VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL

SCHOLARSHIP. COMMUNITY. GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

News & Notes
Vermont Commons School
April 30, 2021
Have a Fantastic Spring Break!

UPCOMING EVENTS

(TODAY!) Friday, April 30th

- 3pm-4pm: **Rachel Bergstein '21 Naturalist Certificate Presentation** (Zoom link here)

Sunday, May 2nd

- 2pm - 4pm: **Spring Open House**

Thursday, May 6th

- 8:30am - 9:30am: **Parent/Guardian Coffee**

YEARBOOK SALES LINK COMING SOON
Keep an eye out for a separate email with ordering info!

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

Attendance Updates & Reminders

Deepest thanks to everyone (parents, faculty, and students) for rolling with the ever-changing attendance situation this year. Now that we're back in the building, we have one more set of updates & reminders, hopefully the last change of the year:

1. Emailing attendance@vermontcommons.org is still the best way to communicate any and all attendance details.
2. Parents should email attendance@ if their student will be absent from the building for any reason, **even if they are logging in from home**.
3. Students arriving after **8:40am** need to come in via the south entrance (aka the front desk) and **sign in**.
4. Students leaving before the end of the day **must sign out at the front desk**. Parents should come to the front desk entrance (but not come inside) to confirm pickup with a staff member.

School Portrait Ordering Deadline EXTENDED

If you would like to purchase your students portrait you can click here. The password is **VCS21**.

If you have any questions about the portraits you can contact Ambient Photography directly: Alex Pintair, Ambient Photography, (802) 872-0905, www.ambientphotography.com.

If you already ordered portraits before spring break, they have been delivered to the school and have been given out to students who have been present in the building.

2020-21 Yearbook Now On Sale!

This year, in addition to pictures of our adventures throughout the year, the yearbook will also contain artwork by our wonderful artists and the best pieces from the three Evening of Readings. Don't miss out on getting a copy!

The price remains the same as last year, **$45**, and there are two ways to purchase it:

- Cash or check (made to VCS, give it to Adriana or Amy)
- You can also buy it online by clicking on the following link: VCS Yearbook 2021

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Thanks!

Adriana and Amy

2021 - 2022 Enrollment Reminder

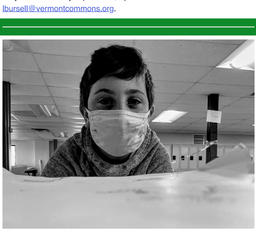
Reminder that the following items are now due:

- 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

To complete your enrollment forms, log into your RenWeb account on Family Portal, and select the Enrollment link on the left-hand tab.

NOTE: RenWeb is only able to allow 1 parent access to the full enrollment documents at a time. If you do not see your child's documents, please check all custodial parents' accounts.

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



Notes From the Head of School

Seeing is believing. Blessed are those who believe without seeing. I came, I saw, I conquered. What did you see at the scene of the crime? This was captured on film. I will see you on Zoom.... An early graduate school professor of mine, the wonderful Jennifer Green-Lewis, taught a course on the impact of photography on literature during the Victorian period and how the language of the image

pervaded—and arguably continues to pervade—society. She charted the path across which we as a human society have come to expect to see things in order to believe we know them (and she laid out a case for why visual proof is in fact illusory and hollow). Tiktok, Snapchat, Instagram, facial recognition software, the ubiquitous Zoom. We now inhabit in a world where we expect that in order to know, we need to see—we expect to be *shown*.

Ironically pre-Anglo-Saxon law required the repetition of words—being told—as evidence of truth. A witness was expected to "perform" the oath, which is to say recount the story of what happened. The overseeing judge listened for how accurately that story was repeated by the same witness to determine if it were in fact true. Accurate repetition equaled truth. Inaccurate repetition meant falsehood.

How, I ask myself, do we transfer knowledge of joy to each other? Because what I want to share with you is what you don't get to see. Because you haven't been able to be with us in the building this week. Sure, I can make a video of it for you. I can swear—perform my oath—and tell you repeatedly that the **magic** of Vermont Commons was everywhere. Likewise, you can listen to stories your child might share of what they did and learned.

The truth is, though, any representation pales in comparison with the experience of it. We know that when the students and teachers all get together in this school community, it simply is a place like no other. Kinks in the system this week? Yep. Always have been and always will be. But perfection's not what we're striving for.

Laughter. Inquisitiveness. Engagement. Energy. Excitement.
Being seen and known.
Treated with dignity and respect.
Everyone. Every class, break, lunch, or activity. Every single day.

That's what we're after.

Deep in my heart, I wish you could have seen it in action this week, but for those of us lucky enough to be part of it, to witness, it—that magic, our school's magic—was something else. Vermont Commons School, it is great to be back!

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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