

January 31, 2012

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2	February 4	February 7	February 8	February 9
Parent Open Forum 6-8 PM	Penguin Plunge	Junior College Counseling "Kick Off" 4-5 PM	Parent Conferences 12-3 PM Noon Dismissal	8th Grade Step-Up Night 6-7:30 PM

Parent Forum Night—Thursday 2/2



Please join us on the evening of Thursday, February 2nd from 6-8 p.m. for the Parent Forum held at Vermont Commons School. Discuss topics ranging from the Strategic Plan to our current financial condition and everything in-between!

Vermont Commons School Open House—Saturday 2/11



Please invite your friends who might be interested in learning more about our school, to attend our [Admissions Open House](#) Saturday, February 11 at 10am.

Attendees will learn about our community by touring the school, hearing about our programs, and meeting current students and faculty. This is an excellent opportunity for families to meet students, teachers, and the Head of School, Peter Gilmore. To register please contact Sarah Soule, Director of Admissions, at [802-865-8084 ext. 27](tel:802-865-8084) or ssoule@vermontcommons.org.

Academic Enrichment Center Services



The Academic Enrichment Center offers a variety of services based on individual need, either to shore up foundational skills or to expand on students' interests. A tutor with professional expertise works one-on-one with students during study halls. With an understanding of an individual's learning style, the tutor helps the student develop the skills they need to work at their highest level. These services are meant to help students understand their learning profiles, to create with them the steps needed to achieve success, and to assist them in implementing those steps.

Please [click here](#) to register your child for the third quarter. Fill out the paperwork and send it to Jennifer Cohen (jcohen@vermontcommons.org).



February Hot Lunches are now available for order on ParentsWeb! Please log on to see this month's menu and to create your lunch order. Afterwards, please send in or drop off a check in the amount due (\$5 per lunch). Thank you for supporting the Trip's Program!

Key Dates in College Counseling –by Sarah Soule



The Class of 2013 is reminded that Tuesday, February 7th at 4:00 p.m. is their official "Introduction to Naviance" session. This is a requirement for all juniors and parents are strongly encouraged to attend. We will meet in the computer lab.



All juniors, sophomores and their parents are strongly encouraged to register for College Pathways, starting Wednesday, February 1st. College Pathways will be held on the campus of St. Michael's College on Saturday, March 17th and will offer workshops on the college search, essay writing, scholarships and financial aid, application review, and the overall college counseling process. It's an excellent opportunity for our students and parents. Our students who have attended in previous years have remarked that it was beneficial, eye opening and insightful. Last year the program filled to capacity so I encourage you to register right away! <http://services.vsac.org/wps/wcm/connect/vsac/VSAC/General/Calendar+of+Events/College+Pathways>



Upcoming Dates

Monday, February 6th:
9:45 a.m. University of Montana
2:00 p.m. Maryland Institute College of Art

Tuesday, February 7th:
4:00 p.m. Juniors are introduced to Naviance - Computer Lab

Tuesday, February 14th :
11:45 a.m. NH Institute College of Art

Volleyball Encounter Week –by Leslie Gadway ('12, Student Leader)



VCS Students with King Street Center youth.

This past week, a group of 14 students and Peter Goff went to several different locations to teach people to play volleyball. Each day, we headed down to Middlebury to work with the kids of Bridge School. At Bridge School, we taught a group of about 10 kids, ranging from 5 year-olds to 12 year-olds, a different skill each day. Monday was passing, Tuesday was setting, Wednesday was hitting and serving, and Thursday and Friday were scrimmaging. Although it wasn't quite D1 volleyball, the Bridge School kids picked up on things fairly quickly and we all had a lot of fun. We hope that we will be seeing them in years to come as VCS students!



Grace showing Nat how to make a "basket" to set the ball.

After Bridge School, we drove back up to Burlington to work with the kids at King Street Youth Center. This Encounter Week had been there a few times before, so we saw several familiar faces. We had two different groups while we were there; one Monday and Tuesday, and another Wednesday and Thursday. We sped through the skills each day, and were able to successfully scrimmage with the kids at the end of each group's time.

In the evenings, we worked with an older age group. Tuesday night, Mikhal, Chloe, Pete, and I worked with a group of adults from Burlington Parks and Rec. We were expecting a group of about 30 adults who knew nothing about volleyball. Instead, a group of about 15 adults who could play fairly well attended. We sped through the basic skills, and were able to scrimmage at the end. *Continued on pg. 3...*

Volleyball Encounter Week Continued...



Declan, Remy and Milo doing a drill to warm up.

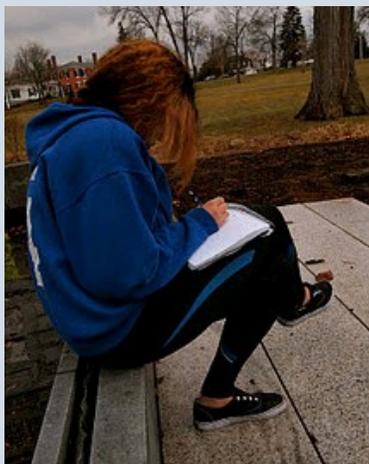


Stirling making a basket to set the ball back to Oban.

Wednesday night, Thursday night, and Friday afternoon, we worked with a group of high school students from Burlington High School. Wednesday and Thursday, we went through the skills, each VCS student paired with a Burlington High School student. At the end of each night, we did a little scrimmaging. Friday afternoon, we did little with the skills, and did mostly scrimmaging. At the end, we did a real-life game situation of Burlington High School versus VCS, with VCS barely pulling through with a final score of 25-23. Hopefully we'll have a team from Burlington High School in the near future!

Thanks to Pete for organizing everything, and thanks to all the VCS students who put all the time and effort into making this a great week.

This Week in Photos



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