string instruments are welcome as well as students who are interested but have never played before. We will focus on technique, tone, blend, rehearsal strategies, collaboration and improvisation and choose our repertoire based on student interest. Matt is happy to accept some new faces for this round of band!

**Tuesdays: Race a Racing Car, Glide a Glider and Rock it in A Rocket Ship! with Ben Patrick:** 1/17, 1/24, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21; \$125 (\$25 supply fee)

Yes, every student will build:

- One Hi-Flying Model Rocket
- One Top Gun Balsa Wood Glider
- One Fast Racing Pine Derby Car

Every model will be built in the studio, hand painted to the artists' specifications, and tested for performance. We will break land speed, stratospheric, distance and design limits.

**Thursdays: Easy Dinner Making with Jory:** 1/19, 1/26, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23; \$125 (\$25 supply fee)

You might expect someone to make dinner for you each night (a parent, perhaps?), but here's your chance to turn that trend around. Learn five simple dinner recipes, from things like spaghetti & sauce to fried rice to shepherd's pie and more! Each week, we'll prepare a simple meal for ourselves, and then we'll sit down together to share it at the end.



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