

December 19, 2012

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 20

First Day of
Winter Vacation

January 3

School Resumes

January 4

First Friday
Alumni Gathering

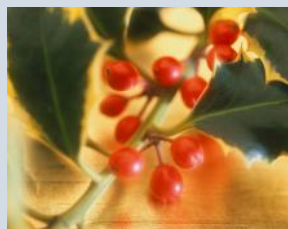
January 11

Second Quarter
Ends

January 14-15

Review Days

Annual Fund Update



It's the end of the year as we know it,
It's the end of the year as we know it and we feel fine...

Yes, the year is coming to a close and this is your last chance to receive a 2012 tax deduction for your charitable contribution to the Vermont Commons School Annual Fund. Thank you to everyone who has made a donation thus far to bring us to OVER \$81,000!

Happy Holidays, The Annual Fund Team

Ski Club Sign-ups –by Ben Patrick



Winter marks the beginning of our Ski Club! We will be skiing/boarding at Bolton Valley this year. Each Friday (see dates below) we will leave at 2:30 p.m. and arrive back to Vermont Commons School at 8:00 p.m. This should allow for almost four hours of exercise and fun. All abilities of skiing/boarding are welcome to join us. Our group is all-inclusive, and everyone rides/skis with a group of peers. The only requirement is that you **bring a helmet** and be prepared for cold weather conditions.

The cost this year for transportation is \$120.00 per student for six rides to and from the mountain. This pays for a large bus and a driver and allows all of us to be together with plenty of room for our gear. If you do not have a Bolton Valley Ski Pass, the cost for skiing will be an additional \$120.00 per student. If parents want

to join us, there is plenty of room on the bus, and we receive three chaperone passes every time we visit the mountain. These chaperone passes will be given out on a first come, first serve basis.

I look forward to having a safe and fun skiing and boarding season. Below is the list of dates that we will be at the mountain. Please make checks (\$120.00 if you only need transportation and have a ski pass, or \$240 for both tickets and transportation) payable to Vermont Commons School and deliver them to the front desk by **Friday, January 4th.**

Ski dates:

January 18th (half day of school, skiing will be 12:00-6:00pm)

February 1st

February 8th

February 15th

February 22nd

March 1st

Lost and Found



This is just a reminder that we are clearing out the lost and found before vacation. Please collect your belongings prior to the school closing at 5 PM.

Also, a student has misplaced a black EMS hooded jacket. If you have this jacket in your possession or know of its whereabouts please contact the main office. Thank you!

Flashbags For Sale



Beautiful Vermont Commons School "Bird in a Box" flashbags are now for sale!

Prices are \$40.00 for a large tote bag (they are available for \$30.00 for artists who participated in this project).

Please visit the front desk to purchase the bag.

Coming Soon: National Honors Society Study Groups



All of the NHS members will be holding meetings during lunches before midterms. Get extra help in the following subjects: Social Studies, Math, Spanish, Chinese, Language Arts, and Science. See you there.

-Mia Jager '12 (National Honor Society President)

College Counseling News –by Sarah Soule



As seniors contemplate the costs of higher education and look ahead to college enrollment, they are encouraged to apply for scholarships through VSAC that are available for Vermont residents. Students must submit the applications by March 8, 2013 to be considered and those that are submitted by February 8, 2013 will be entered into a drawing for one of three \$1,000 scholarships! We have booklets at VCS that feature the scholarships, but further information can be found online by [clicking on this link](#).

Scholarships, like grants, are a form of a gift and mean that the student has no obligation to pay the funds back (under most circumstances). Each of our seniors is strongly encouraged to pursue these opportunities.

There are links to other national scholarship offerings on Naviance. Good luck!

Be a Frozen Turtle! -by Mark Cline Lucey



I am proud to announce that on February 2nd the VCS Frozen Turtles will be participating in the Penguin Plunge for the 7th year in a row. Every year our team has grown bigger, and every year we have raised more money for Special Olympics Vermont.

This year is looking to be our biggest yet, with a list of THIRTY enthusiastic students and faculty. But I've been thinking that the one group that's been missing from the team for years has been the PARENTS. Yes, YOU! All parents are welcome and encouraged to join us as Frozen Turtles. Just go to the Plunge website below, register, and choose VCS Frozen Turtles from the list of teams. Welcome!!

<http://www.firstgiving.com/vtso/2013-burlington-penguin-plunge>

12th-Grade Social Studies Meets Bill McKibben –by Mark Cline Lucey

For the entire semester, the senior Ecological Economics class has been exploring the ideas in Bill McKibben's book *Deep Economy*, and today they had a chance to visit him. The seniors asked him many questions about issues he brings up in the book, from climate change and wealth inequality, to localization of economies and how to organize a global movement. McKibben just returned to Vermont from a month-long tour of the US colleges, speaking to sold-out crowds and helping to organize campaigns to divest colleges and universities from the fossil fuel industry. We greatly appreciated Bill McKibben making the time to sit down with us.



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