



DECEMBER 19, 2014

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Upcoming Events

Dec. 20th-Jan. 4th
Winter Break

January 8th
2nd Quarter Ends

January 9th
Exam Review

January 9th
First Friday
Alumni Event

VCS Delegation Spends Weekend at Middlebury MUN Conference



Last weekend, eight of our hardy Model United Nations students ventured to Middlebury Union High School for a one-day conference. Seniors Eli Hulse and Griffin Cannon, Juniors Eli Hinds, Lincoln Pierce and Rainer Kannenstine, Sophomores Ryan Senior and Henry Harder, and Freshman

Jalen Gibbs all represented different countries on a UN committee addressing Illegal Trafficking of humans and illegal goods.

Congratulations to Griffin and Henry for being recognized with Honorable Mention, and to Eli Hinds for being awarded Best Delegate!

Also, a hearty THANK YOU to parent LaTrisha Gibbs who made this trip possible by chaperoning and transporting our delegation of eight. LaTrisha has been invaluable to our Model UN program this year, co-chaperoning our trip to Brown and being on site to help with logistics throughout the VCSMUN weekend.

Next up, Dartmouth Model UN in April!



Seventh Grade Chinese Class Goes to Zen Gardens

by Kent Vaccaro

Tuesday brought great excitement for the seventh grade -- perhaps a little too much for some -- when they went out to eat at Zen Gardens.

After the walk to the restaurant, which taught Kent why not to wear Crocs in the middle of winter, the seventh grade sat down at a table with a lazy susan in the center. The dishes were brought out a few at a time, so as to eat in the Chinese way and the dishes would not get cold.

The seventh graders ate in the traditional family style, which means they shared all the dishes. They also practiced dining in the authentic Chinese way by balancing their meal with different foods and flavors.

Their meal consisted of Kung Pao Squid, Shredded Pork with Bamboo, Chicken Amazing, General Tso Chicken, Pineapple Double Wonder (a chicken dish), Sizzling Beef Plate, Stir-Fry Seasonal Vegetables, Chow Fen with Beef, Pan Fried Dumplings,

Popcorn Chicken, Volcano (more chicken), and white rice. The General Tso chicken taught Seth, Milo, Isa, and Ethan why you do not want the peppers Hua said were too hot to eat. Taught, mind you, with a bit of screaming.

This authentic Chinese meal was an educational and delicious experience, and the seventh graders all left the restaurant happy. That is, before they read the sign that said, "Do not touch fish tank water. Chemicals will harm children..."



Kent Vaccaro & Team Win First Lego League at Regionals

Congratulations to seventh grader, Kent Vaccaro. His First Lego League (FLL) competed at regionals at Clarkson University and WON! They will go on to the world finals in St. Louis in April 2015. We're so proud of you, Kent!



Special Thanks from PACS

We would like to thank all of the wonderful families that assisted in making the faculty and administration appreciation luncheon a huge success. The food was plentiful (and *delicious*) and they truly LOVED the gift cards! An extra special "Thank You!" goes out to the parents that helped clean up after the festivities.

Have a happy and safe holiday break! We will see you in the new year.

Holly, Jen and LaTrisha

Parent/Faculty Jam Session

from Jen Cohen

If you are a parent or a faculty member who sings or plays an instrument, come join Jennifer Cohen, Bob Hill, and others who want to make music together. Our first meeting will be Friday, Janu-

ary 30th at 3:30. We'll meet on the couches upstairs and we'll improvise. Bring your harmonica, your guitar, your voice, whatever you make music with, and we'll see what happens.

The Governor's Institutes Winter Weekend 2015

The next opportunity for your talented teen to participate in the Governor's Institutes of Vermont is coming right up at the Winter Weekends in February! This year, Winter Weekends will be held at Goddard College February 6th-8th and at Marlboro College February 13th-15th. These 48-hour learning extravaganzas provide students with hands-on learning experiences, complete immersion into the topic of their choice, and a network of peers from all over the state.

Winter Weekends are for Vermont high school students who have strong artistic or intellectual curiosity. These weekends are a perfect and affordable precursor to the life-changing summer Governor's Institutes. Tuition is sliding scale and can be as low

as \$10! This year topics include Astrophotography, Current Issues, Comedy Theater, Advanced Math for Girls, Songwriting for Writers & Musicians, and Entrepreneurship. Registration forms will be available online December 10th at www.giv.org. The deadline for registration is January 13th and registration forms can be sent directly to the GIV office. Make sure your teen registers early -- spots fill up fast!

Over the years, many VCS students have participated in the Institute. Please read up about their offerings and consider applying. It is a great opportunity! See Sarah for more information. Also, please speak to Eli Hulse or Alex Duchac if you would like to know about their experiences.

Driver's Ed to Be Offered at Vermont Commons

Driver's education instruction offered by Cynthia Hartman will be available to interested Vermont Commons' students this spring. The instruction will be offered Monday-Friday for 6 weeks, with a two hour weekend driving component. The anticipated start date for classes is March 30th.

While VCS will not be providing the instruction, the lessons will convene in the Vermont Commons'

parking lot at 7am. A gentle reminder, Vermont Commons' doors open at 7:30. There will be no adults on campus for early arrivals.

All inquiries should be forwarded directly to Cynthia Hartman at 233-7575. Class cost was quoted at \$650.00. Thanks to Carol Blattspieler for recommending Cynthia!

Watershed and Mentoring R&S Class Wraps Up Projects

There is some hard work happening in the Watershed and Mentoring R&S class. After researching, designing and presenting our models we are finally building them. These picture show our students along with students from The School House cutting wood with a variety of tools (all pretty safe and with adult supervision). The kids are very excited and we already have one of the structures finished. We are hoping to be done with them all by next week.



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