



OCTOBER 10TH, 2014

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Upcoming
Events

October 11th
Homecoming Dance

October 15th
PSATs

October 16th
Parent/Teacher
Conferences

October 16th-17th
Fall Break

Spirit Week!



World Language Trip Montreal

On October 2, the upper level Spanish and Chinese classes visited Montreal for a day of cultural exploration.

From Juan Garcia Urbina, Spanish Instructor

The intermediate and advanced level Spanish courses traveled to the Hispanic part of Montreal, Canada and encountered some enjoyable activities that involved the use of their Spanish expertise of the language and culture in a real context. Once in the city, the students visited the Jean Talon market, some local Hispanic markets for a scavenger activity, and the photography exposition of LatinArte in one of the most culturally diverse areas of the city. The eagerness of the students to practice and learn the language was rewarded with a visit to the well known restaurant Lima Limon where the students had the opportunity to taste some of the most traditional dishes from internationally recognized Peruvian cuisine.

From Hua Zhang, Chinese Instructor

The Chinese group first explored Chinatown, with Dim Sum lunch and a scavenger hunt. The second stop was at the Botanical Gardens where we enjoyed bonzai/penjing, classic Chinese gardening, guqin music and lanterns featuring the Voyage of Zheng He. Students presented in small groups about the various aspects of the Chinese classic garden.

Many thanks to parent drivers Colleen, Kathy and LaTrisha, who spent a long day with us and made the trip possible!



After School Study Hall

Students and parents, don't forget about after school study hall! Students can meet up on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 3:35pm-4:30pm in Room 1 with Jess Redmond.

Kids can do homework, get help, study, read, and, by appointment, take reassessments.

Parents, feel free contact Jess directly (jredmond@vermontcommons.org) if you have any questions.

This is a wonderful resource for students who need extra help, would like to retake an assignment, or are just looking for a quiet place to study at the end of the day!



Common Hour, October 15th Anne Dillon

Our Common Hour guest speaker on Wednesday, October 22, at 9:50 a.m. is Anne Dillon. Special thanks to Peter Goff for inviting Anne to join us at Vermont Commons. Parents are invited to attend what will surely be an interesting conversation and presentation.



Anne Dillon is a consultant in the area of elephant conservation for Population Media Center, an international NGO based in Shelburne, Vermont. Population Media Center uses entertainment-education strategies to educate people about the benefits of small families; elevate the status of women; and promote protection of the environment. Given that most of the world's demand for elephant ivory comes from China, PMC is currently developing a serial drama for Chinese TV, which is designed to dissuade the Chinese people from purchasing ivory. Anne has been to China twice in the past two years to pursue the development of this show. She is also working on other elephant conservation initiatives at the same time.

The 2014-15 Vermont Commons Documentary Series opens with a screening of the new climate film,

DISRUPTION

October 29th, 6-9 pm

Panel Discussion follows with:

Maeve McBride, Coordinator, 350.org

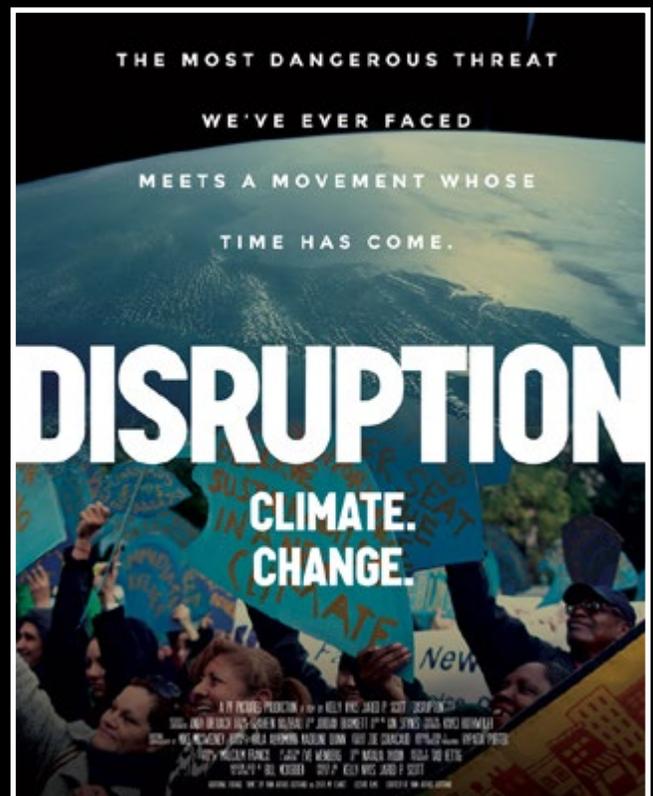
Dr. Alan Betts, Vermont's Leading Climate Scientist

Andi Lloyd, Middlebury Professor of Plant Ecology (and VCS parent)

Staci Lasker, Senior Sales Administrator, New Leaf Paper Products (and VCS parent)

More TBA

Please come learn about what YOU can do about what this film is calling "the most dangerous threat we have faced meeting a movement whose time has come."



ADMISSIONS UPDATE

It's a busy time of year in the Admissions Office! We just welcomed a new student in to our 8th grade and are delighted she chose to join our community. Welcome, Heloise!

Vermont Commons is hosting three receptions in October prior to our Open House on Sunday, November 2, at 1 p.m. The Open House will be held in the Commons Room.

Our first reception was in Hinesburg and was a resounding success! Please mark your calendars for the next two receptions and encourage your friends who would like to know more about about our school to join us at one of our next two receptions:

Thursday, October 23rd, at 5:00 p.m. at a family's home in Shelburne

Monday, October 27th at 4:30 p.m. at Phoenix Books, 191 Bank Street, in Burlington

The receptions are smaller in size than the Open House and more informal, but both are designed to give students and parents an introduction to Vermont Commons. Light refreshments are served. For further information, please contact Sarah Soule, Director of Admissions, ssoule@vermontcommons.org, (802) 865-8084, ext. 27.



Turtle Tracks will be taking a break next week. We will return with more news & features on Common Text Day on Friday, October 24th. See you then!

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