

APRIL 10, 2015

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 10
Last Day
for Seniors

April 10-12
Dartmouth Model
U.N.

April 12
Spring Open House

April 17-26
April Break

The Campaign for Arts and Science is Soaring on the Backs of our Family of FLYING TURTLES!

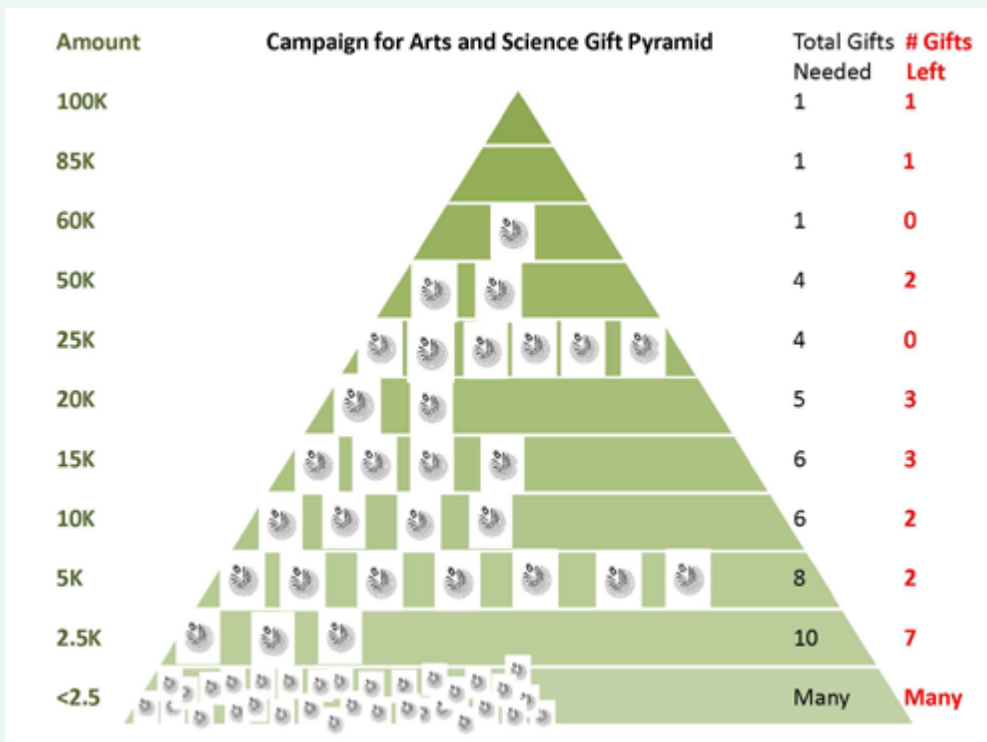
Mary Hamilton

Every day in the Advancement Office is better than the last as the Vermont Commons community shows its excitement and generosity in support of our awesome building project. We are 85% of the way to our goal of \$850,000, and this from a mere 24% of our families! Thank you to everyone who has made a gift to complete our building so that they structure fits the dynamic learning going on inside!

Let's finish this out by May 15th! Call Mary or Dexter with questions at 802-865-8084 x16 & 17, respectively, to set up a meeting should you want to talk or to make a pledge!

As of today, we are at...

\$720,332!



Senior Send Off 2015!

For Common Hour this week, Vermont Commons bid a heartfelt farewell to the Class of 2015, who will be heading out to begin their Senior Projects next week. After some tearful storytelling, poetry, and singing from their advisers, the faculty, students, and senior parents took part in another riveting segment of *Do Ya Know Yer Seniors?*, MC'ed by Peter Goff. The legendary competition ended in a 19-19 TIE between the Green and Gray teams!

We are all incredibly sad to see them go, but wish the 2015 Flying Turtles the best of luck on their endeavors! We'll see you all in May for your Exit Projects!



Colleges of the Class of 2015

Sarah Soule

Congratulations to the Class of 2015 and their acceptances to the following colleges and universities! As Director of College Counseling, I speak for all of us in the Vermont Commons community in saying how very proud we are of each member of the class!

Bard College, NY
Barnard College, NY
Beloit College, WI
Brandeis University, MA
University of California, Berkeley, CA
Clarkson University, NY
University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
Connecticut College, CT
University of Connecticut, CT
Denison University, OH
Fairfield University, CT
Grinnell College, IA (early decision)
College of the Holy Cross, MA
Kenyon College, OH
Lawrence University, WI
Lewis and Clark College, OR
Marist College, NY
McGill University, PQ

University of Miami, FL
Northeastern University, MA
New York University, NY
University of Notre Dame, IN
Occidental College, CA
Pitzer College, CA
Providence College, RI
Reed College, OR
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, NY
St. Michael's College, VT
Skidmore College, NY (early decision)
St. Lawrence University, NY
Tufts University, MA
Union College, NY
University of Vermont, VT
University of Virginia, VA
Wesleyan University, CT

Want Help With Your College App and Essay?

Please join college application consultant & writing professor Eliot Sloan and college admissions consultant Whitney Bruce for a 3-day College App. Essay "Boot Camp", Aug. 5-7, 9 am -1 pm, at Vermont Commons School. Get a head start on your applications and finish your personal statement before

you start the school year! Through guided workshops, one-on-one writing conferences, and ample time to brainstorm, draft, and edit, you will gain confidence in your voice on the page. Please [click here](#) to read the brochure or see Jasmine Walker for more details. The boot camp will be \$399/student.



There's Still Time!

Yearbook

There's still time to order a yearbook! It's out to be printed but you can still buy a copy by clicking her or by giving a check for \$55 to Adriana.



There's Still Time!

Maple Syrup

The England trip is selling 500ml bottles of maple syrup for \$20 apiece, courtesy of James Jennings! Order with James at james@javahill.com, or with Christie!

Middle School Volleyball Season Comes to a Close

Amira Silverman

This past Saturday the Essex High School saw a large crowd that was somewhat younger than usual. More than 200 middle schoolers from the area shuffled into the gym wearing neon yellow t-shirts, kneepads and sneakers. Six nets had been set up for play and the air was full of excitement as middle schoolers wove around parents and other students to find their teams.

At 2:00 p.m. play began. Balls flew in every direction and whistles tweeted away as teams from Essex, Shelburne, ADL, Williston, Vermont Commons, Tuttle, and Charlotte faced off for the last time during their spring mini-season.

Games were fast paced, lasting only ten minutes. Pass times between games were filled with upbeat music and cupcakes from the concession stand. Parents watched from the stands as coaches, players, and high school volunteers came together for a



fun filled day of volleyball. Even the St. Michael's Purple Knights volleyball team paid a visit to the event.

Susan Randall, parent of two middle school players said, "It was great to see all these middle school kids out there giving it their all, kids who had never even tried volleyball before. The level of encouragement with kids supporting each other to try something new, and reaching out to support and encourage their teammates - it was a beautiful thing

to watch."

On the mini -season, Leah Mital-Skiff, also a parent of a middle school player (and co-founder of VCS) said, "I am amazed at what the coaches put together over the course of one month and how much the players improved."

Overall, the season and jamboree were incredible opportunities for middle school players and exciting vessels for the sport of volleyball to grow in Vermont.

2015 Senior Projects

Mark Cline Lucey

The Seniors are just a few days away from starting their Senior Projects. Every spring, the Seniors spend the last five weeks of the semester in full-time internships that they have designed. In late May they will come back to present on their experience, and the entire community will be invited. Here are the adventures our seven intrepid Seniors are about to set out on:

Mikhal Yudien - Vermont Trial Courts

I have come to recognize, within myself, that constitutional and ethical discussion/debate is one of my most intense passions. I intend to further this passion by thoughtfully pondering and deliberating the legal issues / cases that are presented to Vermont's trial court judges, and Judge VanBenthuyzen in particular. I hope to observe a criminal and/or civil jury trial and better understand the components of a jury trial. Similarly, I would like to learn more about criminal issues that encompass constitutional law such as search and seizure, Miranda, and the First, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendments. I hope to better understand Family court issues such as terminating parental rights, determinations of custody, juvenile law, and prevention of abuse.

By interning with a presiding judge in the Vermont judiciary, I plan to not only learn about the justice system in our state and in the United States in general, but to also view all sides of the legal profession. I want to discover if a future career in law is right for me.

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Griffin Cannon - National Security Professionalism

The purpose of my Senior Project is to allow me to learn first hand from national security professionals in Washington DC, such as those working at the Hudson Institute where I will intern. I will engage in the process that goes into the publication of reports, preparation of testimony for Congress, and other activities done by think tanks such as the Hudson Institute. I hope to further develop the skills necessary to work in the defense community and learn what such work is like. I also think that working with highly educated experts in the field will greatly contribute to my understanding of various issues affecting American naval power as well as the country as a whole. This area has been a passion of mine for years now and I think a greater understanding would be valuable both personally and for my future.

Eli Hulse - Exploring the Legal System in Vermont

I have always been interested in the criminal justice system and the legal system, in general. Over the past year, I have been reading introductory law textbooks on constitutional and criminal law. However, this Senior Project will give me the opportunity to experience how the information I have learned can be applied to the real world judicial system. Throughout my project, I will spend much of my time in the courtroom, observing prosecutors and defense counsel throughout the process of plea bargaining, exchange of discovery, conferences with presiding judges, meetings with and interactions with police officers and other officials, observing trials, and reading court documents. Additionally, because John Pacht is a trial attorney with cases that involve the family and civil courts, I will be able to learn about different types of litigation.

The purpose of my Senior Project is to learn as much as I can about all sides of the legal system. By working with both a prosecuting attorney and an attorney who specializes in criminal defense, I will get the full perspective of the law. I intend to attend law school after completing my undergraduate degree. By working with a lawyer now, I can start pursuing this career early. By starting this internship now, I will be able to use the knowledge I gain to apply for internships during college and law school.

Nora Hill - Laboratory Research: Seasonal Effects on the Fatty Acid Composition of Perch with Special Regards to the Impact of Cyanobacteria

My senior project will be a culmination of my laboratory work at the University of Vermont that began in December 2013 as part of an Independent Research & Service project. I spent last spring semester of my junior year working in both the Kraft Lab in the Animal Science Department, as well as, the Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Lab at the ECHO Center. Since that time, my work in the lab has changed and expanded. Last summer I began my own research, working primarily at the Kraft lab. Much of my time at the lab during the summer and fall semester of my senior year was spent collecting samples from Lake Champlain perch which I began to analyze this winter. What began as a chance to shadow environmental researchers and gain some invaluable "real world science experience" working in two university labs has led me to the opportunity to conduct my own research project and to present at a scientific research conference in May 2015. This project will assist me in my future goal of pursuing a science major at Grinnell College in the fall. Currently, I am interested in the fields of medicine, public health, environmental science and behavioral science. This research is applicable to all those fields of study and provides me with training and experience for future research.

Adrian Kelly - Shining Light on the Professional Engineering World

My project will be the next step in my lifelong fascination with electronics, and in particular, the design process. In working with Oliver Kiehl, I hope to gain experience of how electrical engineering is done in the industry, how products are developed over multiple iterations, how standards are created and ratified, and a greater understanding of optics and thermodynamics. I would also be learning to use a new CAD package, FreeCAD, and optical and thermal simulation software. I have been designing and building electronics and mechanical assemblies on my own for many years, but do not have experience with how engineering works in the professional world. This mentorship would be a valuable opportunity to see how an engineer works within a large organization, what the consulting world is like, and to get mentoring and advice from an experienced electrical engineer.

Grace Seeley - Wellness Through Tennis

The goal of my senior project is to learn from my mentor, rediscover my love for tennis, increase my fitness, and help out local children. My community mentor, Jake Agna, is a tennis pro who founded "Kids on the Ball," a program that allows children from the King Street Center to go to Twin Oaks and participate in a tennis clinic. Agna also goes to schools during the week, and runs clinics for at risk kids. Many of the kids who attend the King Street Center come from underprivileged families, and they look forward to getting to learn a new skill and socialize in an athletic context. The kids will learn about determination, communication, commitment, effort, and sportsmanship. I'll be working alongside Agna at these clinics

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throughout each week and learning valuable leadership and communication skills from him. I hope to enhance my leadership and teaching skills, and gain insight into the learning process and the development of self esteem and self confidence in the context of learning a sport.

Jamie Benson - The evolving role of public libraries in our communities in the 21st century and beyond.

My project will be focused on learning about and taking an active role in the adaptation of libraries to a digital, more connected world. Libraries have always played an important role in our communities as the definitive place to go for information and education, but with the advent and increasing ubiquity of internet access, the need for that role to evolve is growing every day. The problem most libraries are facing is this: how do they adapt to the information age while still remaining an important part of the community? The Waterbury Library is responding by embracing these changes, and becoming a hub for community access to those with experience and training to teach those without, as well as by providing space for learning and exploration that just isn't possible as a curious individual in a rural town.

As one such individual, I'm excited to be able to help remedy this problem: my goal is to design and build the core components of an expandable, portable, and low cost MakerSpace for the library.

Spring Open House: April 12, 1 p.m.

Stop by Vermont Commons for a flavorful taste of life as a Flying Turtle!

We will be hosting our first ever Spring Open House this Sunday, April 12th, at 1pm in the Commons Room. Invite

your friends, neighbors, coworkers, and acquaintances — all prospective families are welcome!

RSVP with Jill Strawbridge at jstrawbridge@vermontcommons.org, or by calling 802-865-8084 x19.



VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL - 75 GREEN MOUNTAIN DRIVE, SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT 05403

P: 802-865-8084 F: 802-865-2429 EMAIL: INFO@VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG

WWW.VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG

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