

Head of School:

Peter Gilmore

FACULTY & STAFF

Greg Askew

Chance Cardamone-Knewstub

Mark Cline Lucey

Jennifer Cohen

Adriana Comtois

Conor Driscoll

Peter Goff

Kathy Hockman

Zhenyan Li

Hans Manske

Ben Patrick

Jessica Redmond

Jordan Romm

Cara Simone

Jasmine Walker

Ben Wang

Assistant Head of School: Hans Manske

Dean of Faculty: Cara Simone

Director of Academic Enrichment Center: JoAnna Easton

Director of Admissions & College Counseling: Sarah Soule

Director of Development: Jordan Romm

Business Office: Emily Tupper

Registrar: Allison Fayle

Marketing: Wendy McArdle

Turtle Tracks Editors: Hannah Stanyon and Allison Fayle

Encounter Week News

Submitted by Chance Cardamone-Knewstub

It's time to take a look at our offerings for the May Encounter Week. For those of you going rafting in Maine, or going to New York City, you already know what you're doing. For the rest of you, please peruse the following descriptions.



IMPORTANT DATES:

Tuesday, May 11: Trip selections at morning mtg. If you are absent that day, please make sure to get your trip preferences to me.

Friday, May 14: Groups will be posted.

Tuesday, May 18: Meet in groups to prep for the coming week.

Monday, May 24: Encounter Week begins!

Chicas Week • Champlain Valley Adventuring • Wilderness Survival • Day Hikes in VT • Outdoor Leadership/WFA • NYC Encounter • Rafting

CHICAS WEEK

Teacher: Jessica Redmond

Student Leader: Sophie Daigle (Senior)

This is an overnight encounter week.

To all VCS Chicas,

This encounter week could quite possibly be the best encounter week you will ever go on during your time at Vermont Commons. You may hear great stories about Acadia, Cape Cod, canoeing, or the trips abroad, but on the Chicas encounter week I guarantee you will have an experience you will never forget. Sorry, boys, but this encounter week is for girls only.

When is the last time you had an extended period of time to just hang out with a group of girls, alone, and take advantage of the great presence we have to offer each other? On the Chicas encounter week you will have time to simply be a girl; instead of all the pressures you may feel on a day-to-day basis, you will enter a judgment-free zone. This will be a time to explore your abilities physically and mentally and step into leadership positions.

This group of girls will have time to bond with one another as well as have a safe place to gently discuss girl issues; for example, the pressures we feel to be something we are not. Although these topics may seem heavy, we will be addressing them in a comfortable way through both personal writing exercises and





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>

group activities. We will also be exploring our own physical strength through daily bike rides and hikes. To add on to this great trip we will also make time to go swimming and play games, whether that be cards, Capture the Flag, Clue, or another game you would like to play.

This is going to be a great encounter week, a new and unusual encounter week, allowing the girls of Vermont Commons to explore our personal ability to be leaders, sound our voices, and show the strength we have as women. Come join us!

P.S We will be doing some biking on the Encounter Week, so you must have access to a working bike (and a helmet obviously). We hope to get off-road, so a Mountain Bike would be most appropriate.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY ADVENTURING

Leader: Chance Cardamone-Knewstub

This is a day-trip encounter week.



This Encounter Week will include a mixture of cycling and hiking day trips. The objective is to expose students to some of the exceptional opportunities for outdoor adventures right in our own backyard. To add to the fun, most days will be structured something like an adventure race, with teams, clues, maps, etc. This will be designed to be appropriate for the skill levels we have in our group.

Students signing up for this offering need to have access to a working bicycle. Both

mountain bikes and road bikes will be fine. They also will need to be prepared to be outside all day, everyday.

WILDERNESS SURVIVAL

Leader: Mark Cline Lucey

Co-Leader: Carly Lagasse

This is an overnight encounter week.

What will **you** do when the Zombie Apocalypse comes? How will you survive when it's just you versus nature? Will you keep your wits and persevere? The answer may very well lie in whether or not you join me for Wilderness Survival Encounter Week. These five days just may save your life. (And if you ever end up on Survivor, they could win you \$1 million!). Over the course of the week, you will learn survival skills from highly respected experts in the field, Carly Lagasse and . . . me. Oh yes,

you will learn to build a shelter, to find food (including foraging and trapping) and water, to start a fire without matches, to use a compass, to tie knots, and some basic wilderness first aid. Most of all, you will learn to keep a level head, the most important skill for any survivalist! On the last night you will test your skills as you embark on a solo. That's right, I said solo. I am optimistic that at least half of you will return from this experience alive.



DAY HIKES IN VERMONT

Leader: Conor Driscoll

This is a day-trip encounter week.



This encounter week will be led by Conor Driscoll and will consist of day trips from VCS to different hikes throughout the Green Mountains of Vermont. Although not an overnight, we will still be rising early and hiking our tails off all week long. In fact, because we will not be hindered by sizable packs, we will be attempting four of Vermont's five peaks over 4,000 feet. (Abe, Ellen, Camel's Hump, and Mansfield) Two of these peaks have plane wrecks hidden on their slopes and

we will explore them. In addition, we will be making stops at some of Vermont's finest swimming holes and ice cream stands on our way back to the school. To go on this trip you should be in reasonably good physical shape, should like to hike, and should be psyched for an awesome adventure!

OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP COURSE AND WILDERNESS FIRST AID

Leader: Hans Manske

This is an overnight encounter week.

This course is designed to prepare students for working in wilderness leadership positions, and will allow students to co-lead future VCS wilderness Encounter Weeks. Over the course of the week, this group will spend a great portion of their time developing their own leadership styles through discussion and hands-on activities in the field. In addition, they will further their backcountry medical skills and become certified in Wilderness First Aid. We will begin on the morning of Sunday May 23 with a four-day backpacking trip in New Hampshire's White Mountains, where we will conduct the leadership-training portion of the trip.

The group will return from the backcountry Wednesday afternoon and spend full days Thursday and Friday at Vermont Commons learning techniques in backcountry medical care from a Wilderness First Aid (WFA) instructor from SOLO, the national leader in wilderness medicine. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be certified in Wilderness First Aid. This encounter week will be open to all students ages 14 and up and will have an additional cost of roughly \$100 for the WFA course.



NEW YORK CITY ENCOUNTER

Leader: Ben Patrick

Student Leader: Will Homer

This is an overnight trip (closed to new participants).



This is an art intensive encounter week with a focus on the fine arts. We will be visiting the Met, the Guggenheim, the MoMA, PS1, the Frick and the Chelsea galleries. At all these museums we will be studying art history, sketching (a lot) and having long discussions about how NYC became (and still is) the art capital of the world. We will also be visiting Coney Island for a hot dog, a ride on the cyclone and some poetic readings of Lawrence Ferlinghetti. We also hope to catch a few movies at the film forum: Metropolis and

Anton Chekov's *The Duel*, and we hope to catch a planetarium show at the Natural History Museum. For meals we will broaden our palettes with the international street food of NYC as we walk every number and lettered street that the city has to offer.

With love for New York, and always in a Coney Island state of mind,

Ben Patrick and Will Homer

NEW ENGLAND RAFTING

Leader: Peter Goff

Co-Leader: Peter Gilmore

This is an overnight trip (closed to new participants).

The Peters Goff and Gilmore will be leading a hearty group of fearless VCS adventurers into the wilds of Maine to brave the waters of the Kennebec and Penobscot rivers during the New England Rafting encounter week. The group will leave Monday morning and return to VCS (soggy and exhausted) on Friday. Wish our rafters good luck before they leave; they will be tackling Class 4 and 5 rapids on this trip!



VCS Prom

Submitted by Hans Manske



Prom is set for June 4th on the Spirit of Ethan Allen III. That's right, prom is on a boat! The cruise will embark promptly at 6:30 from the Burlington Waterfront dock right behind the ECHO Center and boarding will begin at 6. We will return to the dock at 9:00. Tickets will be \$25 and will include unlimited soda and water as well as a funky array of dance music from our very

own DJ D-Cutz. Tickets will be available from Hans beginning Monday 5/10. Friends are welcome.

Senior Send-Offs

Submitted by Hannah Stanyon

The Friday before spring vacation the air was charged with excitement. We were excited about the cake to be served at lunch, but that was only part of it. The main reason was why we had the cake: it was the seniors' last day. And they made it a great one. From their cool math storybooks that they presented to the juniors, to the senior sendoffs that their advisors wrote about them for to reading at common hour, you could see the seniors smiling throughout the whole day.



Common hour started off with the seniors bursting through the double doors of the common room to the cheers of the student body and faculty. After the applause died down, their advisors started reading their sendoffs. We laughed at Peter Ballard because "he thinks school starts at 10:45," and Andrew Jaffe's "Miley Cyrus dance." We paid tribute to Patrick Magowan, Ross King, Catie Mueller, Joe Congdon, and Grey Switzer for everything they contributed to the sports program. We complimented Kathryn Van Cooper, Joey Wiles, Carl Bowman, Elena Mudd and Allie Reed on their creative prowess. We oohed and ahed at Sophie Daigle's many talents, and remembered Eric Fournier as the Pope of Mountain Dew, as well as Tamara Melkumov's great acting skills.

The seniors' diverse talents, dreams and skills made common hour a blast, especially when those talents, in the form of the senior sendoffs, were rapped or sung! Good luck seniors!