



FEBRUARY 20TH, 2015

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 21st - Mar. 3rd
February Vacation

Mar. 3rd
Monday Schedule

Mar. 6th
Chinese New Year
Celebration

Mar. 10th
Special Community
Meeting!!!

6th Grade Day

Jill, Jen, Heather, Jess, & Ben

Our faculty were thrilled to welcome our prospective 6th graders into their classrooms! The guests were welcomed in at a special Morning Meeting, after which they attended classes in Language Arts, History & Science, Mathematics, and Art.

In Language Arts, with Jen Cohen, they played Adjective - Noun - Breakfast, which turned into imagining soggy crepes and burnt yogurt. They moved from the carpet to the tables and studied John Greenleaf Whittier's poem, "A Dream of Summer." They imagined their favorite things of summer and tried to put them into their own poems, imitating Whittier. Finally, they shared their poems and ate Starburst candies, dreaming of summer.

In History & Science with Heather Moore, students studied the prehistoric cave art of Lascaux. They observed and discussed why humans created these dancing bison, reindeer and

bulls 17,000 years ago. Why did human beings climb deep within the earth, a world lit only by torch, to create these epic paintings?

In Math with Jess Redmond, the guests designed a doggie daycare! Students were asked to pitch two designs, which included specific space and planning constraints. They calculated building costs and time. Real teamwork emerged with the incredible exchange of ideas. It was terrific to hear and watch students complimenting each other's work!

The guest students ended their day in the art studio with Ben Patrick, where they used vibrant watercolors to complete a turtle painting while John Coltrane played in the background.

We can't wait to welcome the 6th grade into our daily classes next year! A big thanks to all of the students & parents who joined us for this special day!



A Message from the Head of School

SAVE THE DATE!!!

On Tuesday, March 10th, at 6pm, please plan to attend a very special evening about the future of the school.

I encourage **ALL** community members to join us for a presentation where we'll unveil the details of an exciting project that will reshape Vermont Commons School for years to come!

~Dexter Mahaffey

Order Your **YEARBOOK**



Chinese New Year Celebration

Friday, March 6th, 5:30-7pm

Come enjoy a meal at Zen Gardens, support the China trip, celebrate Chinese New Year, and connect with the community! All faculty, students, parents and families are invited. Cost: \$20/adult, \$15/child under 12. Includes a buffet dinner!

Coffeehouse

Friday, March 20th, 6-8pm

Come see some local talent! We will be holding a coffeehouse to benefit the England and China trips. Students, faculty and parents are all invited to perform. Food and beverages will be served!

Common Hour Special Guest: Dr. Allan Strong

Sarah Soule

Dr. Allan Strong, Associate Dean of the Rubenstein School at the University of Vermont, visited the school on Wednesday as a special Common Hour Guest.

Dr. Strong spoke to us about birding in Vermont and played a "name that species" game with our students.

A special thanks to Dr. Strong for stopping by and sharing this time with our students!

Yoga for All

March 4th, 4-5pm

Special thanks to those who attended the first class this past Wednesday! After break, Rachel de Simone will once again offer a yoga class for students, faculty, and parents on Wednesday, March 4th, from 4-5pm. As a reminder, the cost for the class is be \$10, and participants are encouraged to arrive 5 minutes early, and to bring a yoga mat if they have one, a water bottle, and comfy clothes. The class will take place in the Commons Room.



Looking Ahead to Summer Governor's Institute of Vermont

Sarah Soule

For current **9th**, **10th**, and **11th** graders: as you look ahead to summer, please consider the Governor's Institute of Vermont as an option. They are offering summer programs in the following areas:

Environmental Science & Technology
Mathematical Science
Current Issues & Youth Activism
Engineering
Arts
Information Technology & Digital Media
Entrepreneurship
Asian Cultures

All of the information on how to apply can be found on their website at www.giv.org! We have had many students at Vermont Commons participate in this program in years past and all have found it very worthwhile.

Financial aid is offered to qualified candidates. The deadline is April 1, 2015, but I encourage you to turn in your application as soon as possible, as the programs fill quickly.

Best wishes,
Sarah



Reminder: Extra Monday After Break!

Tuesday, March 3rd

Just a reminder: we will be running a **Monday schedule on Tuesday, March 3rd**, the first day back from vacation, to make up for a number of lost Mondays this quarter. The rest of the week will follow a normal schedule.

Early Release, March 25th

Wednesday, March 25th

Wednesday, March 25th, will be considered a "2/3 day." Pick-up will be at **1:30pm**.

The day will start with an afternoon schedule, after which students in the 7th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grades will make their way downtown for a showing of *Macbeth* at the Flynn Theatre from 11am-1:30pm.

The 8th and 12th graders will remain at the school, and will partake in core group activities.

**HAVE A WONDERFUL
FEBRUARY BREAK!!**

We'll see you on Tuesday, March 3rd!

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