



Turtle Tracks

May 29, 2009

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE 1

Final Exams:
Social Studies
World Language

JUNE 2

Final Exams:
Language Arts
Science

JUNE 3

Math Final Exam

Half Day pick-up
11:30

JUNE 4

Multi-Media
Extravaganza, 8:30,
VCS

Half Day pick-up
11:30

JUNE 5

Yearbook Signing &
Bagels, 8:30 am

Graduation, 10:30am

Community Picnic,
12:00 pm

Early dismissal, 1:00

VCS Ultimate Team Wins State Championship

Submitted by an Ultimate Team Supporter



Notice something new hanging on the Commons Room wall? Last weekend, the VCS co-ed Ultimate team beat CVU 15-8 to win the Ultimate Players Association High School State Championship! We now have an impressive new banner (HUGE thanks to Tina Mueller!) and a State Championship trophy on display. VCS Ultimate team members who played in the championship game included Patrick Magowan, Grey Switzer, Christian Buck, Ross King, Phineas Schlossberg, Jim Trask, Celina Hickson, Will Homer, Keenan Villani-Holland, Travis Connolly, Ruby

Russell, Carly Lagasse, Joe Congdon, Jack Homer, Tim Sears, Andrew Jaffe, Catie Mueller, Will Hayden, Ian Hollyer, Ben Barker, Baxter Barber, and Aiden Villani-Holland. A photo of this year's team will be on display soon!

Ultimate is a little-known sport played at hundreds of high schools and thousands of colleges throughout the US, as well as in post-college clubs around the world. It was invented in 1968 at Columbia High School in Maplewood, NJ as part of a counterculture movement by individuals who wanted to play a highly athletic, competitive sport that was different from traditional sports in the level of respect and camaraderie amongst players. There are many rules to the game, but all rules will always fit within what is known as the "Spirit of the Game". Some of the principles encompassed by the "Spirit of the Game" are to never intentionally cheat, to be respectful of all opponents, and to negotiate disagreements in a fair way.

Earlier this season, the VCS Ultimate team traveled to games as far away as New Lebanon, NY, Andover, MA, Greenfield, MA, and St. Johnsbury, VT, in addition to playing many local games. Our VCS team also hosted 25 middle-school students from Shelburne Community School to work with the younger students on improving their Ultimate Frisbee skills. VCS players were excited to begin training a new group of young students who might someday increase the number of local teams playing at a higher level of competition. Congratulations, VCS Ultimate Champions!

E-Week Peak-Bagging Expedition Update

Submitted by Jason Cushner



From Left Front: Seth Evans-Diffenderfer, Mitch Leffler, Joey Wiles, Joey Carrara, Tyler Murphy, Adam Coll, Chad Edwards-Kuhn, and Ross King.

Congratulations to our VCS Peak-Bagging Encounter Week Group! Eight students hiked up six peaks in six states in four days. We didn't quite make our goal of hiking all of the high points in New England- we missed a trail junction and submitted a peak in New York instead of the Connecticut high point, but it was still an impressive mountain to add to our list! Our New England conquests included Mt. Mansfield (VT), Mt. Greylock (MA), Jerimoth Hill (RI), Mt. Washington (NH), and Mt. Katahdin (ME). We hiked over 15,000 feet of elevation gain in about 25 miles. We also had many long

**Acting Head of School:
Hans Manske**

FACULTY & STAFF

Sarah Bertucci

Chance Cardamone-
Knewstubb

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

van rides. We woke up every morning around 5 am and normally returned to camp around 9 pm. The students worked hard, saw great views, and got along extremely well in close confines and challenging conditions. Great job, all!

VCS Appoints New Head of School

Submitted by Mary Hamilton Homer



Speaking for the entire Board of Trustees, I am very excited to announce that Peter Gilmore has accepted the position of Head of School at Vermont Commons. Peter comes with 25 years of independent school experience, the last 7 years as the Upper School Principal at the Friends School in Baltimore, MD. Peter's experience and expertise in school management and leadership, as well as in the nuts and bolts of growing a school, marketing/ development and capital campaigns, will serve VCS well in maintaining and accelerating our growth and stability. We are incredibly excited to have someone with his depth of understanding of the independent school world who is so clearly committed to our mission as well.

Our second announcement holds equal excitement. Hans Manske has accepted the new position of Assistant Head Master. As most of you know, Hans has performed beautifully as Acting Head of School, creating a climate of both calm and momentum as we went into this national search. We are confident that with Hans' deep understanding of, and long time experience with, VCS and Peter's wealth of independent school experience, this new administration will work well together to usher VCS into the next chapter in its very exciting future.



We thank everyone who was involved in this process, especially the Advisory Committee which, as you will recall, was made up of all our most important stakeholders: students, parents, faculty and alumni. These community members took this project on with a seriousness and gravity of purpose that was a true testimony to the remarkable people this school attracts. We were very pleased, when compiling both the Search Committee's and the Advisory Committee's results from candidate interviews, to find very consistent feedback and alignment regarding all the candidates.

We would also like to thank everyone who gave so much support to Hans, the Board and the staff and faculty during this transition.

Give `em shell!!

The Smell of Compost in the Air...

Submitted by Adriana Comtois



Thanks to the efforts of the Greening VCS R&S group, VCS started composting again two weeks ago! We are even composting paper towels and pizza boxes. Please remember to actually place your compostable items in the compost bin and not just throw them in the garbage. If we remember to compost, we will be taking 15 lbs. of compostable items out of the landfill per day (based on our calculations during TOLD day).



Vermont Commons School

75 Green Mountain Dr.
So. Burlington, VT
05403

Phone: 802-865-8084

Fax: 802-865-2429

Email: info@vermontcommons.org

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

Encounter Week Photo Contest

Submitted by Wendy McArdle

Encounter Week is one of the defining features of a Vermont Commons education. To help capture the magic of our school, we'd like to make a few more posters using images from last week. So we're having another Encounter Week photo contest. Students may submit up to 3 photos each. The winning photos will be converted into colorful posters to adorn the walls and halls of VCS. The winning students will earn points each for their Green or Gray team.



GUIDELINES: Here's a shortlist of qualities I'm looking for

- Colorful
- Include students – faces if possible
- Capture the essence of the Encounter Week
- Show students doing/learning/trying something new
- Show students of different ages interacting with each other and with adults
- Illustrate key words associated with the VCS mission such as: service, community, scholars, stewards, respect, character, responsible, involved, caring, fun, ecological citizens, inspiring, proactive, global citizens, creative, motivated, curious, etc.

DEADLINE: June 5th

SUBMIT: To Wendy at swmcardle@gmavt.net

Please feel free to suggest a key word and write something that could be used as a quote in the poster. THANK YOU!

VCS Graduation to Air on RETN

Submitted by Allison Fayle



Watch the 2009 Vermont Commons School Graduation on RETN Channel 16 (North & South) -- Comcast cable television -- Tuesday, June 16 at 8 p.m.; Wednesday, June 17 at 11 a.m.; and Saturday, July 11 at 8 a.m. You can also view it online at www.retn.org or order a DVD copy for \$20 each. For more information, contact RETN at 802-654-7980, or info@retn.org.

Got Wrappers?

Submitted by Adriana Comtois

The Greening VCS R&S students are now collecting any Kashi product wrappers, candy wrappers (Starburst, Snickers, M&M's, etc) and energy bars in addition to the Nabisco cookie wrappers. If you think of yourself as an environmentally conscious person, please don't forget to drop your wrappers off in the blue bin by Adriana's office!



Some people have asked me:

- Why only Nabisco cookie wrappers? Because Nabisco sponsors the recycling program.
- Where can I get Terracycle bags and backpacks? Right now, Target is selling them. For more info go to www.target.com.



Thanks in advance for remembering to turn in your snack wrappers during finals week!

2008-2009 Yearbooks For Sale!

Submitted by **Mark Cline Lucey**



The 2008-2009 VCS Yearbook has gone to the printer and will be ready for the annual signing extravaganza on Graduation morning!

This hardcover book is packed with 130 pages of memories and laughs. It's your year in a form that you can keep forever and pull out sixty years from now to show your grandkids.

The yearbook: \$40.
The memories: priceless.

Please buy yours today. Cash or check to Mark.

Red Sox vs. Yankees Raffle

Submitted by **Wendy McArdle**



Just two more weeks to go before we draw the winning raffle ticket for 2 tickets to see the Red Sox take on the Yankees on 8/23. We've sold about 120 tickets so far. Amber Quinlan and Sarah Soule are leading ticket sellers with just over 20 each. The person who sells the most raffle tickets will get a free VCS flash bag!

Raffle tickets are selling for just \$10 each. Sell or buy 5 and you'll get one FREE. All the info you need is at www.vermontcommons.org/raffle. Please help with this final fundraiser of the year. Thanks!

Drivers Ed Summer 2009

Submitted by **John Viau**



Learn how to drive this summer!! The summer session of Driver's Ed, offered through ASM Driving School, will begin on Monday June 29th, 2009 and run until the end of July.

Students will be in class from 8:00am until 10:00am Monday through Friday until the required thirty hours are completed, on approximately Friday July 17th, 2009. They will also be required to complete six hours of driving and six hours of observation. Driving and observation time will be one day per week after class from 10:00am until about 12:00pm and will run from the first week of the summer session until the last week of the summer session.

Driver's ed registration forms are available in the main office. Questions? Contact John F. Viau, (802) 878-4839, johnviau@msn.com.