



JANUARY 10TH, 2014

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Upcoming  
Events

January 13th-14th  
Review Days for  
Final Exams

January 15th-17th  
First Semester  
Final Exams

January 17th-24th  
Big Trips  
Belize & Sundance

January 20th-24th  
Winter Encounter Week

## VCS Celebrates the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King *by Jennifer Cohen*

This year, MLK Day falls during Encounter Week when we are not together as a community, so we decided to spend time this week, celebrating Martin Luther King Junior's life. During Morning Meetings on Monday and Tuesday, we watched short videos about MLK's life and about the March on Washington. On Wednesday, we listened to MLK's "I Have a Dream Speech." Afterwards, students wrote reflectively about injustices that they see in their lives and how they could address these injustices. Links to the short videos and to the speech are below.

[Bet You Didn't Know--March on Washington](#)  
[King Leads the March on Washington](#)  
["I Have a Dream"](#)



## Welcoming Juan García, New Spanish Teacher *by Adriana Comtois*

Starting next semester, Juan Garcia will be replacing Gabi Shapiro as classroom teacher for Spanish III-IV. Just before the Thanksgiving vacation, Gabi spoke to us about leaving the school at the end of the semester due to personal reasons. Since then, we started a comprehensive hiring process that involved student's input as well as in-class demos.

Juan García is a native-speaker from Colombia, where he worked as an ESL teacher for 5 years. He also holds a master's degree from Saint Michael's College in teaching foreign languages. He is familiar with our school's culture and students since he has been shadowing my classes during the last couple of months as well as substituting during Mark's paternity leave and volunteering in other smaller roles. He has established a great rapport with students around the school.

I am very confident that this will be a smooth transition and students are excited about having Juan as a teacher. Please, welcome him in into our community when you have a chance.

If you have any questions or comments, I would be more than happy to answer them.

Best,  
Adriana Comtois  
World Languages Department Chair



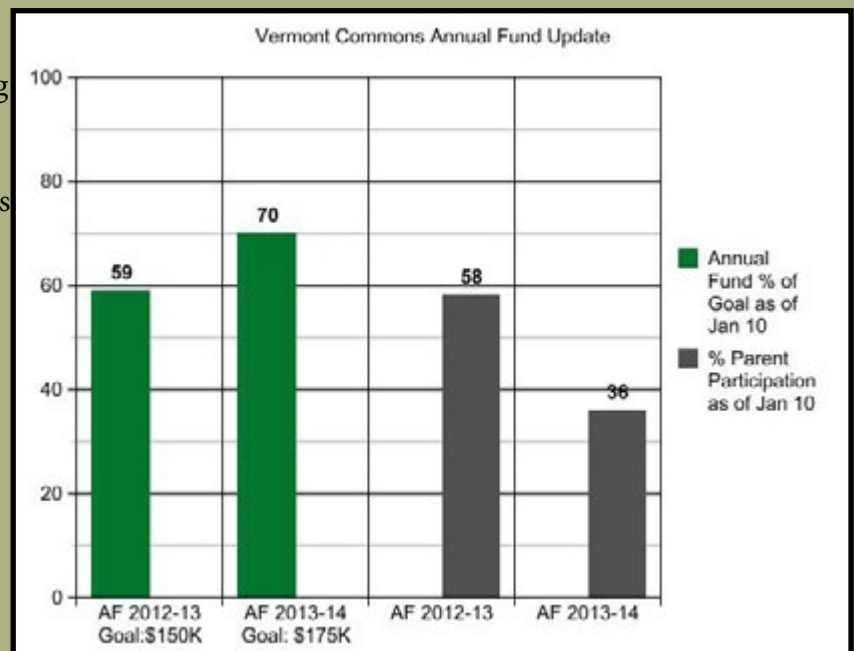
## An Update on the Annual Fund

*by Mary Hamilton,  
Derrick Senior, & Deirdre Senior*

The Annual Fund is Coming Along Swimmingly... Dive In!

The Annual Fund Team thanks everyone who has donated thus far, making this the most successful Annual Fund to date in VCS history!!! As you can see from the graph, we are at 70% of our goal! That is an incredible accomplishment at this stage of the year and is a beautiful illustration of the generosity of this community. We have received so many extraordinary gifts for which we are enormously grateful.

You may note, however, that our current parent participation is down from last year at this time. Please consider making your gift today and bring us closer to our goal of 100% Parent Participation!



~Deidre Senior, Derrick Senior, and Mary Hamilton

# From the Admissions Office

Vermont Commons will host our Winter Open House on Sunday, February 9, 2014 at 11 a.m. in the Commons Room. Please help us spread the word about VCS by encouraging your friends to attend who might want to learn more about our school. For further information contact Sarah Soule, Director of Admissions, [ssoule@vermontcommons.org](mailto:ssoule@vermontcommons.org)



# Alumni Return for First Friday to Discuss Life After VCS



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