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APRIL 4TH, 2017

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 7th - 9th
Dartmouth
Model U.N.

April 12th
Senior Exam
Review Day

April 12th
Common Hour: Heather's India
Trip & Senior Farewell Games

April 13th-14th
Senior Exam Period

Snapshots from *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*

photos by Graham Byers '18



Middle School Volleyball Season Ends With Strong Showing at Jamboree

Background & Jamboree photos
by Graham Byers '18

by Peter Goff

Wow, Saturday was a great day!!! Mr. President Graham Byers was on hand for the entire 6 hours to help (and photograph) our entire 20-turtle crew through the season-ending Jamboree. We were spread out on three teams, so having Varsity team members Jalen Gibbs and Eliza Jackson also show up to help Coach Ellen Lambert and myself organize things was a huge help. Our Floor Captains (Magnus Ames, Luke Melamede, and Sam Nichols) keep their teams rolling on the floor, and we couldn't have been happier with the way the day (and, sadly, the season) finished up! We missed our Ex-president (Amira Silverman, obvi), but she was off visiting my alma mater (Hobart & William Smith....go Herons!) with Anna Leffler...but we do need to thank her for the time and effort (more than anyone else) she put into this mini-season!

There were too many highlights to mention, but please take a second to congratulate your Flying Turtles who represented you so well over the past month: Anjay & Austin Mital-Skiff, Catherine Krah, Cece Hinds, Cecily & Phoebe Spence, Charlie & Luke Melamede, Charlotte Dodds, Clara Retzloff, Emmett Cline-Lucey, Finnegan McGowan, John Bingel, Lilah Neider, Magnus Ames, Mollie Allen, Quinn Lansbury, Riley Bagnato, Riley Tyler, Sam Nichols, Sophie Richardson-Shepard, Tunc Seki, and Will Kusserow-Lair.



The Commons Fund

Just the Facts, Ma'am

Why? What is it for?

It funds this years' programs:

- EWeeks
- Faculty Professional Development
- The budding Music Program
- Financial Aid
- IT upgrades and the process to expand Digital Media

Where are we?

- Goal: \$150,000
- Raised: \$96,204!
- 35% of current parents have given. THANK YOU!
- Needed: \$53,796!

How do we get there?

- 100% Parent Participation in gifts both large and small

[Please click here and give or pledge right now and help us reach this very important goal!](#)



7th Grade Sugaring

by Mark Cline Lucey

Thanks to Professor Walter Poleman and his UVM students, our 7th grade Social Studies class had the opportunity this week to explore a true Vermont tradition - maple sugaring! We met Prof. Poleman at Wheeler Park in South Burlington and he took us out to the stand of sugar maples that he and his students had tapped - teaching us about the ecosystems and the process of sugaring along the way. On top of it all, he lent us a portable evaporator which we put to good use today, boiling our 3 gallons of sap down to a quart of syrup. Next week we'll be gathering and boiling a lot more sap!



Seeking Host for Colombian Student

by Chance Cardamone-Knewstubb

Mateo Riveros is a 17 year old high school student. Friends of VCS connected him to us and we're hoping to receive him as a visiting student for the final stretch of the school year - presumably from approximately May 1 through graduation on June 9.

In order to make this work we need a host family willing to house and feed him, and transport him to and from school. Or perhaps he could spend a few weeks with one family and then spend the next few weeks with another.

If we can't put something together this spring - or if Mateo's visa doesn't come through - we'd hope to make it work for the start of next school year. Perhaps from the start of school through the first Encounter Week.

Please let us know if you're interested in hosting Mateo either in the spring or at the end of the summer.

Thanks!

Background photo by
Graham Byers '18

Yearbook Ads

by *Adriana Comtois*

As we are creating the yearbook 2016-2017, we have reserved some space for you to send a special message to a graduating senior, a hard-worker student or just your favorite VCS person. We also welcome ads for your growing businesses. Prices are as follows:

- Business Card Size (3 1/2 x 2") \$15
- Quarter of a page (3 3/4 x 5 ") \$25
- Half a page (7 1/2 x 5") \$50
- Full page (8x11) \$75

If you are interested, please send me an e-mail. We will be accepting ads until Wednesday, April 12th. If you have any questions, please let us know at a.comtois@vermontcommons.org.

Vermont Day School Seeks Assistant Instructor for Day Camps

by *Sage Bagnato*

Vermont Day School is looking for an Assistant Instructor for a Day Adventurers camp (July 3-7, 10-14 & 17-21) and Wilderness Explorers camp (July 24-28). For Day Adventurers, the Assistant will work along side the Head Instructor to plan and implement outdoor activities and games, art and STEM projects, and field trips for children ages 5-8. In Wilderness Explorers, the Assistant will help teach 8-12 year old campers basic outdoor skills for an overnight camping trip, and assist with day trips to local hiking spots and swimming holes.

Please email Sage Bagnato, Head of School, (info@vtdayschool.org) for information on how to apply for this position. Applicants must have completed 10th grade. Community service credit or a stipend will be provided.

LOOKING AHEAD

Cosmic Bowling

Where: Champlain Lanes

When: Friday, April 14th, 7-9pm

Who: Open to all grades

How Much: \$15 (includes shoes

Friend Day

Where: VCS

When: Tuesday, May 9th

Who: VCS students & their friends

Tell your pals & mark your calendars!

FROM DEXTER

(TO SENIORS)

Congratulations on reaching this point in your senior year! Below we detail the events that come up at the end of the year, both to alert you to their dates and order and to clarify which ones are open to and typically attended by families of the soon-to-be-graduates. Please contact the point people for these events or Katherine at the front desk with specific questions about any of these upcoming activities.

Wednesday, 4/12

9:30-10:50am: Common Hour: Starting with a presentation from Heather Moore on her trip last summer to India, we then proceed to “Do Ya Know Your Seniors,” our annual trivia games celebrating (roasting?!) our beloved graduating class. Created and orchestrated by gamemaster Peter Goff. Often attended by parents/guardians of Seniors. (Peter, Kris)

All Day: Final Exam Review and Last Day of Regularly Scheduled Classes for Seniors going on Senior Projects: Senior Final Exam Period begins today with review in all classes for the next two days’ final exams. Because Seniors doing Senior Projects don’t take final exams after the conclusion of their projects, they sit these exams now as conclusion to their academic classes. (Teachers of Seniors)

Language Arts Memoir Final Draft due today.

Thursday, 4/13

10am - 12pm: Senior Social Studies Final Exam: No classes today for Seniors, who are not required to be on campus until 9:30 for Morning Meeting. (Seniors not doing Senior Projects continue attending classes as usual throughout the Senior Exam and Senior Project periods, taking their exams instead in early June during our usual exam period.) All Seniors who qualify for extended time on final exams should contact Jasmine to make arrangements. (Jasmine, Teachers of Seniors, as with subsequent Exams)

1 - 3pm: Senior Science Final Exam. Seniors are free to depart school as soon as they complete their afternoon exam.

Friday, 4/14

9:25-9:50am: Senior Send-off Morning Meeting: Our annual community farewell to our Seniors; each Senior is highlighted by the Faculty. Often attended by parents/guardians of Seniors. Again, no classes today for Seniors, who are not required to be on campus until 9:15 a.m. for the Senior Send-off. (Mark Cline Lucey, Mark Keegan)

10 am - 12pm: Senior World Language Final Exam

1 - 3pm: Senior Math Final Exam. Seniors are free to depart school as soon as they complete their afternoon exam.

Monday, 4/17 - Friday, 6/2

Senior Projects: During this period, those doing Senior Projects undertake the work and complete the requirements for their individual projects. If they’ve arranged it as part of their Senior Project plan, Seniors are able to take a week off during their senior project for spring break or college visits, etc. (Mark C.L.)

Friday, 6/2

12:30-3:30pm: Senior Exit Projects: Required for seniors. Families of seniors typically come to watch these. Mark will send out information about when each senior is presenting so his or her family can come for that particular time without having to commit to the entire event. All students attend these as well, after the completion of their morning final exam. (Mark C.L.)

5:30-7pm: Senior Picnic: This gathering is at school and is just for the seniors themselves. (Mark C.L., Mark K., & Dexter)

Saturday, 6/3

6:30-9:30pm: Prom: Open to students grades 8-12, Prom takes place on The Spirit of Ethan Allen on Lake Champlain, as in years past. Students need to be sure to be on time, as the boat sets sail promptly. (Chance)

Monday, 6/5

Senior Sleepover: Starting at 2 or 3 p.m. that afternoon; just for Seniors and Faculty. Mark and Mark will follow up with details. Weather permitting, a camp-out. (Mark C.L. and Mark K.)

FROM DEXTER (CONT'D.)

Tuesday, 6/6

Senior Hike: all seniors participate in this. They depart from the sleepover and hike for the day, wrapping up around 3 or 4 p.m. Those Faculty not involved in exams often join; but not other students. (Mark and Mark)

Wednesday, 6/7

12:30-3pm: Graduation Rehearsal and Clean-up: all students--seniors included--are required to be at these events. Rehearsal begins in the Commons. (Dexter, Katherine, and Jill)

3:30-4:30pm: MME: this stands for Multi-Media Extravaganza and is a video and picture celebration of the year put together by Peter Goff; parents are invited (not required) but don't tend to come. (Peter)

6-7:30pm: NOG: this stands for Night of Glory and is our awards ceremony for athletics, National Honor Society, the school play, and other activities. All students, parents/guardians, and family members are invited to this, and everyone tends to come. (Ari, Mark K., Steve L.)

Thursday, 6/8

8:30am-3:30pm: Field Day: At Oakledge Park, all students and faculty participate in this day-long frivolity and celebration of a year well completed. Parent Volunteers traditionally help with lunch. (Peter/all)

Friday, 6/9 GRADUATION!

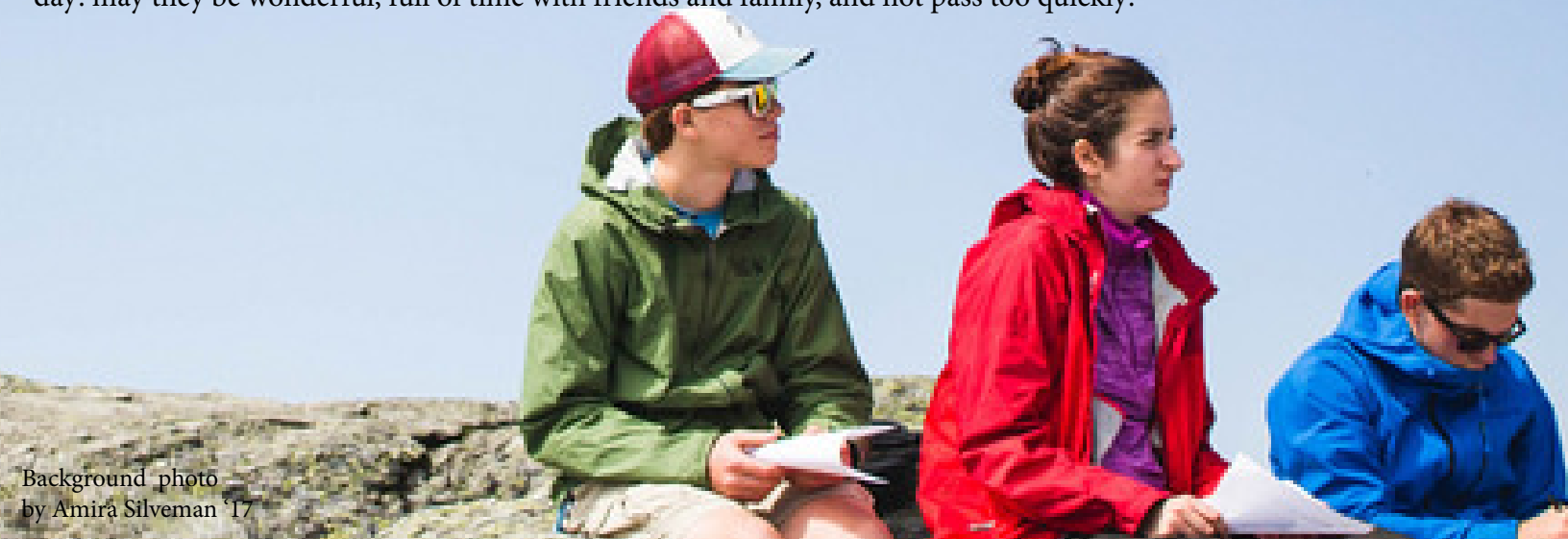
9am: All students, grades 6-12 report to school for Morning Meeting at 9 a.m. and school-wide activities, including Advisor and Core Group meetings, Yearbook distribution and signing, and lunch provided for the students by the school. The morning is for students only.

12:30pm: Line-up for Graduation (All): at this point, all students and families should be on campus.

1pm: Graduation Ceremony on the south lawn (rain location: the Commons Room). All community members, family thereof, and friends are warmly welcome. (Dexter/all)

2:30pm: Graduation and Vermont Commons School 20th Anniversary Reception: immediately following graduation and open to all who have been at the ceremony.

On behalf on the entire Faculty and Staff, warmest congratulations on getting so very far! Only two months left until the big day: may they be wonderful, full of time with friends and family, and not pass too quickly!



Background photo
by Amira Silveanu '17

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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