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MAY 10TH, 2017

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 12th**  
Green-Up Day

**May 12th**  
Middle School Mixer

**May 15th**  
6th Grade  
Visit Morning

**May 16th**  
Meet Dexter  
VCS Info Session

## The Spring Food Truck Fling Has Flung!

*by Mary Hamilton*

Thank you to all who came out for the golden evening (who'dathunk that would happen?). Serenaded by Funk Dumpling with some epic jazz notes, great tacos and Indonesian food, and an on-fire auctioneer, we ate, laughed, chatted and raised some dollars for the Commons Fund and your children's VCS experience! We netted over 24% more this year than last, an excellent trend!

Thank you to those families who donated to the Experiential Auction, and those families who bid on the expe-

riences! Thank you as well to the artists from our community who donated their creative works in our first ever Art Show and Sale and those art aficionados who bought them (there are still some in Mary's office if you missed out and would like to take a look!).

And finally, thank you SO much to those of you who came early to help set up and stayed late to put it all away.

You've gotta love this Community!!



# It's Never Too Late to Visit Vermont Commons!

*by Jill Strawbridge*

Documentary-making, food-shelf volunteering, global relief mapping, Peruvian and Chinese sister schools, 100% college admissions and attendance to highly respected colleges around the country and abroad, rigorous academics in a supportive small-classroom environment.

We have been providing an outstanding Middle and High School experience for 20 years. Invite your friends to see what the buzz is about.

Join us for a student visit day and a school tour, spend the morning with our fabulous sixth grade (**May 15th**), or meet Dexter, our Head of School, for an informal chat (**May 16th**).

Give Jill Strawbridge a call at 865-8084 x 190, or email at [jstrawbridge@vermontcommons.org](mailto:jstrawbridge@vermontcommons.org) for details or to register!

## Yearbooks On Sale!

*by Adriana Comtois*

This year we have made them more affordable and dropped the price to \$45.

Get your copy by clicking on the image below.



## Board Game Drive!

*by Katherine Bailey*

I am seeking any board games, card decks, Lego collections, etc. that might be neglected, collecting dust, and monopolizing your shelf space. Now's your chance to help them fulfill their board game destiny!

They will be put to excellent use over the summer by groups of kids outside of the VCS community. Games that cater to ages 8 and older would be preferred.

Please bring any items you'd care to donate to the Front Desk before June 9th, and don't hesitate to [email me](#) if you have any questions about what I might be able to use--chances are, I'll find a use for it! Thank you SO MUCH!

## LOOKING AHEAD

### PROM 2k17

**Where:** Spirit of Ethan Allen III

**When:** Saturday, June 3rd

**Who:** VCS students & their friends (grades 8-12)

**Tickets:** \$35 now (to Chance), or \$40 at the door

Tell your friends and start practicing those dance moves!

### Seeking Summer Cash?

Jasmine is seeking a few students to work as dishwashers at her wedding on **July 3rd**.

Please let her know if you might be interested in making some pocket money and helping out.

# **FROM DEXTER**

## ***Summer Session at Vermont Commons***

We are pleased to offer a variety of Summer Session programs\* this summer. Summer Session faculty include Vermont Commons teachers, as well as other community members from the Burlington area. Program descriptions are below. To secure a spot in one of the programs, please email Katherine with student name and program and deliver payment to Katherine (checks should be made out to Vermont Commons School). Some programs have a minimum number of participants; instructors will confirm programs by June 2nd. Students may sign up for an unlimited number of offerings on a first-come, first-served basis. All programs take place or meet at Vermont Commons. Open to students from Vermont Commons as well as other local schools. \*Program offerings are non-credit bearing and do not replace academic year study at Vermont Commons.

### **Summer Creative Writing Workshop**

*with Jennifer Cohen*

**Monday, July 10th - Friday, July 14th, 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.**

This summer workshop will gather creative writers who will plan a week of reading and creative writing based on their individual interests. Participants will spend time outside together, reading and studying authors of their choice, writing stories and poems, sharing their work, and receiving feedback. Students will come away from this week with a supportive writing community, and more confidence in their creative, authorial voices. We will meet at VCS, but will venture outside to comfortable places where we can be inspired by our surroundings. We will share a lunch together each day.

Cost: \$300

### **Shakespeare: Page to Stage**

*with Christie Howell*

**July 17th-28th, Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

In this summer session, we will take an in-depth look at one play by William Shakespeare. We will read the play aloud, consider language and staging, as well as the characters' backstories and motivation. We will also watch and discuss several film and stage interpretations of the play. At the close of the session, we will stage a scene from the play and possibly attend a performance of a Vermont Shakespeare Festival summer production (ticket price included in the program fee).

Cost: \$600

### **SAT Reading, Writing and Language Sections Prep Class**

*with Jennifer Cohen*

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., July 25th - Aug 10th. 6 Sessions**

Each student enrolled in this class will take a diagnostic test before the July 25th start date; this will help guide the focus of the class. Over the course of six sessions Jennifer will help each student address learning gaps, find their best test-taking strategies, and create effective study plans to practice between sessions and afterwards. The sessions will include instruction, practice, and motivation to improve on the reading and grammar sections of the SAT.

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# **FROM DEXTER**

## ***Summer Session Continued***

Students will need to purchase both books listed below before the class begins.

[The Ultimate Guide to SAT Grammar Workbook](#), 3rd Edition, by Erica L. Meltzer  
[The Critical Reader, 2nd Edition A Complete Guide to SAT Reading](#), by Erica L. Meltzer

Cost: \$300

### **SAT Bootcamp**

*with Lauren Starkey and Stacey Anthony*

**August 14th, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Now in its tenth year, SAT Bootcamp teaches proven strategies for this high-stakes test a unique four-hour format. Emphasizing strategy over content, the interactive workshop prepares sophomores, juniors, and seniors for the August SAT and October PSAT and SAT. SAT Bootcamp reduces text anxiety through thorough familiarization and practice with the Reading, Writing and Language, and Math sections and increases test-taking confidence. Students will also come away with a clear idea of the sections on which they need to focus further study.

Enroll early, space is limited! For more information, check [www.satbootcampvt.com](http://www.satbootcampvt.com). SAT Bootcamp was founded in 2007 by Lauren Starkey, the author of *Write Your Way to College: College Admissions Essay*, *SAT Writing Essentials*, and 19 other books. Lauren has written test prep for clients such as Kaplan and McGraw Hill, and for four years penned a national column on college admissions.

Cost: \$150

### **Digital Music Composition**

*with Zach Crawford*

**Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. from July 10th to August 3rd**

The overall goal of the camp is to learn the basics of electronic music and sound recording. Grounded in a simple history of these genres, the course will be hands-on and interactive. A general break down of the 8 classes is as follows:

- Day One - Ableton/Keyboard Set Up
- Day Two - Synthesizers/C Major/Drums
- Day Three - Recording
- Day Four - Synthesizers 2/A minor
- Day Five - Recording 2
- Day Six - Arranging a Song
- Day Seven - Arranging 2/Mixing
- Day Eight - Mixing 2/Exporting Your Song

Each student will need to supply a Novation Launch Key or comparable midi control keyboard as well as a computer running Ableton Live Lite (Included with Launchkey).

Cost: \$400

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# **FROM DEXTER**

## *Summer Session Continued*

Also, an outside organization, Let Go Your Mind Summer STEM Programs, is offering a STEM-oriented Lego and Lego robotics program the week of **July 17-21, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**; it is open to **ages 9-14**.

### **Summer Art Week: Painting and Drawing in Nature**

*with Ben Patrick*

**9-1:00, June 26th-June 30th, \$350—including all studio supplies**

*and*

**9-1:00, July 10th-July 14th, \$350—including all studio supplies**

Come join Ben Patrick for a week of artistic endeavor themed around natural pigment and Vermont landscape. We will experiment with many mediums, take day trips and wax poetic about the artistic process. The course will be half en plein air, or drawing and painting outside, with excursions in Burlington and Shelburne. The other half of our time will be spent finishing large scale work, water based oils on canvas, in our studio at Vermont Commons School. We will make our own tempera paints using natural pigments and experiment with walnut inks and other natural dyes. By the end of the week you will have three pieces that are portfolio ready.

### **Build it BIG: EV3 Robots, Minecraft & Stop Motion Animation**

Come and join us as we use engineering concepts to build tall towers and skyscrapers. In this class students will create a city of super structures. They will apply the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) principles and build several versions of EV3 robots that the students will use to navigate through the city and complete numerous missions. The students will learn to examine situations and calculate various solutions to discover ways to solve these missions.

They will learn C-based programming and use problem-solving skills to help the robots solve the different challenges. Students will use mine craft to build superstructures and castles filled with traps and defenses to protect them from enemy attack. They will learn how to use Command Blocks/Redstone to create traps and other defenses. In the afternoon, students will build their own mini movie set and create an animated movie using LEGO mini figures and other objects created at camp.

The students will also learn how to edit their movies and add music, narration and titles using Professional Stop Animation software. In addition students will build and race many types of motorized LEGO cars throughout the week.

Please register separately for this course at [www.letgoyourmind.com](http://www.letgoyourmind.com).

Background photo by Graham Byers '18

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**ENGAGING STUDENTS WITH THE WORLD**