

November 29, 2011

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 30	December 1	December 11	December 13	December 15
Noon Dismissal	Sibling Shadow Day	Barnes and Noble Fundraiser	An Evening of One Act Plays 6-8 PM	Holiday Concert 6-8 PM

## Annual Fund Donations –by Shona Mossey, *Annual Fund Chair*



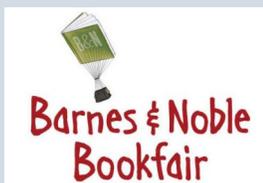
The VCS Annual Fund is in full swing! I hope our entire community will consider a gift to our Annual Fund as part of their year end giving. So far, we have heard from more former parents, alumni, staff, friends and Board members than current parents! I hope that all VCS parents will remember that our Annual Fund supports school needs that are not met by tuition, such as E-Weeks, our World Languages Program, and student financial aid. Gifts to the Annual Fund are tax deductible, and greatly appreciated! Donations may be made on our website, or sent to Sarah Judd in the Development Office. Thank you!

## Math Club Competes! 12/3 –by Lex Jackson



Come support the VCS Math Club at the 2011 UVM Design TASC competition. Participants are expected to show up at 8 AM and spectators at 9 AM. Meet us in the UVM Patrick Gymnasium, this Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, as we split into three teams to *launch* our solutions to an engineering dilemma. In this year's scenario, an earthquake or other natural disaster has destroyed homes, hospitals, bridges, airports, roads, harbors, and the rail system, isolating an area and leaving residents without access to shelter, hospitals, stores, or pharmacies. The challenge is to create a device that can deliver "Emergency Relief Supplies" via a catapult to provide critical supplies to people isolated by the natural disaster. Watch as teams from all across Vermont (and New Hampshire) show off their engineering skills, and cheer our Turtles on as we try to match our 2010 success of 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall!

## Barnes & Noble Fundraiser 12/11



Please join us on December 11th for our very own Barnes and Noble Bookfair. Throughout the day we will have a choral concert, open mic, poetry readings and children's story telling. VCS will have a welcome table hosted by parents to talk with anyone interested in the school. If you make a purchase, in any Barnes and Noble store, on Dec. 11th and present our school code we will receive between 10-20% of the sale. If you cannot make it to a store on the 11th, you may make purchases online from Dec. 11-16th by visiting [bn.com/bookfairs](http://bn.com/bookfairs) and entering our school code. The proceeds of this event will benefit our winter Trips Program. **Our school code is 10569150.** Thank you for the support!

## 2012-2013 Presidential Candidate Essays

### Gabe Mantegna



In my time at Vermont Commons, I have participated in everything from the Student Senate to the IT Committee, and have thus been involved in many crucial decisions made by the school. Given I am the only candidate who has participated in Student Senate and the only candidate who has been here since seventh grade, I know the most about what being a president will be like. I have also excelled academically, and been an exemplary leader--both on Encounter Weeks and in the classroom. Thus, running for Student Body President is a logical next step for me. I will be a diligent, hard-working president, and I will listen to the demands of the student body. Some of the things I will implement as president are "town-meeting" common hours (where students get to voice their opinion about the school), a system that makes sure Common Hour is spent as productively as possible, and a PE program that meets everyone's needs.

Willie Strausser will be a tough act to follow. He has been instrumental in giving the student body a voice, both to the faculty and the Board of Trustees. I believe I will be able to fully meet, if not exceed, these great expectations created by Willie. Vermont Commons is a great place, and I want to keep making it even better.

### Ivan Voinov



I am different from the other candidates. The main characteristic of mine is that I am creative, in every way, shape, or form. You need to get something across to the teachers? I won't just relay the message, and hope that they will remember about what I said. I'll be creative about it, I'll make a speech, or a picture, or a poem, or whatever is needed to get the attention. I can guarantee that your voice will be heard, and not just heard, but noticed.

Also, coming from my political background, I see everyone as equals. This means that it doesn't matter who you are, I will listen to what you have to say, and I will take that in mind. We all are individuals, and we all have something to say, and to me, every word counts, no matter if you are a seventh grader, or a senior.

I'm good at organizing, coming up with ideas, and getting out of situations in a pleasant, creative manner. I will represent you best. Why? Because I care.

### Maddy Roberts



I think I would be a good leader because I am approachable, open minded, and determined. The definition of approachable is "friendly and easy to talk to." I like to think I'm both of these because recently my class has struggled with being polite to each other, a struggle we've had for an extraordinarily long time, and I took an idea from a camp I worked at and made our whole class good books. (Good Books are basically books personalized for each person that you write compliments in) and I like to think that this action sums me up because what I did here was took an idea that I saw working elsewhere and applied it to my problem. I also think that I am determined and compassionate because as I said before I worked at a camp this summer, but this was not an ordinary camp, it was a camp for kids with special needs, and I think working one-on-one with a kid with special needs for a week taught me how to be open minded and determined. These kids taught me that there are many different ways to solve a problem, and when one way doesn't work, well, there are 6 different ways that might work better. I think the things I learned this summer will make me an amazing leader.

## History Lesson at Shelburne Museum –by Heather Moore



“Wait! This house was built 200 years ago?!” a seventh grade student asked as we climbed the steps to the front door of Dutton House at [Shelburne Museum](#) about a month ago. Inside the dark and somewhat musty house, students contemplated what it might have been like to bake bread every morning, and to keep a fire going on cold winter nights. History is much more fun when you can reach out and touch it. Ask any seventh grader, they will almost certainly agree!

This year, the seventh grade class takes a field trip once a week. Some of our destinations have included Shelburne Museum where students saw the progression from log cabin to clapboard house, and Shelburne Farms where they took in the grandeur of the Gilded Age. This past Tuesday, students gathered around a table at the Shelburne Farms Archive and admired a Tiffany & co. watch which had been recently donated by the great-grandson of Dr. Webb. Julie Edwards, the curator, passed around a photograph of Dr. Webb with the pocket watch and spoke of how the Webbs had their own post office as well silver cutlery sets for each of their yachts. It’s one thing to tell students about the wealth of the Gilded Age, but it’s another entirely for them to see it in grand architecture and solid gold pocket watches.

## Thank You Mobil and the South Burlington Short Stop!

Vermont Commons School extends a large thank you to both Mobil and the Short Stop for awarding our school with a \$500 educational grant to assist in the promotion of Math and Science!



VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL - 75 GREEN MOUNTAIN DRIVE, SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT 05403  
P: 802-865-8084 F: 802-865-2429 EMAIL: INFO@VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG

WWW.VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG