VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL
SCHOLARSHIP. COMMUNITY. GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY.

News & Notes
Vermont Commons School
March 12, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

To help combat the winter doldrums, the faculty are continuing to add social/community events to the Community Calendar. Students should contact the hosting faculty member with any questions.

Tuesday, March 16th

- 4pm - 8pm: **NACAC Performing & Visual Arts Fair**

Thursday, March 18th

- 7pm - 8pm: **Evening of Readings Part III** (Zoom link here)

Friday, March 19th - Saturday, March 20th

- **Vermont Commons Model United Nations**

You can view all of our upcoming events on the **Calendars** page of our website, and find updated Zoom links by clicking "**More Details**" under individual events.

Amy's School Counseling Office

Virtual IT Help Request

2021 - 2022 Enrollment Reminder

Reminder that the following items are now due:

- Online paperwork for 2021-2022 (includes: medical forms, emergency contacts, photo/video permissions, etc)
- First tuition payment for 2021-2022
- Financial Aid applications & all required forms

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Bursell at lbursell@vermontcommons.org.

Evening of Readings Part III

Our final Evening of Readings, featuring students with last names **Rosenbaum thru Young**, is happening this coming Thursday, 3/18, at 7pm!

Click here to view the playbill for the event. We still have some titles coming in, and will be updating the doc as we receive them.

You can find the Zoom link on the Community Calendar. We hope to see you there!

Virtual COVID Town Hall for Students, Hosted by Bernie Sanders

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) will hold a statewide virtual town hall meeting with Vermont students this **Monday, March 15th** at **7:30pm**.

The virtual event, *Coping During COVID: How Students are Handling the Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic*, will focus on how students have experienced the social, emotional, and mental health challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

What: A student town hall meeting, Coping During COVID: How Students are Handling the Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic
When: Monday, March 15 at 7:30 P.M.
Where: Virtual event hosted via Webex
Details: Students wishing to participate are asked to register here.

Family members, educators, school staff, members of the media and the public are invited to watch the event here.

Adelie '24 to Perform at Vermont Poetry Out Loud Showcase

Presented in partnership with the Vermont Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Poetry Foundation, Poetry Out Loud is a national program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry—both classic and contemporary—through memorization, performance, and competition. Since the program began in 2005, more than four million students across the country have participated in Poetry Out Loud.

Here in Vermont, for the 2021 Poetry Out Loud competition, 60 teachers from 24 schools across the state registered to bring the program to their classrooms, reaching more than 1,500 students.

Sixteen high school students across Vermont were selected by their teachers as school champions and so will advance to participate in the 2021 statewide competition, which will be streamed at 7 p.m., Monday, March 15 on Vermont PBS's online OVEE platform.

Vermont Commons School is proud to announce that our very own Adelie Tebbetts is among these sixteen champions performing in the competition. Congratulations, Adelie!

Admission Student Round Table

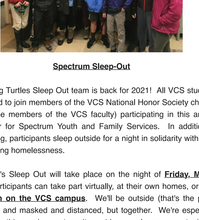
Join us on **Tuesday (3/23) at 7pm** to hear from Vermont Commons Students the inside scoop! Please share this event with neighbors and friends. We love to share our school! Thank you for helping us get the word out.

Common Hour: *Fancy Flying Machines*
Wednesday, March 24, 1:30pm

Did you know that electric aircraft are being made right here in Vermont and there's a huge pilot shortage on the horizon?

Alum **Greg John '01** and **Chris Townsend** (parent of Jackson '20 and Jordan '22) will join us for **Common Hour** on March 24 at 1:30 p.m. to share all they know about careers in aviation and engineering. **Greg** has been flying since his days at VCS, worked in operations at British Airways for many years, and now owns a larger flight school in New Jersey. He's collaborating with colleges to train pilots to address the

anticipated pilot shortage. **Chris** is an engineer with Beta, the local electric airplane startup making the ALIA electric vertical aircraft right here on the shores of Lake Champlain. **Mark Keegan** will moderate.



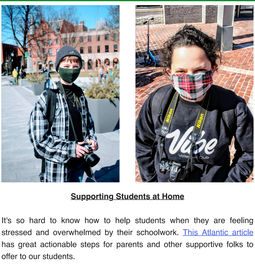
Spectrum Sleep-Out

The Flying Turtles Sleep Out team is back for 2021! All VCS students are invited to join members of the VCS National Honor Society chapter (and some members of the VCS faculty) participating in this annual fundraiser for Spectrum Youth and Family Services. In addition to fundraising, participants sleep outside for a night in solidarity with local youth facing homelessness.

This year's Sleep Out will take place on the night of **Friday, March 26th**. Participants can take part virtually, at their own homes, or **also in-person on the VCS campus**. We'll be outside (that's the point, after all!), and masked and distanced, but together. We're especially excited for this year's event, as it provides a welcome opportunity for students to enjoy community while serving a worthwhile cause.

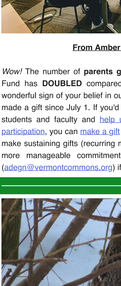
To join the team and begin fundraising, click here.

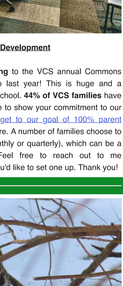
Questions? Reach out to Mark Keegan for more information. We'd love to have you join us!



Alumni College Panel
Wednesday, April 7 (after senate elections)

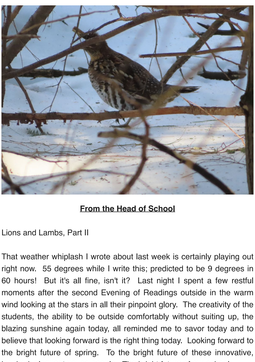
We'll be welcoming back alumni from the classes of 2017-2020 to answer all your burning questions about the college application process and the college experience. Sponsored by **NHS** and hosted by **Rachel Bergstein '21**, **Tess Foley-Cox '22**, and Amber in Development.





Supporting Students at Home

It's so hard to know how to help students when they are feeling stressed and overwhelmed by their schoolwork. This Atlantic article has great actionable steps for parents and other supportive folks to offer to our students.



From Amber in Development

Wow! The number of **parents giving** to the VCS annual Commons Fund has **DOUBLED** compared to last year! This is huge and a wonderful sign of your belief in our school. **44% of VCS families** have made a gift since July 1. If you'd like to show your commitment to our students and faculty and help us get to our goal of 100% parent participation, you can make a gift here. A number of families choose to make sustaining gifts (recurring monthly or quarterly), which can be a more manageable commitment. Feel free to reach out to me (adegn@vermontcommons.org) if you'd like to set one up. Thank you!

From the Head of School

Lions and Lambs, Part II

That weather whiplash I wrote about last week is certainly playing out right now. 55 degrees while I write this; predicted to be 9 degrees in 60 hours! But it's all fine, isn't it? Last night I spent a few restful moments after the second Evening of Readings outside in the warm wind looking at the stars in all their pinpoint glory. The creativity of the students, the ability to be outside comfortably without suiting up, the blazing sunshine again today, all reminded me to savor today and to believe that looking forward is the right thing today. Looking forward to the bright future of spring. To the bright future of these innovative, inspired, eloquent young people. The bright future of our school.

Not light or trite words when you think about what happened a year ago today. Friday, March 13th, 2020 our school's drama community was hastily throwing together *one week early* their fully staged production of the school play and performing it for us in the last hours before we closed the school due to the pandemic. A year ago, as I write these very words, the final applause for the actors and stagehands finally wound and we called the Seniors to the stage to send them off with praise and recognition, thinking (rightfully, as it turned out) that this was our last chance to be together as a whole community with them. A year later, I truly can write of the bright future of our school--our world--knowing that you know what I mean.

So, rather than just waxing eloquent this week, I also want to get down to the nitty gritty. The new components of the HVAC system at school are now up and running, meaning fresh, outside, filtered air is cycling through occupied spaces non-stop throughout the day. The Faculty (and remember that we refer to all people who work at Vermont Commons as part of the Faculty) have been able to sign up for vaccines, the timing of which means that folks will be vaccinated and past the two-week waiting period by the end of Spring Break.

About two and a half weeks from now, we plan to bring each Core Group of students to the building two days a week (these two days will be in addition to the Wednesday Encounter Experiences). Some Faculty who got in their first vaccination doses early will be able to start being on campus four days a week starting April 11th. Most of the rest of the Faculty will be able to return to campus four days a week starting April 28th (the Monday right after Spring Break). And as a result, we are working through the logistics now of bringing each Core Group to the building four days a week before the end of the school year.

So many of you have reached out in recent weeks, praising the teachers, appreciating the depth, quality, and engagement of the online curriculum this year and how students have been able to stay on track with their academic progress. And many of you as well have expressed your thanks for the return to the building, appreciating our measured approach and grateful for the steady progress now underway. We just wanted to thank you for your kind words and

support throughout this last year, and also to say how much we appreciate your efforts as well, collaborating with us throughout, making it work, and keeping the spirit and community of Vermont Commons alive and well so that we could get to this moment. It's going to be an inspired, fantastic rest of the year, and the 2021-22 school year is going to feel (and be!) truly incredible!

Dr. Dexter P. Mahaffey
Head of School

USEFUL SCHOOL LINKS

Give to Vermont Commons

Guide for Students & Families

2020-2021 Community Calendar

RenWeb - Parent Login

VCS Website

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