

January 10, 2012

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 11	January 12	January 12-13	January 16	January 17-20
Second Quarter Ends	PACS Coffee Hour 7:30-9 AM	Exam Review Days	MLK Day of Service No School	Midyear Exams

Upcoming Exam Schedule January 17-20



Monday 1/16—No School, MLK Day
Tuesday 1/17—Science Exam 9-11 AM, World Language 12-2 PM
Wednesday 1/18—Math Exam 9-11 AM, Social Studies 12-2 PM
Thursday 1/19—Language Arts Exam 9-11 AM, Noon Dismissal
Friday 1/20—Make up Exam 9-11 AM, No School Otherwise

PACs Coffee Hour January 12 7:45-9 AM



The next PACS sponsored Coffee Hour will be held on Thursday, January 12th from 7:45-9 AM. Please join us for some light refreshments and a great opportunity to mingle with other parents, faculty and staff!

VCS Hosts Out of the Blue –by Sarah Soule



Vermont Commons was very fortunate to host Out of the Blue, an a cappella singing group from Yale University on Wednesday, January 4th during Common Hour. They chose VCS as part of their winter tour and we were most fortunate to have them perform at our school. The variety of pop rock and range of talent provided wonderful entertainment for our community. Afterwards, I received multiple requests from our students and parents as to how to get further information about their music. Their website is <http://yaleootb.com/> and they have a page on Facebook. They said they would welcome inquiries from our students who wish to hear from them and would be happy to talk further about the college admission process as they've all been through it themselves. We hope to have a return engagement next year!



MLK Day Offerings –by Jennifer Cohen



This year Martin Luther King Jr. Day falls on Monday, January 16th. No students are required to come to school on this day; however, we are providing several volunteer activities for faculty, students, and family members to participate in, in order to commemorate the life of Martin Luther King Jr. If you would like to join one of the volunteer opportunities described below, please respond to Jennifer Cohen at jcohen@vermontcommons.org, specifying which activity you would like to join, and we will add you to the group. Then, on Monday, January 16th, you can meet your group at the designated time and place, and become part of our school's celebration of a day dedicated to community service.



1. **Good News Garage** - Help by washing cars and painting the office of this nonprofit that donates cars to those in need. Meet at school at 11:30 and take a van to the site. This activity will last 2 1/2 hours, and Mark Cline Lucey will be your leader.



2. **Lund Family Center** - Help this local center by creating items for babies - tactile boards, mobiles, and blankets. Meet Jennifer at school at 1:00 and stay long enough to make your creation.



3. **Ronald McDonald House** - Help this charitable organization that provides temporary food and lodging to families of pediatric patients, by cooking in our VCS kitchen, and bringing the food to the Ronald McDonald House. If you would like to be a leader of this group, let us know and you can help choose what we will be cooking. Meet at the VCS kitchen at 1:00.

4. **The Arbors** - Help this local senior living facility by participating in art projects and singing performances. Ben Patrick and Sarah Soule will be your leaders. Meet at The Arbors - 687 Harbor Rd, Shelburne, at 9:30 and stay until 11:30.

College Corner –by Sarah Soule



It's an exciting time for the Class of 2013! Our juniors, and their parents, are reminded to mark their calendars for Tuesday, February 7th at 4 p.m. when they will be officially introduced to Naviance, our online college counseling partner. We utilize Naviance for all aspects of the college admission process at Vermont Commons School as it provides a wealth of information including statistical data on acceptances, denials, wait lists and applications received. There is a search engine of 3500+ colleges as well as information on majors and links to helpful sites relating to higher education.

We are fully committed to helping each of our students as you begin to consider life after VCS and are looking forward to working with you and your family as you prepare to apply to college. It is important that each student thoroughly engage in the process right from the start in order for it to be a success. Liz Breslend and I look forward to seeing you on February 7th at 4 p.m.!

Calculus Activities –by Jasmine Walker



For the past four months, the calculus class has been discovering theoretical ideas and proving derivative rules. Last week, we finally started to put all of our theoretical exercises to work in some real-life problems: related rates. How fast is the radius of a balloon changing at a certain instant if we know how much air we are blowing into it? How fast do we need to run water into a bathtub with a leak to keep the water level constant? This week, we are investigating optimization. What should the dimensions of a 1 Liter water bottle be to minimize the material used? How should a farmer set up his fences to maximize the area of his pen? Blowing up balloons, cutting paper into boxes...it's all calculus!

This Week in Photos



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