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OCTOBER 17TH, 2016

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

October 19th
PSATs

October 19th
Farewell Potluck
for Peruvian Guests

October 22nd
ACTs

October 23rd
Fall Open House

Spirit Week, Common Text Day, and Community Bonfire

photos by Amira Silverman '17 & Adriana Comtois



Homecoming & Senior Day Volleyball

photos by Henry Harder '17



VCS Winter Outerwear Drive to Benefit VRRP

by Amira Silverman '17

As we approach the colder months, it's easy to forget how lucky we are to be outfitted in warm jackets, hats, and mittens. Unfortunately, many of our neighbors are not so lucky. The National Honor Society is running a Winter Outerwear Drive for the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program and the Winooski School District. Items can be new or gently used, and must be laundered or clean. The organizations accept:

- Coats**
- Snow pants**
- Hats**
- Mittens/Gloves**
- Children's Boots**
- Children's warm clothing**

It would be wonderful if you could look through your closets for things your kids have outgrown, or think of us before you cart that box off to Goodwill. Your donations will be keeping people in our community warm during the upcoming winter and NHS will really appreciate your help.

VCS Senior Internship Program

by Mark Cline Lucey & the Class of 2017

In the fall, seniors engage in internships with local businesses, organizations, and professionals working in a broad array of fields. This Senior Internship Program is designed to allow each of our students to pursue one of her or his passions in a deep, meaningful, and challenging way over a long period of time and also do work that both contributes to society and allows each student to develop personally.

After a three-week course orienting seniors to the expectations and habits of the professional world (including skills such as interviewing, resume writing, and job etiquette), the students began interning for three school-hours per week.

Eugene Cleary

I am working at a small local business called Vermont Tortilla Company. They make corn tortillas completely in-house using corn from just across the lake in New York. I have been learning the entire process of making tortillas from raw dry corn to a finished and bagged product. During my internship blocks, I go on deliveries with the owner to see the interactions between his company and the companies he delivers to.

Alex Duchac

Every Wednesday I make the long drive down to Montpelier to intern at the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for the State of Vermont. There I work with John Kessler and Ken Jones, the general council and Economic Policy Analyst for the Agency respectively in developing an Energy Use Plan for Montpelier that satisfies the newly passed Determination Standards for Energy Compliance. When this plan is complete, it will serve as a guide for all other towns wishing to have a voice in renewable energy project siting. For me, this work is fascinating; it combines my interests in public policy and current events with my law and social justice interests.

Kamli Faour

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been interning for Change the Story VT: an initiative that is working to improve women's economic status in Vermont by aligning policy, program, and philanthropy. My work is centered around organizing events that Change the Story is supporting, and reviewing reports that will be published on women's economic status in Vermont. My job is to bring a young woman's perspective to these reports and events, and function as a proxy for young women across the state. I hope to pursue a career in women's health, and this internship provides me with the knowledge of women's political, economic, and social status.

Zelda Ferris

I work with Peter Dodds and his graduate students. The first hour of each week we hear a presentation from a project that the grad students are working on. After the presentation, we look at research their team has already done, and talk about potential projects for us. This week we will begin researching our topic and brainstorming ways to display the information that we gather.

Henry Harder

I am doing an internship at WCAX Channel 3, our local TV station. It is supervised by the lead engineer there, who is in charge of making sure all of the vast amount of equipment need from production to broadcast is in working order. I have already helped set up the wiring for a new sub-station, WCAX 3.3, which included me climbing around ceilings and server racks, laying long stretches of coaxial cable. I will be helping my supervisor with everything related to equipment and electronics at the station.

Anna Hulse

I am working at the Vermont Complex Systems Center at UVM. Using large amounts of data, they conduct research projects and analyze culture, society, politics. For the first hour of my internship, I sit in a meeting with a complex systems reading group, while one member presents their current or past research. My first week, someone presented on their new technology to track Parkinson's Disease symptoms by visually mapping movements picked up by an Xbox Live. For our project, we are analyzing the growth and spread of religion to form a creative data visualization.

Sean Kerr

I'm interning at the Regional Educational Television Network (RETN), a local public access television station. I'm going to be

Senior Internships, cont'd.

working on editing down footage, and shooting short videos of nature for the RETN Station IDs. I've always been really interested in film and television, so being able to see how a television station works is really cool. I'm looking forward to being able to make a contribution, however small it may be.

Ceile Kronick

I am working with the Vermont Folklife Center in order to support Burlington's New American community in their efforts to integrate into Vermont. My main goal will be to understand the difference between integration, assimilation, and separation. In order to do this, I will be working through VFC's New Neighbors Project and Apprenticeship program and working with their partners. A specific project will be setting up concerts in a local venue where people who play music as a part of the apprenticeship program will perform for the local community.

Nimaya Lemal

My internship is through Vermont Privateye, a private investigation agency located in Burlington where I work specifically with Susan Randall in civil and criminal investigations. I came to find this internship through a general interest in civil law, but the hands-on experience with race, gender, and drug use in the Vermont justice system has been as eye-opening as it has been intense and constructive. Daily work involves conducting witness interviews, visiting prisons, doing background checks, researching records and altogether forming a documentation of the life and circumstances of clients to represent and advocate for their greater humanity alongside the facts of their cases.

Katya Marsh

As an intern at the Lund Family Center's medical office, I work under the supervision of the medical case manager who oversees all of the care of the residents currently at Lund. My job is to interact with clients and their children when they come into the office, help in any way that I can, and observe the procedures and practices at Lund. I also work on projects and am currently working on developing a new protocol for infection control. I am interested in pursuing a career in medicine, and working with Lund gives me wonderful insight into just how many aspects there are to healthcare, and how much there is I could do.

Will Shayne

At the Center for Media and Democracy (also known as Channel 17) I am mostly working on tasks that are important and necessary, but also time consuming. Things like making archive DVDs, and setting up new standing desks. I hope to also be able to work with their IT team on a coding project, which aligns more fully with my interests. I am also trying to improve the workflow for the tasks I am assigned to do, as I think that most of them could be done more efficiently.

Amira Silverman

I am working with Derrick Senior at Recycleballs, a non-profit startup. The organization is working towards a solution for the absurd amount of waste created when tennis balls are simply thrown away after a few uses. My responsibilities include doing research, and compiling a database of resources that will help the process move forward. I am also learning about the creation of an organization and the transition from concept to reality, as well as observing meetings, producing original content, and asking questions.

Danny Watson

I am working with a carpenter name Steve Parker. He owns his own business named Parker Stone and Tiling LLC. I will be helping him with his projects such as designing a shower as well as siding on a house. I will be using all kinds of tools to complete these different tasks. Steve Parker will be teaching me all the valuable skills related to carpentry.

Jake Weissgold

For my internship I am shadowing the Waterfront Director of Burlington. I work closely with her to develop reports on the usage of the marina and parks. We are currently looking at data from the 2016 summer season on dock usage. I am also creating a report on other public marinas around the nation, and finding similarities between our marina and others. This internship fits with my interests in learning how to run a business and to learn skills in managing relationships between government and business regulations.

Parent Hike

by Mary Hamilton

Jill and Dexter hosted the Parent Hike Day again this year. They chatted, climbed Buck Mountain and then stopped for a scrumptious lunch at 3 Squares in Vergennes!



Farewell Potluck & Dancing for Peruvian Guests! Wednesday, 5pm

by Adriana Comtois

After so many days filled with impromptu volleyball games, dance classes, Inca Kola, yummy Peruvian dishes and amazing presentations, now it is time to say our goodbyes. Join us in this last event before the Peruvian students catch a plane on Thursday morning. This will also be one more chance to practice your dance moves! The event will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please, bring a dish to share.

Let us know if you will be coming by filling in this form:

[Potluck Sign Up](#)

Looking Ahead

- Fall Open House - Sunday, October 23rd, 1-3pm
- Sibling Day - Tuesday, December 6th

Eighth Grade Families

Please save the date, **November 16th, from 5:30-6:30pm** for an introduction to Vermont Commons high school experience. Consider this an opportunity to learn more about what makes Vermont Commons unique for those crucial high school years. We'll spend an informative hour together with Dexter, Ari, and a handful of high school faculty. Questions welcome!

Background Photo by Graham Byers '18

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