

March 6, 2013

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 7	March 19	March 21	March 22	March 25-29
8th-Grade Potluck 6-8 PM	Second Evening of Readings 6-8 PM	9th-Grade Potluck 6-8 PM	Third Quarter Ends	Spirit Week

VCS Brings the Globe to Vermont –by Peter Gilmore



Our school has "global" in our mission and sending kids out to experience the world has always been something we have been good at. Now, we will be bringing the world to VCS too! After a long application process we have been approved by the US State Department to have foreign teens enrolled as full time students. Focusing our recruitment on Chinese and Spanish speaking countries, we will be looking to enroll a handful of students for next year. We will also be looking for families interested in providing (paid) home-stays for students starting this summer. Please let us know if you are interested. Spiral International, a Vermont company that specializes in recruiting appropriate students and coordinating home-stays, will be working closely with us as we move forward. Here's to our global experience - right here in Vermont!

Join us for the March 20th Common Hour –by Mark Cline Lucey



All families and community members are invited and encouraged to join us for Common Hour on March 20 - 9:50-10:45 a.m. The sophomore Social Studies class will share their experience with their NAIS Challenge 20/20 service project with the Sudan Development Foundation (SUDEF). Throughout the 1st Semester, the class worked to create a video and a web campaign to support the important work that SUDEF is doing to build health clinics in South Sudan. The hour will include a screening of the documentary short *Grace Under Pressure* about the village of Kalthok where SUDEF has been working, and a question and answer session with Peter Keny, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan who co-founded SUDEF. The sophomores will also share the video they produced and discuss the service learning process that took them from idea to product. Please join us! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Me6A3yh7GnU>

Play Volleyball! –by Peter Goff



On Friday, March 15th we will begin to offer a volleyball PE. Members of the fall volleyball team have received information regarding an extra cost. We have traditionally used the spring to cultivate new recruits (some might say; *'indoctrinate neophytes into the cult'*, but I resent that remark!) If you are at all interested in seeing what volleyball is all about, please join us and try it out for a day or two free of charge. If you decide you want to stick with it, we can talk about the cost...but please, give Volleyball (or Ultimate) a shot! We will start during PE and you can be picked up at Sports and Fitness Edge at 4:30 p.m. The first four meetings will be on Fridays, then we will move to Mondays and Fridays.

AP Testing Information

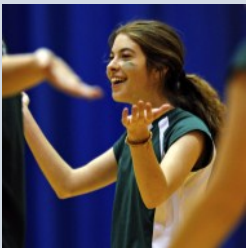


Calling all juniors, seniors, and the rare sophomore student who would like to sit for an AP Exam this spring!

Once again, we are happy to proctor AP Exams for interested students. Please visit <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/Controller.jpf> to see the 2013 exams offered, exam schedule, fees and fee reductions, as well as advice for how to prepare.

The fee for taking an AP exam is \$89, which is nonrefundable. In addition, there is a \$13 fee for an exam that is ordered but not used. The deadline for ordering an exam is **Friday, March 22nd**. Please bring in your check at that time. Exams will not be ordered unless payment is received. Thank you! -Liz and Cara

Congratulations Shana Wolfstein '11! –by Peter Goff



Flying Turtle Volleyball alum and State Champion setter was selected to her collegiate league's (Skyline Conference) Fall Sports Academic Honor Roll at Stern College. Shana is also preparing to be her team's primary setter next year. Congrats Shana!

Big Trip Offerings 2014 –by Chance Cardamone-Knewstub

We're pleased to announce the three big trips we plan to offer for next year. Two of the trips are old standbys and one is a brand new adventure. Our "Big Trip" program is a key way in which we endeavor to fulfill the global component of our mission. On these trips, students will be able to meet and speak with film makers from around the world (Sundance), hike through Irish history, and do home stays in a Maya village in Belize. We know that these trips are expensive and entail great deal of effort and sacrifice on the parts of parents, students, and teachers but we believe that they are worth every bit of it. I can't tell you how many times I've heard students wishing that they were going to Sundance/Belize/whatever trip we're offering, and rue the fact that they had not taken the time to apply. If you have any interest whatsoever, you should be applying; you can always decide not to participate later, but you can't apply later.

Answers to few common questions: Yes, you can apply to more than one trip. Simply indicate your order of preference. If you are not accepted to your first choice, you will automatically be considered for your second. Yes, it is possible (although rare) to participate in more than one trip but only if by doing so you are not precluding someone else from participating in any trip. If you do end up on one of these trips, please remember that the main reason we announce these so far ahead of time is so that you – the student - can make some decisions about your priorities. This summer is your best opportunity to earn some or all of the cost of the trip. So, look at these trips, talk to your parents, and apply. The application is available [here](#) and at the front desk in as a hard copy.



Ireland: Immerse yourself in the vibrant culture and landscape of southwestern Ireland as you hike along the Dingle Way! Each day we will walk about ten to twelve miles on this marked footpath, ambling along rocky coastlines, through farmland, and small towns, spending our nights in hostels and bed and breakfasts. We will also spend time learning about Irish culture, ecology, literature, and history, taking lessons in traditional dancing, language-learning, as well as listening to tales told by a professional storyteller. Other activities include exploring ancient ruins with a local guide, horseback riding, and kayaking in the Dingle Bay. We also plan on hiking Mt. Brandon, Ireland's second highest peak, a stunning mountain perched on the edge of the Dingle peninsula. Leaders: Peter Goff and Christie Beveridge—May 2014

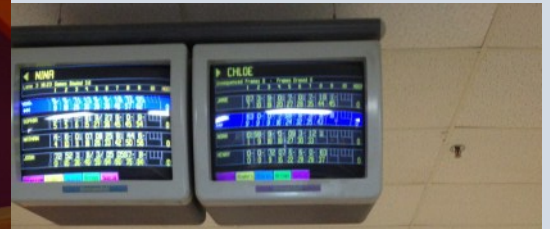
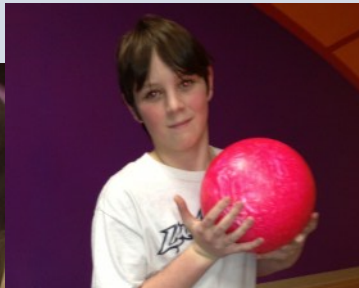


Sundance: An Encounter Week trip to the Sundance Film Festival begins by flying into Salt Lake City, with a stunning view of the snow capped Wasatch Mountain Range. After a 35 minute drive to Park City, we don't lose much time setting up the condo, stocking it with food, and wait-listing our first film. Thus a week rich in all aspects of film making is launched; each morning, we enjoy the camaraderie of breakfast and a coffee stop at 7, followed by our first film by 9 a.m. As a reflection of the VCS Mission, we have embraced a festival with an environmental and global mission, as well as the local Native American culture. In concert with our Guiding Principles, students are immersed and empowered by the most compelling communication medium in our time: film Our students' passion for film was certainly rewarded in 2011 as they applauded Chasing Ice, Ai Wei Wei, The First Time, Liberal Arts, About Face, and Safety Not Guaranteed. A trip to Sundance, is truly about Encountering stories that speak to all of us and the art of telling those stories. Leaders: Ben Patrick and Cara Simone—January 2014



Belize: Mark and Jen are thrilled to be offering the Belize trip again! This trip is open to next year's sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Each of the eleven days in Belize will be packed with educational and experiential activities with a focus on tropical ecology and Belizean culture. A typical day in the rainforest will include waking to howler monkeys, hiking with a local guide, swimming in the Bladen River, discussing ecology with scientists, helping researchers, and relaxing in hammocks. In the Maya village we will tour cacao orchards and make chocolate, play soccer with the local children, and visit with our host families. Other highlights include hiking barefoot for six miles on a wet clay road from savannah to rainforest, snorkeling in Belize's coral reef, and dancing to the Sambai drums in a maroon Creole village. Apply to be on the Belize trip! Leaders: Mark Cline Lucey and Jennifer Cohen—January 2014

This Week in Photos



VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL - 75 GREEN MOUNTAIN DRIVE, SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT 05403
 P: 802-865-8084 F: 802-865-2429 EMAIL: INFO@VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG

WWW.VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG