



# Turtle Tracks



A weekly email newsletter for the Vermont Commons School community

July 28, 2009

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**AUG 5**  
Admissions Open House at VCS, 10am - 12noon

**AUG 18**  
Reception for Peter Gilmore at ECHO, 6 - 8pm

**AUG 27**  
Orientation for new families, 6 - 8pm

**AUG 28**  
Deadline for business listings in Names & Faces

**AUG 31**  
Orientation Day for new students, 8:30am - 3:30pm

**SEPT 1**  
First Day of School for all students

**SEPT 4**  
All School Picnic at VCS, 12noon

**SEPT 7**  
NO SCHOOL  
Labor Day

**SEPT 10**  
Parents Night for all parents, 6:30 - 9pm

**SEPT 17**  
College Fair & Pizza Night for juniors & seniors

**SEPT 21-25**  
Fall Encounter Week

## Congratulations to the Entire VCS Community! The Annual Fund Campaign met its goal of \$295,000!

This is an incredible accomplishment in what has been, to say the least, a trying year economically. The administration and the Annual Fund/Development Committee thank you from the very bottoms of our hearts.

### *Your participation has helped...*

- close the tuition gap (the gap between tuition and the actual costs of a VCS education)
- provided evidence of the kind of community support that is pivotal when VCS applies for grants
- assured the continued excellence of a VCS education for your children.

### *Thank you to each of you who...*

- ... gave of your very hard earned dollars to whatever degree you were able
- ... asked the good questions and promoted the dialogue about why we have an Annual Fund
- ... spread the word that the Annual Fund is an integral part of the economic health of VCS
- ... made the calls during our phonathon
- ... took time out of your busy lives to meet with us and learn more about our school
- ... cheered us on to higher heights and success
- ... stepped up as Lead Donors and gave so generously to help secure a huge portion of the Fund
- ... organized and carried off an amazing and extremely fun Lead Donor gathering at Penny Cluse

### BY THE NUMBERS

**\$295,000**

Most money raised in one year at VCS in our 12 year history!

**130**

Greatest number of donors contributing to our Annual Fund in one year!

**18**

Greatest number of Lead Donors (individuals donating \$5,000 or more)

**100%**

participation of faculty and staff

**100%**

participation of the Board of Trustees

**64%**

participation of VCS families (up from 45% last year -- WOW!!!)

Once again, we are overwhelmed with the community that is VCS and its support of our school and our mission.

### *Thank you!*

Mary Hamilton Homer  
Annual Fund Chair

Jordan Romm  
Development Director

## Admissions Open House on August 5th

submitted by Wendy McArdle

Vermont Commons is hosting an admissions Open House on Wednesday, August 5th starting at 10am. The Open House is geared for students in grades 7-10 and their parents. The morning will include introductions from select faculty and students, a tour of the school, participation in a hands-on activity, and a chance to meet our new Head of School, Peter Gilmore.

Vermont Commons currently has limited space available for students in grades 7-10.

Please help spread the word to friends and neighbors who have students you think might be a good fit for our school. Invite families yourself or call Sarah Soule (865-8084 ext 27) to have an invitation mailed to the family. Remember, you are our best ambassadors! Thanks in advance for helping us spread the word.



## Welcoming Reception at ECHO for our New Head of School, Peter Gilmore

submitted by Wendy McArdle

Vermont Commons School is hosting a welcoming reception for Peter Gilmore at ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center on Tuesday, August 18th at 6pm. The guest list includes all VCS parents (including parents of current students and alums) as well as many friends of the school. Peter is eager to meet the VCS community and share his vision for our school. Please join us on the deck at ECHO to meet and greet Peter and his wife, Cynthia, and welcome them to Vermont.

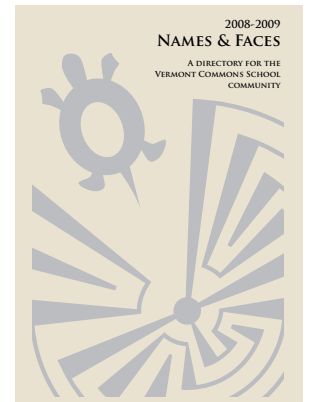
NOTE: Invitations were mailed last week. Please RSVP by 8/13 by contacting Allison Fayle at [allison@vermontcommons.org](mailto:allison@vermontcommons.org). Casual dress -- cash bar -- adults only, please.

## Names & Faces to Include VCS Businesses

submitted by Wendy McArdle

Our handy little Names & Faces directory is adding a new section this year! In addition to listing students, faculty and staff, we thought it would be nice to include a listing of businesses owned and operated by the immediate families of Vermont Commons students and alumni. We hope this new feature will make it easier for our community to support each other by patronizing VCS family businesses. Keeping it local is so important, especially in these tough economic times!

There is no charge to have your business listed in Names & Faces. Simply complete the online form by August 28th. Online form at [www.vermontcommons.org/vcsbusinesses](http://www.vermontcommons.org/vcsbusinesses)



## 2009-10 VCS "At-A-Glance" Calendar Now Online

submitted by Wendy McArdle

If you're curious to see an overview of the 2009-10 school year, just go to the Calendar section of the VCS website and click on "At-A-Glance" calendar. This one-page, printer-friendly pdf document is easiest to use when viewed and/or printed in color. Some dates may change, but this is a good snapshot of what you can look forward to in the months ahead.