



News & Notes

Vermont Commons School

March 5, 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.

Sunday, March 7th

- 1pm - 5pm: [NACAC STEM Fair](#)

Thursday, March 11th

- 3pm - 4pm: **Parent/Guardian Tea** (Zoom link forthcoming)
- 7pm - 8pm: **Evening of Readings Part II** ([Zoom link here](#))

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.

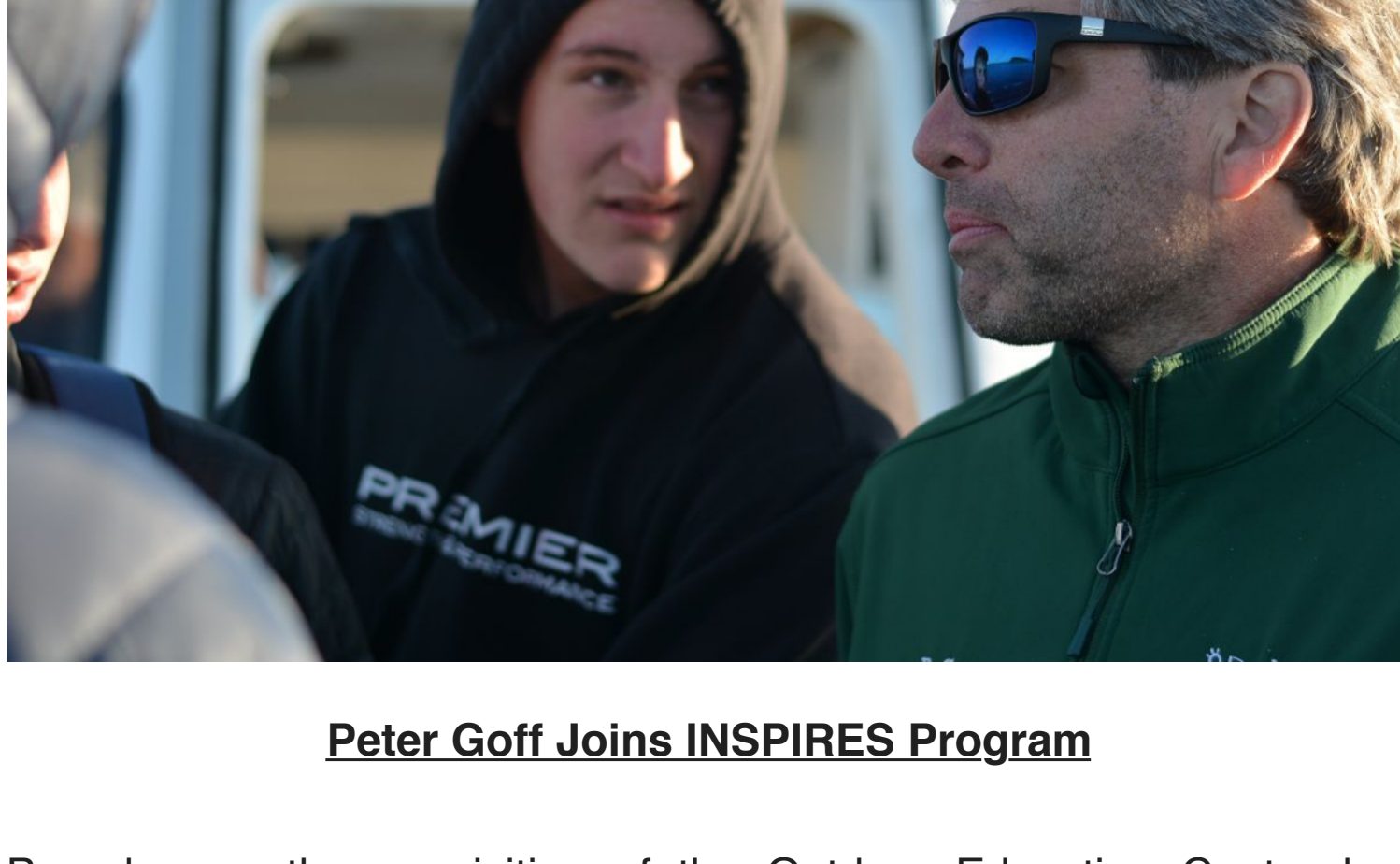


Evening of Readings Part II

Our next Evening of Readings, featuring students with last names **Hecht thru Rawal**, is happening this coming Thursday, 3/11, 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!



Peter Goff Joins INSPIRES Program

Based upon the acquisition of the Outdoor Education Center last summer and his work on the Mapping Encounter Experience ever since then--and upon his excellence and renowned career in science education over the last several decades--Peter Goff has just been accepted for participation in the National Science Foundation INSPIRES Teacher Professional Learning Program. The **NSF INSPIRES Program** will support teachers from Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont in collaborating with project scientists, teacher educators, and researchers to support student learning of **quantitative reasoning in context** and using **big data** to reason about and model real-world challenges to Northern New England forest ecosystems. Through the INSPIRES program, teachers, teacher educators, and researchers will partner to design classroom materials and data-rich opportunities for students, and will collaborate on research focused on supporting quantitative reasoning in STEM classrooms. Only seven educators from the entire state of Vermont were selected. Congratulations, Peter!!!



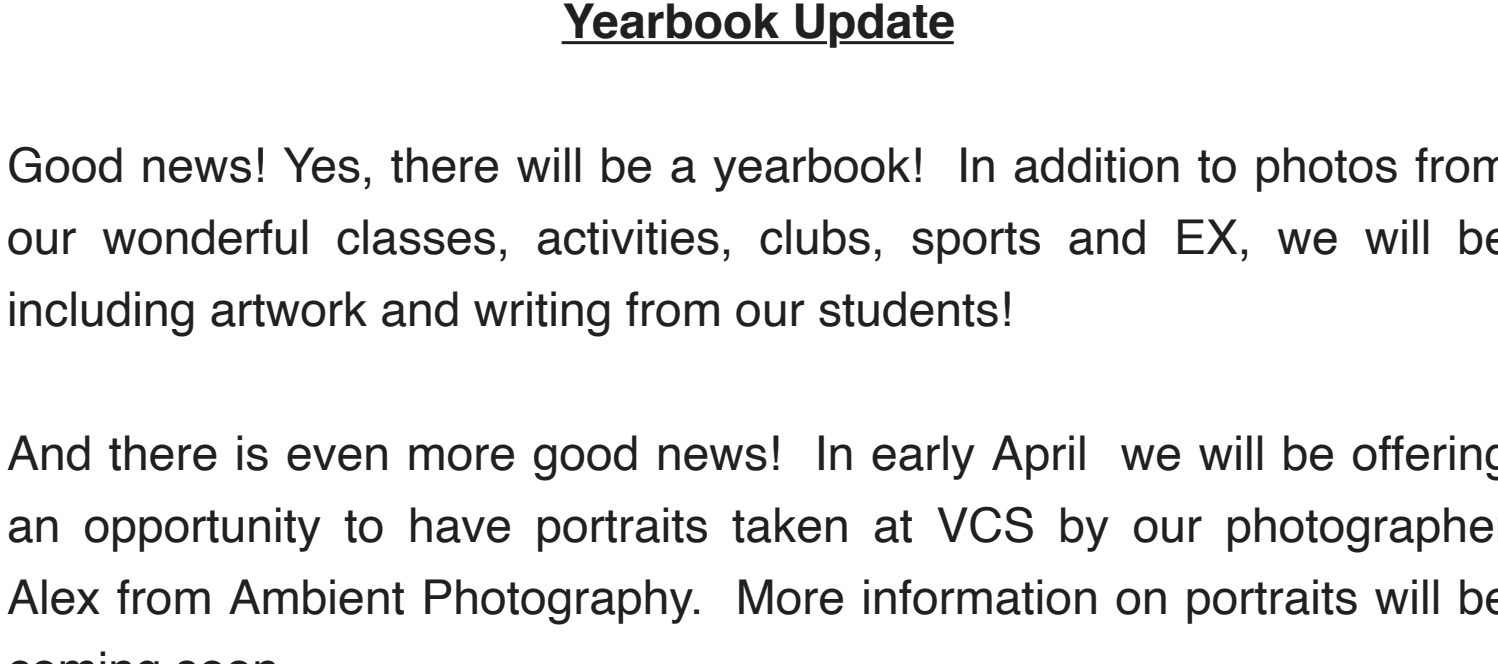
From the Parent Ambassadors Group

Hello families!

This is just a reminder to have your kiddos work on their "Secret Projects" and bring them to school next week. You should have received an email with the details.

There will be an envelope labelled "Secret Project" where they can place their project. Thank you!

If you have questions, please feel free to email Cathy at cjovt@yahoo.com.



Yearbook Update

Good news! Yes, there will be a yearbook! In addition to photos from our wonderful classes, activities, clubs, sports and EX, we will be including artwork and writing from our students!

And there is even more good news! In early April we will be offering an opportunity to have portraits taken at VCS by our photographer Alex from Ambient Photography. More information on portraits will be coming soon.

If you have any questions feel free to email [Adriana](#) or [Amy](#).



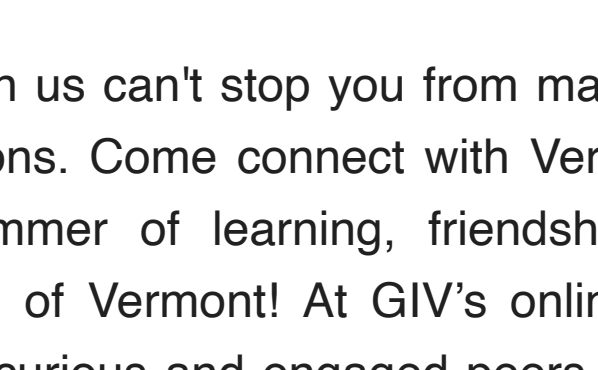
Lund Covid Drive

Want to support your local community? VCS will be running a COVID drive for the [Lund Center of Burlington](#) starting on the first of March! Lund is a local nonprofit organization that helps children and families throughout Vermont. To help them and their mission in the face of the pandemic, they request the high-priority items listed below.

All items must be new, and supplied in their original unopened packaging!

- Disposable gloves: small, medium, or large. Nitrile or latex-free.
- Disinfectant wipes
- Face Coverings:
 - N95 = Noish Certified
 - KN95
 - 3 layer disposable procedural masks
 - Cloth Face coverings: adult and child size
 - Face Shields or safety glasses
- Hand sanitizer (60% or higher alcohol content)
- Paper Towels (rolls)
- Tissues
- Laundry Detergent – liquid

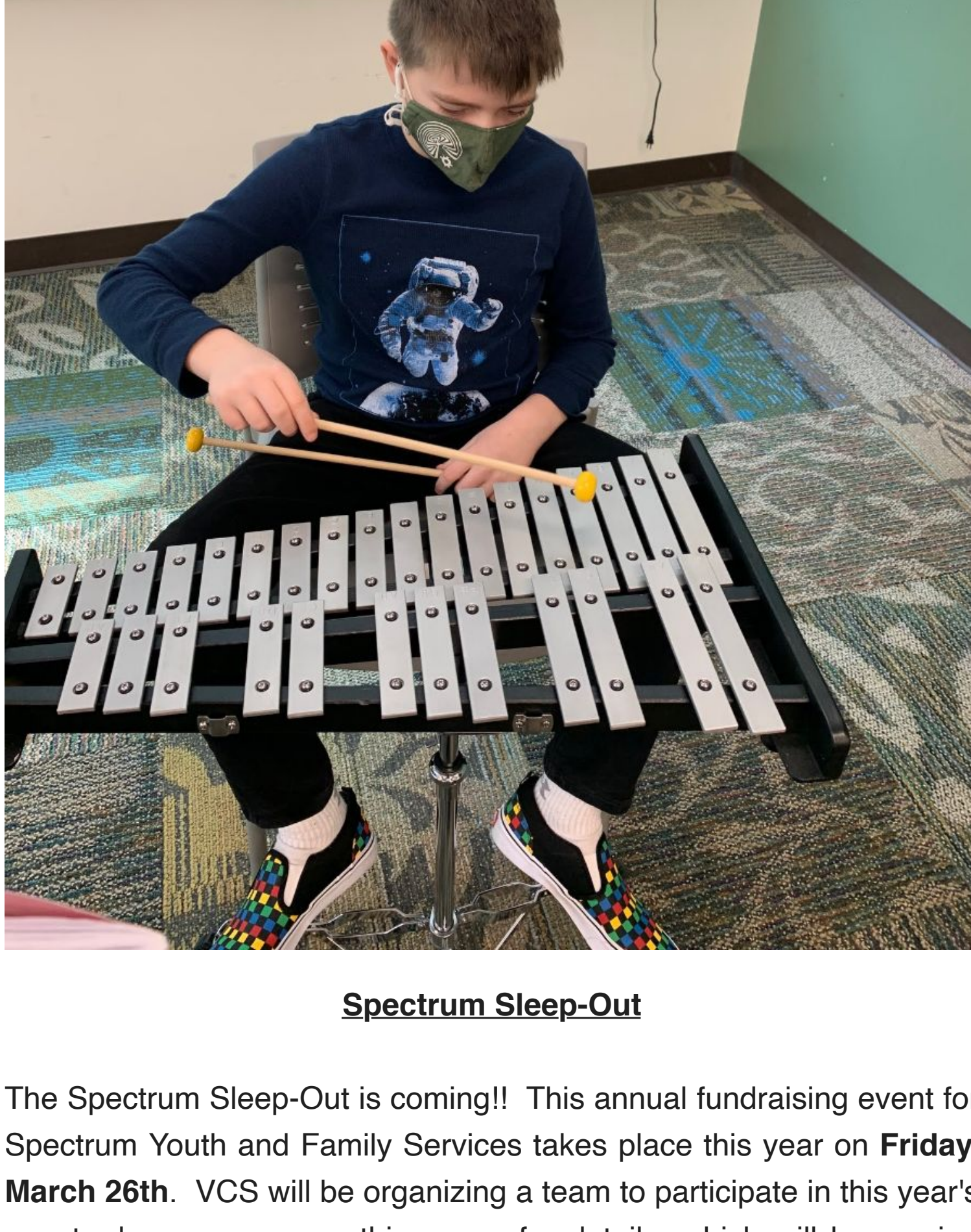
Items can be brought to the school on HyFlex days. We will also arrange for an outdoor drop-off (likely near the student entrance) for those who wish to donate items but are not planning to attend in-person classes. Thank you!



Summer Immersion Program Application Period is Open

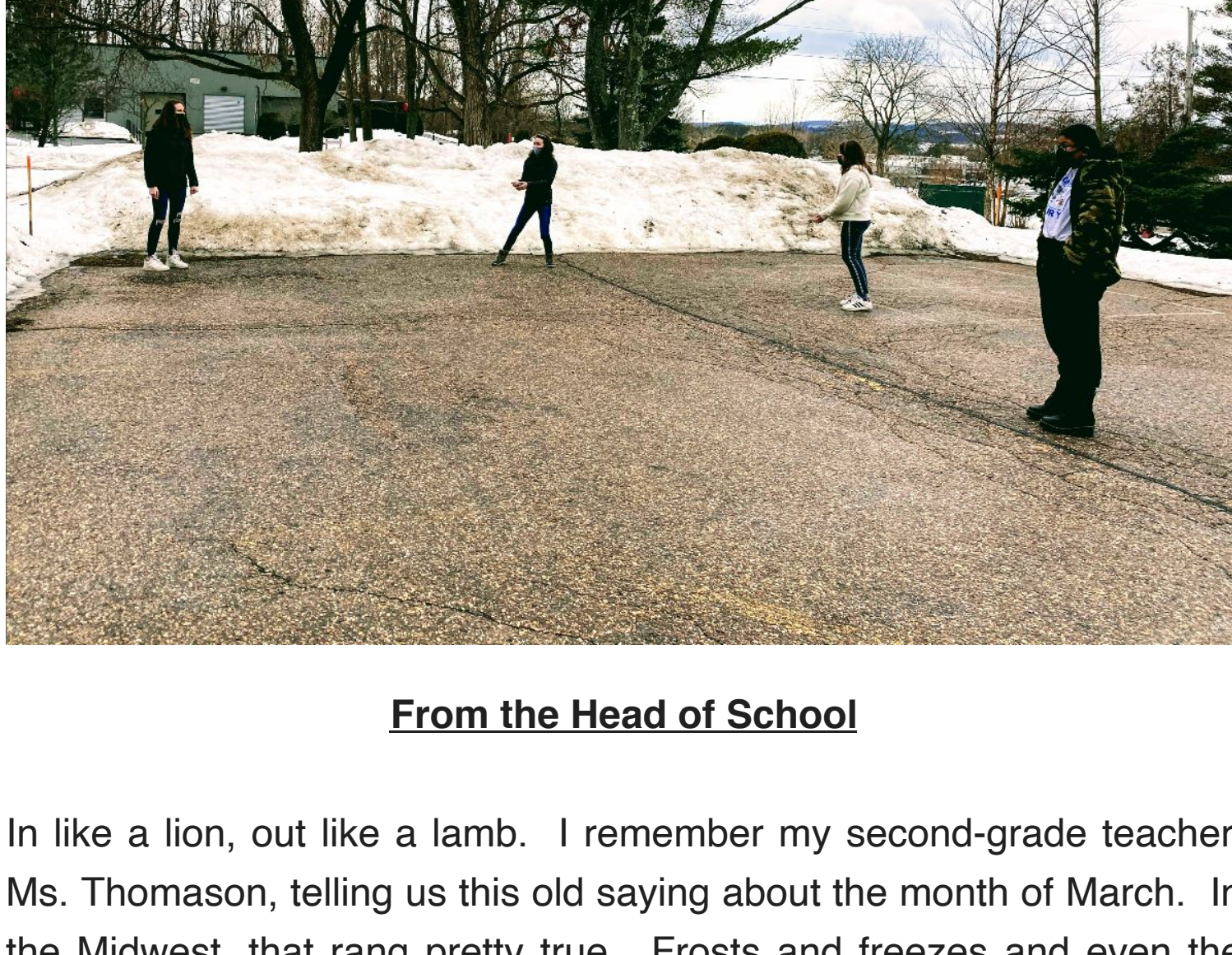
The screens between us can't stop you from making new friends and pursuing your passions. Come connect with Vermont's brightest high schoolers for a summer of learning, friendships, and fun at the Governor's Institutes of Vermont! At GIV's online Immersions, you'll join a community of curious and engaged peers for 1-2 weeks, diving deep into a topic of your choosing. Take part in interactive workshops and research, study alongside expert mentors, and cut loose with virtual social events and game nights: join GIV's summer 2021 cohort! You won't have to worry about money or tech issues either - tuition is "pay-what-you-can," and GIV's tech support team is ready to help out with any internet or device issues.

Visit <https://giv.org/institutes/summer-2021/> for more info and to apply today.



Spectrum Sleep-Out

The Spectrum Sleep-Out is coming!! This annual fundraising event for Spectrum Youth and Family Services takes place this year on **Friday, March 26th**. VCS will be organizing a team to participate in this year's event - keep an eye on this space for details, which will be coming soon!



From the Head of School

In like a lion, out like a lamb. I remember my second-grade teacher, Ms. Thomason, telling us this old saying about the month of March. In the Midwest, that rang pretty true. Frosts and freezes and even the errant epic snow storm were regular companions for the month, but by April, you could pretty much count on the jonquils rising from the newly sunlight softened earth. Up here near 47 North, March may not play out quite the same way with the spring flora, but I can tell you I'm on the lookout every time this week I drive by my neighbor Pat's sap house, waiting to see the telltale smoke that's better than a thermometer for telling me winter's on the wane. They tell us March is the snowiest month in Vermont, and maybe that cross between big snows and sap house smoke is our lion and lamb. Whatever March has in store for us, April is inevitable.

This is the metaphor: it's been hard on all of us. Really hard. But change is inevitable. And as we've seen these last two weeks with students in the building and last night--when half the faculty were able to sign up for their first vaccine doses in Barre on Sunday--change right now is for the good. This is earth-softening-jonquil-pushing-through change. Sap house smoke rising change. Not just hope or wishful thinking, but the hard fact of improvement on its way, of things getting better now, like a rush of snowmelt water descending from App Gap through Baldwin Creek, waking the brook trout up, waking the world up.

I wish you could have heard the laughter erupting from the 9th grade first period Tuesday morning in room 206, the romp between 8th grade factions at break and lunch, Kris vacuuming up this afternoon after the joyful mess that is hands-on science in 6th grade, the school building coming back to life, a burgeoning stem pushing through the soil into the light.

Happiest of weekends to you and yours.

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](#)

