



# Turtle Tracks

April 10, 2009

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### APRIL 14

2<sup>nd</sup> Evening of Student Readings

### APRIL 14

Coats & Cookies, VCS, 3:30 pm- 5:45 pm

### APRIL 14

Picture Day

### APRIL 20 - 24

Spring Break  
NO CLASSES

### APRIL 30

Screening of "Shout It Out", VCS, 7pm, donation

### MAY 18- 22

Spring Encounter Week

### MAY 25

Memorial Day  
NO SCHOOL

## Request For Yearbook Photos

**Submitted by Mark Cline Lucey**

It's time to start putting together the 2008-2009 yearbook and WE NEED PHOTOS! Please, if you have any photos related to Vermont Commons this year, would you do us the immense favor of putting them on a disc and bringing them to Mark's office?

And one more yearbook-related request: The laptop that we have always used for the yearbook has kicked the bucket and we are searching for a replacement. If, by chance, you have a spare laptop that we could use, we would be forever grateful!

Thank you.

- The Yearbook Staff: Elena Mudd & Sophie Daigle (Editors in Chief) & Mark (Faculty Advisor)



## DVDs of "The Foreigner"

**Submitted by Gabe Mantegna**



If you enjoyed the VCS performance of "The Foreigner" at the Flynn Space in March and would like to show all your friends and family VCS students' impressive acting chops, or if you missed a performance, Gabe Mantegna is selling DVDs of the play. They're \$5 each, and he has a Saturday matinee and a Saturday evening version. They also both have special features. See Gabe to

place your order!

## PACS Workday Summary

**Submitted by Tina Mueller**

This past weekend PACS held its third VCS Work Event. This two-day event began on Friday evening for approximately 3 hours, when a crew of 3 parents and 2 students prepped areas for Saturday's volunteer workers.

Early Saturday morning, the Senior Class cleared the Lunchroom for us.

On Saturday, 12 parents and 3 students worked from 8am - 5:30 pm. Everyone who came to work had a really great attitude and was willing to do whatever needed to be done. The Connolly, Frey and Mueller Families provided lunch. Students Leslie Gadway and Sarah Mueller designed the new photo/art collage in the front hallway.

During our time together, we accomplished the following:



**Acting Head of School:  
Hans Manske**

**FACULTY & STAFF**

Sarah Bertucci

Chance Cardamone-  
Knewstub

Mark Cline Lucey

Jennifer Cohen

Adriana Comtois

Jason Cushner

Leonora Dodge

Conor Driscoll

Glenn Etter

Peter Goff

Xue Li

Shyla Nelson

Susan Palmer

Ben Patrick

Jessica Redmond

Jordan Romm

Jasmine Walker

Acting Dean of Students:  
Mark Cline Lucey

Dean of Faculty:  
Cara Simone Bader

Director of Academic  
Enrichment Center:  
JoAnna Easton

Director of Admissions &  
College Counseling:  
Sarah Soule

Director of Development:  
Jordan Romm

Business Office:  
Emily Tupper

Administrative Assistant,  
Registrar, & Editor of  
Turtle Tracks:  
Allison Fayle

Marketing:  
Wendy McArdle

**Painted Upstairs** - The front hallway at the top of the stairs by the office **and** the hallway between "The Cave" and the Computer Room were painted.

**Carpet Cleaning –**

**Downstairs** - the Lunchroom, the Library, the Kitchen area and the 2 downstairs hallways were cleaned;

**Upstairs** - the Commons Room and the Front Hallway were cleaned.

**Window and Door Glass School-wide–**

The insides of the windows and doors were cleaned; all entryway doors were cleaned inside and out.

**Downstairs Kitchen Area–**

The refrigerator, freezer, microwaves and other food appliances, cabinets, dishes and floor were all cleaned.

**Classrooms –**

All classrooms were wiped down, picked/straightened up and white boards were cleaned. Some classrooms were vacuumed. Compliments of student workers, all the chairs in the school were repositioned into the appropriate classrooms for matching purposes for the open house Sunday.

**Upstairs Sink/Cubbie area and the Great Room –**

These areas were cleaned.

**Plants –**

All of the plants were watered and pruned to remove the dead leaves/stems.

**Outside the building –**

All the sidewalks leading into the school, the back patio area and the grounds immediately around the school building were swept and/or raked clean of leaves and large sticks

(Note: All of the leaves and sticks were placed into a pile for composting on the backside of the school nearest the parking lot side.)

PACS would like to acknowledge the following volunteers for their support; their tireless efforts made this work event a success:

**Students**

Christian Frey  
Leslie Gadway  
Sarah Mueller  
Charlotte Rutz  
and  
the Senior Class

**Parents**

Claudia Barber  
Carol Conard  
Kathy Connolly  
Tom Connolly  
Gretchen Frey  
David Gadway  
Lee Kemsley  
Tina Mueller  
Randy Rowland  
Tom Rutz  
Kim Sears  
Denise Verleur  
Mickey Wiles

Also, a special thank you to Paige Franz for selecting paint colors with Ben and Hans.

Again, thank you very much to everyone who helped – Tina Mueller and Gretchen Frey (PACS)



## Vermont Commons School

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So. Burlington, VT  
05403

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Fax: 802-865-2429

Email: [info@vermontcommons.org](mailto:info@vermontcommons.org)

Website: <http://www.vermontcommons.org>

## Senior Project Summaries



### Submitted by Mark Cline Lucey

Today is the last day seniors will be at VCS before they depart to work on Senior Projects for the next six weeks. Here is a summary of each of their projects:

### ALEX MASON

For my senior project, I am looking to get a feel and understanding for fashion merchandising, marketing, and every aspect of retail. This will allow me to develop a stronger foundation for my freshman year of college when I go to school for Fashion Merchandising. I will be working with a number of different retailers in order to learn about different facets of the company. This will include how they market themselves, how they choose their inventory and how they are run and stay afloat. The first company I will be working with is Flashbags, a locally business that makes bags and wallets out of artwork. There, I will be learning how the product is designed, made and marketed. Next, I will be working with Page Frantz, an interior designer and color consultant. With her, I will be looking at the importance of color and the process of designing a space. My last two projects will be internships at small high-end clothing stores. The first internship will be at Stil Inc. in Boston where I will be putting together a highlights book. My other internship will be at Ecco Clothing in downtown Burlington. At both stores, I will be working to learn about sales and the receiving of merchandise. I will also be focusing on line development, sales tactics and advertising. In all of my projects, I will focus on what a small retail company has to do to stay afloat.

### ADDIE JOHNSON

My semester at the Island School completely changed my perspective of the world as an environmentally responsible citizen. My senior project will tie together education and environmental sustainability, both of which I am interested in pursuing in my future. I think it is very important to teach environmental ethics to younger students to show them an alternative, and that the irresponsible energy habits in our nation's history don't have to continue into the future. I will be finishing my project with an internship at the Island School, working with several other students to write a professional and in-depth proposal to a development company building an environmentally friendly resort on the island.

### BEN BARKER

Ben Barker will be shadowing Dr. Michael Sheeser in the Fletcher Allen Health Care Emergency Department. Ben is working on his Emergency Medical Technician certification through the UVM Initiative for Rural Emergency Medical Services and hopes to receive it this summer. As a volunteer on the Charlotte Volunteer Rescue Squad, he hopes that this experience will show him the whole other half of EMS. His training thus far has taught him pre-hospital basic life support, and believes his time shadowing Dr. Sheeser will show him what happens to from a patients' admission to discharge in the hospital, as well as the practices and administrative tasks involved with being an emergency room physician. In addition, Ben will take this opportunity away from classes to pick up more on-call time at the CVRS station in Charlotte to gain experience on the side of EMS he is beginning to get to know well.

### CARLY LAGASSE

I will be interning at a wilderness therapy camp in Waitsfield, Vermont, called True North. I am going to be "test driving" an internship program that they are trying to get off the ground. I will be helping them organize their gear and food, and other supplies, in addition to shadowing some of the meetings with the directors of the camp, to give me insight into what they do and how they run.

When I am not at True North, I will be spending the rest of my time preparing and planning a Canoe Encounter Week in the spring. I will be planning the route, and all of the stops, as well as the menu, and making sure that we have all of the gear that we need. I will take what I learn at True North, to create a "program", in a sense,

of activities that look closely at group dynamics, and working together as a successful team. I will have Jordan Romm as my co-leader, but I will essentially be running the show. I hope for this to be a successful project, and possibly create a program that will strengthen the VCS Encounter Weeks.

### **CELINA HICKSON**

I will be honing my skills as a prospective journalist recording the stories of refugees who have settled in the Burlington area. As part of this I will be spending time volunteering at the King Street Youth Center. I will also be working on City of Refuge Burlington with Elizabeth Archangeli. I hope to come away with a collection of stories to share with both the VCS community and the Burlington community at large.

### **CHRISTIAN BUCK**

For my senior project I will work as part of a carpentry team, finishing the interior of Norwich University's new dorm. This particular group of construction workers is made up of skilled professionals lead by David Hathaway. Over the course of this project I will spend 3.5 workdays a week, waking at 5:30AM and working till 4:00PM. I shall be given instruction on how to build using proper methods and tools, including the use of power tools. The specifics of my work will include installing pine ceilings and cabinets, although more is to be expected. All work will be done inside, as this is the final stage of completing the building. The site is a beautiful facility that is being constructed under the LEEDs program. This means that the construction has been done in a "green" fashion, including all waste being carted off site for dumping.

### **ELI JAGER**

For my Senior Project I want to learn how to make my own clothes. I am tired of having to go through the motions of shopping and going to different stores and keeping up with trends, I want to learn how to make my own clothes, and actually let my clothes speak for me, rather than using a middle man. People say that their outfits and style show who they are, and what they are like, but how true can that be when they pick and choose from a list and don't actually create that "voice" themselves? I want to break that barrier down, and use my own voice.

I will be working with Colin Bennet for the 5 weeks of senior project, in his home in Fairfield. He has arranged a workspace for me in his basement where he will give me assignments and teach me while he continues to work on the projects he receives as a professional tailor, custom motorcycle seat builder for Harley Davidson, and holster maker. He will teach me how to take measurements from myself, my friends, and my family and draft out patterns for pants and other pieces of clothing by hand, a process very, very few people can do. Depending on how quickly I learn pant and shirt making I will move onto simple dressmaking.

### **GRACE LANE**

I will be interning with a Bahai artist, Jalal Quinn, at the Global Village Academy in Aurora, Colorado. I will be exploring art education and the role art has by doing the following under the mentorship of Jalal: working as an assistant teacher for Jalal with her art classes, teaching a K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade art class, and studying art education in action.

### **IAN HOLLYER & JIM TRASK**

After looking at the future of energy conservation, and the local food movement during our social science classes, we have decided on this project to help us prepare for the future. What we only touched on during the fall, we hope to gain a larger and more diverse understanding, especially in our local community. During the project, we will learn about the growth, distribution and politics of food in Vermont, as well as a look into local agriculture and energy conservation. We will work with local farmers, literature, and small-scale agriculture enthusiasts and learn about the many different ways to make a successful small-scale garden. By understanding where our food comes from, and how it is made, we will be able to make better choices on the food we buy. Ultimately, our project will provide us with the skills needed to grow our own food, and reduce our carbon footprint, hopefully for the rest of our lives.

**IVAN MARRINSON**

For my senior project I am filming an introductory film for our school. I hope that this short film can be used as a promotional piece for our school in the future. The twist that I am adding for my senior project is that I will be shooting 4 of these short films, each one in a different style of film making. There will be a dramatic film representation of the school, an experimental film version, a documentary film version, and one in the style of an '80s instructional video.

**JACK HOMER**

My project is centered on my own ignorance of what it means to be religious. Focusing on Catholicism, I will be exploring those people who have made religion the defining aspect of their lives, the priests and the nuns of the church. I will be traveling into Nova Scotia and taking day trips away from my grandfather's house there to interview members the Catholic churches in the area, and taking photographic portraits of those that I meet. My portraits will examine the faces of an unfamiliar world, and I hope to shed light on that powerful part of life from which I have always been exempt. My project will produce a showing of my portraits, supplemented by excerpts of interviews and a narrative of my experience.

**MATT CONTE**

I will assist LeVar Barrino, athletic director of the Boys and Girls Club at 62 Oak Street, Burlington, with running programs and interacting with the 4th-8th graders who are members of the club. I will specifically be helping with the gym and outdoors activities such as sports, group games, and tournament/league play. This will include coaching, refereeing, and score keeping. I will serve as a role model for good sportsmanship both on and off the court. Also, I will help the boys and girls learn and practice fundamental skills during practices and games.

**MELISSA STEIN**

I'll be working with the Burlington Housing Authority under the direction of Malaika DosRemedios, who is the Skills For Life Case Manager of Franklin Square Community. I'll be shadowing Malaika and working with the residents of Franklin Square in addition to leading a group for girls.

**NINA BRAND**

I am going to Seattle to learn as much as I can about sustainability and how people use art and other forms of communication to inspire change in the way we live and how we address environmental issues. I am going to interview and spend time with people who are involved in this area. I am interested in sustainable cities and related aspects (how this is achieved through architecture, transportation, housing, energy systems, etc.). When I get home I plan to create an art installation reflecting what I have learned. The goal is to communicate what I have learned about sustainability through art in hopes to reach a broader audience.

**RUBY RUSSELL**

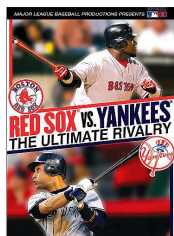
The goal of my senior project is to learn how to grow and care for flowers for cutting, and to create artistic arrangements. In order to develop these skills I will be working with Diana at the Stray Cat Flower Farm in Burlington. It is a small organic farm, part of the Intervale in Burlington. The farm has green houses and outdoor gardens from which they create arrangements for businesses, homes, and celebrations. I will spend most of my week there learning both the physical and the artistic skills needed.

**WILL HAYDEN**

I aim to further investigate the field of alternative energy, in which I have always had a great deal of interest. My internship in Belize will focus on sustainability in a research field station. This will give me a good view of the "in the field" side of this industry. I will be working in conjunction with the BFREE staff to assist in maintenance and upgrades of the energy systems. After immersing myself in the field, I will return to Burlington and get a sense of the business and engineering side of the industry. These two experiences will give me a complete picture of this field. This is invaluable to me as I look towards my future. Next year in school I hope to pursue a degree related to sustainability or environmental engineering. This path could offer opportunities in fields similar to this if this experience is as valuable as I hope it to be.

## \$10 Tickets for Red Sox vs. Yankees on August 23rd

Submitted by Wendy McArdle



Raffle tickets, that is. In honor of baseball season opening this week, Vermont Commons School is starting our raffle for two tickets to see the Boston Red Sox take on the New York Yankees, arguably the hottest rivalry in sports today. The game is on Sunday, August 23rd at 1:35pm at Fenway Park. The seats are amazing -- in the lower grandstand (Section 19) behind home plate. Raffle tickets are just \$10 each or 6 for \$50 and may be purchased from any VCS student or faculty member or printed online at [www.vermontcommons.org/raffle](http://www.vermontcommons.org/raffle) and mailed to VCS with a

check.

Special thanks to Chad Edwards-Kuhn and his family for donating these coveted tickets again this year. Last year's raffle netted \$2,510 for VCS, and our very own Hans Manske was the lucky winner. This year, we're offering a special incentive to boost sales: anyone selling five raffle tickets will get a sixth ticket for FREE! If every VCS family and faculty member sells five tickets, we'll make about \$6,000! Prizes will be awarded to the student and faculty member selling the most tickets. The drawing is Friday, June 12. Questions? Contact Wendy at [wmcardle@vermontcommons.org](mailto:wmcardle@vermontcommons.org) or visit [www.vermontcommons.org/raffle](http://www.vermontcommons.org/raffle).

## PICTURE DAY

Submitted by Sarah McGarghan



Picture day has started! srmphotography has already photographed team pictures, the all-school picture, and the senior class. Next Tuesday April 14, we will tackle everyone else! If you are interested in purchasing a package, please send in the completed form along with payment with your student. If seniors wanted to purchase a package, but did not, please contact Sarah at [sarah@srmphotography.com](mailto:sarah@srmphotography.com). ALSO, if you are interested in having a sibling photographed on

Tuesday, we would be happy to do that. Please contact Sarah to set up a time.

## Coats and Cookies Part II

Submitted by Claudia Barber

Did you miss Coats & Cookies? Or do you love what you got?



Good news! Claudia Barber is having another trunk show event benefiting the many wonderful initiatives of the Vermont Commons School. The event will be Tuesday April, 14th from 3:30pm-5:45pm, prior to the evening of readings.

For more information and to view the fabulous spring lines please visit: <http://sites.google.com/site/springbenefit/>

