



# Turtle Tracks

June 12, 2009

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### JUNE 15

School Summer Hours Begin: Tue/Wed/Thur 9:00-2:00, closed Mon/Fri.

### JUNE 22

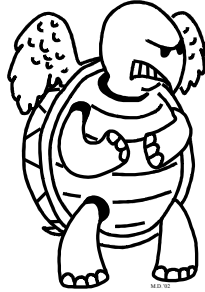
Check your mailbox for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter and Final grades!

### SEPT 1

First Day of School for Returning Students

## Field Day 2009

Submitted by Peter Goff



For those of you new to the phenomenon, Field Day is the culmination of the yearlong Green/Gray competition. As a bit of background, the Green/Gray competition goes back to mid-February of 2001. In the middle of a particularly long, cold, and bleak winter, we decided to shake things up a bit at school with a little fun. Stealing shamelessly from Harry Potter, we divided the school into two teams (using the school colors) and began a series of Morning Meeting games (designed primarily to amuse me, watching everyone else make utter idiots of themselves!) As originator of the games, it fell to me to keep score, and not coincidentally, Gray (my team) won the first three yearlong competitions. We let Green

win in 2004 (primarily to prevent some of our Green faculty from succumbing to utter despair). The Green/Gray competition follows a general pattern...

1. Green wins most of the competitions during the year and walks into Field Day with a lead.
  - \* Field Day is worth as many points as the entire year, plus points for team members arriving at on time in their team colors.
2. Gray has always been more punctual and fashionable than Green, and has never lost the Field Day competition itself.
  - \* On several occasions, the entire year's competition came down to a single tug-of-war, or one Ultimate match.
3. In general, Gray's domination at Field Day leads to an overall Gray win (and possession of the coveted silver *MilkJug O' Mojo*).

This year followed the general pattern, with Green getting and maintaining a substantial lead throughout the year. Green walked into Field Day with a 30 point lead (574 – 544) as usual, but broke with tradition immediately by outscoring Gray in the colors competition by 10 points. Each event is organized and refereed by one faculty member. This frequently puts faculty in a delicate situation, as it's tough to be a member of a team, while maintaining impartiality in the role of an umpire. There were some great examples of faculty doing their best to be fair. Chance (Gray) went completely horizontal (and submarine, briefly) to catch a line-drive shot in softball to get his own team out in a 7-8 Gray loss. Hans pitched kickball, and made a diving belly-flop to get a Green player out.

During the first round, 'Etter-ball' was introduced (a combination of hard-core flag football and improv theater...you had to see it to believe it). By the end of the round, the points were roughly split, so Green maintained its now 40-point lead. One of the most hotly contested events of the day was a now-legendary softball game, which featured a late-inning green comeback sparked by Genni Patane and Christian Buck. During the second round (when the rain really started to kick in), history was made when Green won the first-ever VCS Quidditch match. It seemed only appropriate to incorporate Quidditch, and we were able to adapt Middlebury College's rules (I decided against running with brooms, being deeply concerned about the slim possibility of a next generation of Flying Turtles if we allowed our students to charge each other with sticks between their legs...) Gray, lead by the indomitable chaser

**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

Joey "*Wonderfoot*" Wiles, took a lead in goals right off the bat. By then the entire field was saturated, and about 30% of the pitch was under standing water. Luckily, the day was warm, so both teams just gave in to the inevitable and spent the next hour doing full-frontal dives into the turf/pool. One of the two 'plays of the day' had to have been beater Mark "*Rocket Arm*" Rowland taking out CJ "*Badly Biffed*" Bowman. As chaser Bowman was streaking towards the Gray goals, Mark fired a bludger from at least 40 yards away which caught CJ in full stride on the back ankle. As the bludger snapped CJ's trailing leg around, it sent the sprinter spinning into a 4" deep puddle. After all the spinning, splashing, falling, grunting, groaning, and soaking was over, CJ lay on his back, the quaffle lying limply in his submerged palm...epic. In true Quidditch fashion, the Gray lead was wiped out when the Green seeker Christian "*into the...*" Frey captured the snitch (played heroically by Jess). In the third round, Joey was absolutely unstoppable, and Gray scored 13 unanswered goals...but once again the snitch proved Gray's downfall and Green won a close match 350-330. In other action, Gray drubbed Green in Volleyball...to the point where Conor had to call a mercy rule and not allow Gray to make contact with their hands (really, Volleyball, no hands...?) Gray ended up dominating the second round, and ate a large chunk out of Green's lead.

The third round featured a hotly contested Capture the Flag, which had to be decided with a footrace at the end. Green's relay team featured Ian "*the Falcon*" Hollyer, Ben "*after Burners*" Barker, and Christian "*not a Doe*" Buck against... does it matter, really? I'm pretty sure Hussein Bolt, the Flash, and Ironman couldn't have taken those three. To balance out those points, Gray had to win kickball..., which it did in resounding fashion. Memorable moments include the second play of the day; Adam "*super Collider*" Coll blasted a kick into shallow right field. As he rounded first and sprinted towards second, Tristan "*Armorplated*" Arthaud straddled the base and prepared to take the pass from Catie "*Bueller?*" Mueller. In a fit of inspiration and an application of hydroplaning I'm sure he learned in physics class, Adam dove (face-first) into the pond surrounding second base. In the midst of the resulting tidal wave, Tristan leapt up for the over-pass...allowing Adam to glide beneath him, regain his feet and make it to third. Leaving Tristan DRENCHED in mud and shame, DRIPPING water and humiliation in equal measures...epic. Just witnessing the destruction of a Gray teammate in such a convincing fashion lowered my testosterone to a level only found in prepubescent Naked Mole Rats. Luckily, I was behind Hannah "*Stormin*" Stanyon in the offensive line-up...and she was a veritable studmuffin, a toe of remarkable power. Just watching her brought my testosterone levels to a more acceptable level (not quite to "*Mighty*" Joe Congdon's concentration, but close...) Other than kickball, the third round was swept by Green, reestablishing their lead.

With Jordan and Connor working the grills, everyone took a breath, had a bite, and licked their wounds during lunch. As the skies cleared and the fourth round began, a new Quidditch game started. With returning veterans from the first round, chaser Callie "*McNasty*" McGarghan captained the Gray team vs. Green captain, beater Adam Coll. In a truly inspired choice, Green chose Mitch "*the Leech*" Leffler as its seeker (to chase down the new golden snitch, Glenn "*You Can't Touch This*" Etter). The Green lineup consisted of Josh "*daHater*" Decatur, Ian Hollyer, Jim "*TrashUface*" Trask, and Leynah "*McSnarly*" McGarghan. The Gray lineup consisted of...a whole lot of much smaller people. Memorable moments included a 6-person pile-up which threatened to drown Schuyler "*Snorkle, please?*" Cowan as it twisted her head around her spine three times (at least). After her head was reattached, she asked for some aspirin and jumped right back in...only to be tackled (with love, of course) by Joey "*Cannonball*" Carrara. Seeing Chris "*More height, please*" Moran around Jim's legs while Luke "*ever Ready*" Reed hung on his shoulders was worth the price of admission (even though Jim barely broke stride as he ally-ooped to a swooping Falcon for the score). I admit to some trepidation at one point, fairly sure I was about to be sued for seven different types of child endangerment as I saw *McNasty* and *McSnarly* engaged in a no-holds-barred double-attempted-murder scrum for a bludger. I was about to break it up (and not at all sure I could take on the McGarghan twins) when I heard someone cheering them on...I looked over my shoulder to see their MOTHER, our ever-present school photographer (thanks for that, Sarah!) urging them on to greater heights (depths?) of sibling mauling. Ah, it warmed the cockles of my heart (yeah, I said 'cockles', deal with it). The final score was 520 - 20, as *the Leech* Leffler was on the snitch like a dangling participle isn't on Cara (really just wanted to use dangling participle and Cara in the same sentence...)



## Vermont Commons School

75 Green Mountain Dr.  
So. Burlington, VT  
05403

Phone: 802-865-8084

Fax: 802-865-2429

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

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

Gray, really, owie...we've got some work to do this off-season. Other than Quidditch, Gray dominated the round...and everyone entered the final round of competition knowing that the MilkJug of Mojo was still up for grabs. I had been keeping the score secret from everyone, but I did announce that it was still a competition. I knew that Gray needed to win all but one of the events in the final round. Gray ended up winning three of the five events, and Green ended up winning the yearlong competition 1,175 to 1,135. One note of consolation, the 40-point win means that Green exactly tied Gray during the events themselves, so Gray still hasn't technically lost field day!!

## We Have a Winner!

### Submitted by Wendy McArdle

Drum roll, please...the winners of the 2009 Red Sox/Yankees tickets raffle are Rob and Holly Buck! Also, Amber Quinlan is the winner of the VCS Flashbag prize for most tickets sold. She sold over 25 tickets. Thank you to everyone who supported VCS by purchasing or selling tickets. We raised over \$1,300!!



## VCS Photo Website

### Submitted by Sarah McGarghan

Images that I have taken throughout the year have been posted on a password protected website. Please go to [www.collages.net](http://www.collages.net). To log in, use the following information:

Username: VCS '09

Password: 9007

The images will be posted for 60 days for your viewing pleasure. If you are interested in purchasing any, you may do so directly through the website. Please make note that after 6/20 I will be gone for 5 weeks. I will happily process your order after my return around the first of August. I hope you enjoy viewing these images as much as I did taking them. We should all be very proud of our kids and the phenomenal young adults they are growing into!

## Admissions Office Summer Hours

### Submitted by Sarah Soule



The Admissions and College Counseling Office will be open this summer on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 9-1. If you know of prospective families who are considering VCS for the 2009-10 academic year and they would like to know more about our school, please have them call Sarah Soule, at 865-8084, ext. 27. The same goes for our 'rising juniors and seniors' as they contemplate college and life after VCS. Please feel free to meet with Sarah during the summer

to review college-counseling plans and discuss college visits! Sarah's e-mail: [ssoule@vermontcommons.org](mailto:ssoule@vermontcommons.org).

## 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](http://www.retn.org) or order a DVD copy for \$20 each.

To complete an order on the web with a credit card, the user will need to register on the RETN homepage first. This is a very quick and easy process and once it's done, the user can go to the "Order a Graduation" page.

If anyone prefers not to order online with a credit card, they are welcome to mail in

a check. Checks should be made out to "RETN" for \$20. Mailing address is P.O. Box 2386/ South Burlington, VT/ 05407.

For more information, contact RETN at 802-654-7980, or [info@retn.org](mailto:info@retn.org).

## **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](mailto:johnviau@msn.com).