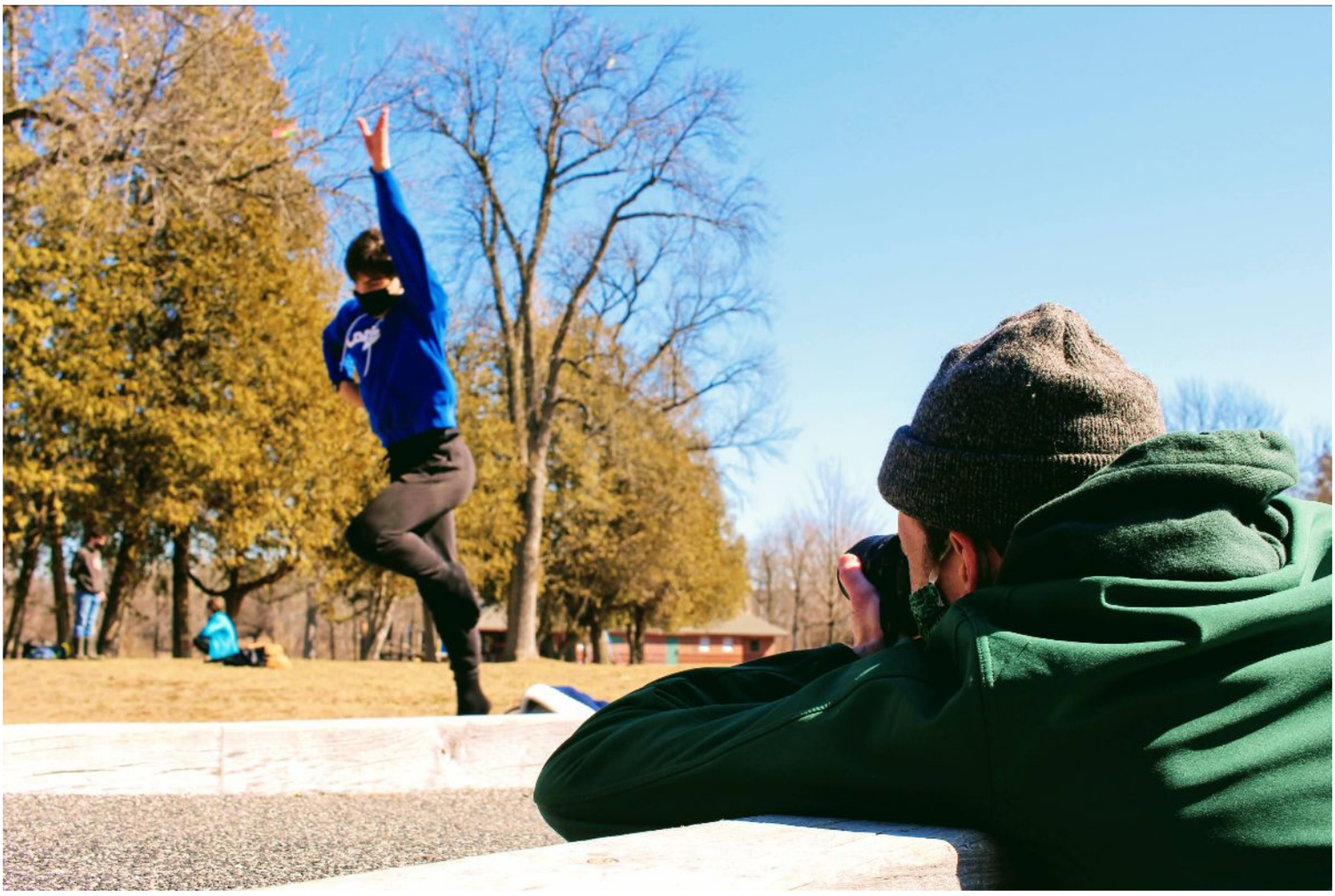
VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL

SCHOLARSHIP. COMMUNITY. GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY.

News & Notes
Vermont Commons School
March 19, 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 23rd

- 7pm - 8pm: **Student Round Table - Ask Me Anything Admissions Event** (Zoom link coming soon)

Wednesday, March 24th

- 1:30pm - 2:30pm: **Common Hour: Fancy Flying Machines** (Zoom link here)

Friday, March 26th

- **Spectrum Sleep-Out**

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.

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

Zoom link here **and in the** Community Calendar

Alum **Greg John '01** and **Chris Townsend** (parent of Jackson '20 and Jordan '22) are getting ready for all your burning questions about engineering, flying planes (electric and otherwise!), and running a business at **Common Hour** on March 24 at 1:30 p.m. **Greg** has been flying since his days at VCS, worked in operations at British Airways, and owns a flight school in New Jersey. He's collaborating with colleges to train pilots. **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** (our very own VCS engineer) 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 give you the skinny on 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.

Yearbook Photos

Save the Date!
Friday, April 2, 2021
Time TBD

Ambient Photography will be at VCS to take portraits for the yearbook. We will be sharing a link with you soon!

From the Head of School

First, a huge thank you to all the parents/guardians who got involved in the gift bags for the Faculty this week. The citrus and seeds drew us forward into the approaching spring beautifully, and I received a letter from Eric Hall in my bag that I'll treasure for all my days. Thanks, Eric, and everyone—we are so grateful to you for your kindness and thoughtfulness.

It was an equally inspiring week in terms of your children. Seeing them in school learning and laughing with each other, and then listening to them last night on the final Evening of Readings, is simply a joy. Seven years ago, when we looked at moving here to join the Vermont Commons community, I remember Era pointing out how much the school does in terms of creative writing. From Evenings of Readings to the number of Flying Turtles getting published in the Young Writers Project regularly to our winners of the Senator Sanders Essay Contest (congrats once again, Simon, on this year's success!), from Uncommon—our literary journal—to Adelie competing against other Vermont high school students earlier this week at the Poetry Out Loud showcase, from Jennifer's yearly original song tribute to the Seniors to Steve's novel and hundreds of other creative literary acts, VCS is a place where the written word thrives. And as we well know, words matter. The way they are shaped and angled and flow creates and directs listeners and readers to action or inaction, simply with the brush of a pen or the utterance of a word. What I value most, though, about the Evenings of Readings, is their emphasis on the creative use of language, in the way creativity relies on inspiration as well as consideration. A fire within and a calculation of how best to share that with another human to achieve an emotional communion.

Where can the creative mind go, once it's inspired and allowed to wander? As a poet and creative writer, I also have an enormous appreciation for the place of the creative in the world of the rational—perhaps what we commonly refer to these days as innovation. TED Talks—our cultural metropole for innovators—after all stand for *technology, entertainment and design*, the rational and creative in one. I'm very excited this coming week to listen in on a conversation curated by Mark Keegan between current parent Chris Townsend and alum Greg John ('01) about the future of flight. Chris is part of the team developing electric aircraft here in Burlington, and Greg has built a large pilot training school in Philadelphia with an eye to filling the emerging pilot shortage. In our globally interconnected world, the future of how we move ourselves and our materials across it is of great interest to us all, and listening to how these two innovators' visions have led to tangible actions is sure to be inspiring.

Some have surmised that so much great early American writing came out of northern New England because winters were long and hard and left much time for people to stay inside, contemplate, and put their thoughts to paper. What does a year of largely being cloistered at home mean for emerging creativity and innovation now, especially as schools—as we—open up more and more? History tells us that periods right after massive disruptions often are filled with explosions of literature, art, civic development, economic expansion, and a host of other progress that accompanies a collective mental freeing up. What's coming our way, after months of our individually incubating thoughts have a chance to merge with others in a spirited community dedicated to the life of the mind, a community such as Vermont Commons School? If the creativity of our community—students, parents, alums—is any indication, we are looking forward to a great period in the life of the school. Fitting, that next year is the school's 25th!

Our best to each and every one of you.

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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