

March 6, 2012

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15

PACS Coffee
Hour 7:45-8:45 AM

March 22

Second Evening
of Readings K-Z
6-8 PM

March 23

Third Quarter Ends
World Language
Celebration 1:20-3:15 PM

March 29

Film Screening:
Miss Representation
with Panel 6-8 PM

VCS 15th Anniversary Green/Gray Ball – Save the Date!



To celebrate our 15th Anniversary, VCS will host a Green/Gray Ball at the Coach Barn at Shelburne Farms on the evening of **Wednesday, June 6th!** We will have food, music, a raffle, and a multi-media extravaganza from Peter Goff! Our entire community is invited - students, parents, grandparents, alumni, alumni parents, and current and former faculty! Creative green/gray attire is encouraged. More details to follow!

VYOA Music Day Camp Offers Early Registration Incentive

The Vermont Youth Orchestra Association is accepting applications for **Music Day Camp**, held **Monday-Friday, June 25 through 29, 2012**. Camp sessions are held daily from 8:45 am – 4:00 pm at the Elley-Long Music Center at Saint Michael's College. **Tuition for Music Day Camp is \$290. Register by April 27, 2012 for a discounted tuition rate of \$260. The registration deadline is June 1, 2012.**

Music Day Camp is the perfect summer activity for young musicians! The VYOA's popular summer program is designed to augment music skills and techniques, offer challenging ensemble and band experiences, and provide music learning in a safe and relaxed environment with some of the best local educators in Vermont. Daily activities two levels of band and string orchestras, chamber music, master classes and small ensembles. Electives are offered in jazz band, improvisation, chorus, music theory, and composition. Additional activities include guitar lessons, art lessons and outdoor recreation.



Eligibility:

Students must have between 1 and 7 years of experience either in a school instrumental program or private instruction.

Orchestra students: must be entering grades 4-10 in the fall of 2012.

Band students: must be entering grades 6-10 in the fall of 2012.

Registration and Financial aid forms will be available soon at www.vyo.org

All registrations are due by **June 1, 2012** Hurry! Space is limited and camp fills up quickly!

Second Evening of Student Readings –by Christie Beveridge



On Thursday, March 22nd, students will once again take part in the tradition of the Vermont Commons School Evening of Readings. Students from each grade will be reading a short piece of writing composed this year. Expect traditional and slam poetry, excerpts from short stories and memoirs, even “deleted scenes” from Shakespeare plays!

The event begins at 6, and lasts until 8:30. Students whose last name falls in the second half of the alphabet (K-Z) will read. Please join us as we celebrate the written word at VCS!

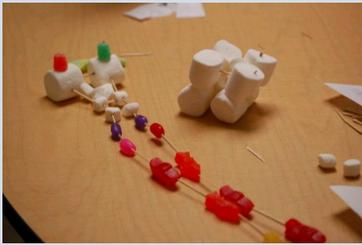
Research and Service Update: Greening up Our Cities

–by Eli Hulse and Shea Monsey

Over the past quarter, the “Tree R&S” has been hard at work greening and cleaning up Burlington. We have learned about city planning, we have cleaned up Perkin’s Pier on the Burlington waterfront, and we have worked at Shelburne Farms. At the beginning of the class, we met with Margaret Skinner, the president of B.O.B! or Branch Out Burlington!, a volunteer organization that grows, plants, and cares for the street trees in Burlington. She told us what B.O.B! has been doing and how they have been doing it. Then, Williston’s environmental planner Jessica Andreoletti came to our school to teach us about urban planning, and how trees are planted in a city to maximize their usefulness. Finally, we met up with Marshall Webb, the Woodlands Manager at Shelburne Farms, to repay Shelburne Farms for the computer lab table, made out of maple from Shelburne Farms wood. We stacked 5 cords of firewood in just under an hour! It has been a blast, and we hope to continue our learning and cleaning up of Burlington.



Cell Biology Lab –by Chloe Hotaling



On RenWeb for science class when it said, "*be prepared to be running, and occasionally outside,*" we were all wondering what sort of lab we would be doing for Cell-Biology where we would be occasionally running outside. We thought maybe we were going to observe how the body reacts to running, or being outside, or some other weird plan that Pete had masterminded. We were wrong. When we got to class in the lunchroom on Thursday, there were four or five different cups filled with candy: gummy worms, candy fish, gum drops, Peeps, and mini-marshmallows. Next to the candy, there was a box of toothpicks and a pile of sticky notes. Pete ignored the sweets on the table, and proceeded to explain to us how the transportation of "stuff" happens inside a cell. After, the directions of our candy competition game were explained and the class was split up into three teams, each with four members. One member of the team (the nucleus) was given a scenario from Pete, which they had to communicate (via sticky-note 'DNA') to another member of the team (the 'ribosome' worker), who was trying to replicate that scenario with different kinds of candy. The candy for the scenarios was transported from two other team members (the vacuoles), and were in charge of running around outside, trying to locate the candy. Once they got the candy (one piece at a time), they brought it to the door of the building and gave it to the remaining team member (the microtubule), who transported it from the door entrance to the ribosome. The activity ran sort of like Telephone, because the actual scenario would get altered (or 'mutated') as it got transcribed one sticky note at a time from the writer to the builder. The two scenarios we were given were: "A gummy-fish-eating Peep on a 'nest' of sour-worms supported by a 'branch' of jellybeans," and "a Peep 'dogsled' with jellybeans 'runners', being pulled by a 'team' of gummy-worms outside of a marshmallow 'igloo.'" Two pretty complicated concepts to create with limited time and materials, but we made it through both scenarios. An eighth grade Science class and Adriana voted to determine the team with the most accurate display of the scenarios. Team A (Tanner, Chloe, Shea, Jordanna, and Jamie) won both rounds!

Photos from Staff/Parents vs. Students Basketball Game



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