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OCTOBER 3RD, 2016

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 6th
Parent/Advisor
Conferences

October 6th
Yale, Dartmouth, Brown,
Colby Info Night @ VCS

October 6th - 9th
FALL BREAK
(No classes for students)

October 10th - 14th
Spirit Week



Grandparents' Day

Photos courtesy of the entire VCS Community



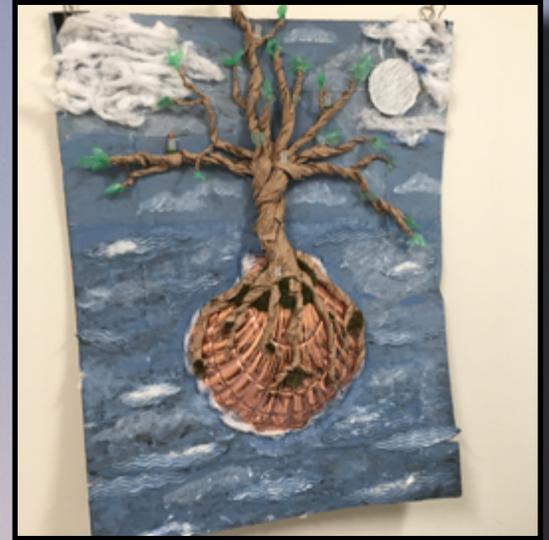
Sustainable Crafts

by *Adriana Comtois*

During Encounter Week, students participating in Sustainable Crafts mustered their creative energy to produce works of art that can now be found speckled across campus. Here are a couple examples, along with testimonies from the artists:

MAYA AKAZAWA

I wanted to make a piece of artwork that would show that there was life in the tutor rooms. The rooms were very dark, and had no windows that showed the outside, so I decided to give people a glimpse of the ocean. I also wanted it to be a calm painting full of opposites. The candles on the tree represent fire, the moss and shell earth, the sky air, and the churning ocean water. I had seen people make trees out of paper before which gave me the idea for the tree, since I thought it would be inspirational, and would show life.



NIMAYA LEMAL

After a week of accumulating trash from recycling bins, the sidewalks of Route 7, and daily life I had an assortment of colorful cardboard boxes, stickers, bottle caps, puzzle pieces, fabric scraps, and more. To explore this new medium I spent an afternoon cutting and assembling bits and pieces into a wingless representation of our mascot, the turtle. In the meditative process of slicing, shaping, and hot-gluing I found myself drawn to two central ideas: in the creation of a single image from the chaos of scraps, I remembered our logo (the turtle emerging from a labyrinth) and its not-so-subtle relevance to the process of learning; and from the beauty that can come from garbage I saw the empowerment of both re-use and rebirth. These two factors, the seeking of clarity, and the innovative process of reviving the old to make the new, feel especially important in this life-long job of being students, and I hope this collage in our foyer serves as both a reminder of the things we dare not throw away, and a challenge to create what is yet to be seen.



Vermont Commons Annual Homecoming Bonfire, 10/14

by Chance Cardamone-Knewstub

Friday, October 14th

6:30pm - 8pm

158 Charles Rd, Williston VT

This event is the culmination of Spirit Week. It is a celebration of our community and is open to all community members and friends, parents, siblings, etc. The more the merrier. It's also an opportunity to celebrate our fall sports teams (Volleyball and Cross-Country). There will be warm food for sale in support of our international trips program (dumplings, chili, donuts, warm cider). There will be music, room to run around, throw frisbees, etc and of course, a rousing rendition of the Turtle Anthem.

In the event of rain, the bonfire will be rescheduled for the next day (Saturday, 10/15) at the same time & place.

-Charles Rd is off of S Brownell Rd. Parking will be in a field immediately on the right when you turn on to Charles rd from S Brownell.

-Bringing a lawn chair or other thing to sit on is recommended

Common Text Day

by Christie Beveridge, Jennifer Cohen, and Jory Hearst

Common Text Day will be on Friday, October 14th, where we'll be discussing our middle and high school Common Texts on race in America.

We'll be starting with our usual communal potluck lunch. We invite you to share a dish that is connected to your cultural heritage. Please do not include any nuts, and label any dishes/utensils you drop off. There will be someone in the kitchen on the morning of 10/14 to receive food. Thank you so much for helping us start our Common Text Day in a nurturing way!

Neuroscience Visits UVM Medical School Pathology Department

by Mark Keegan

The 12th grade Intro to Neuroscience class recently visited UVM Medical School to view neurological samples from the Pathology Department's specimen museum. Hosted by Professor Sharon Mount, students assumed the role of a pathologist, using their powers of observation to diagnose injury or disease states in a variety of tissue samples. We also went on a tour of the pathology lab at the Medical Center, learning about the process by which patient samples are prepared for analysis by hospital pathologists.



Retired Burlington Police Chief Michael Schirling visits VCS R&S Class

by Mark Cline Lucey

Retired Burlington Police Chief Michael Schirling visited VCS on Friday to speak with the Behind Bars Research & Service class. Leading a discussion on everything from



the three branches of government to the subconscious racism that exists in our society, Chief Schirling not only kept the students riveted, but also the grandparents who were attending Grandparents Day. This class has been working hard to understand the complex dynamics around criminal justice and incarceration, and it was powerful to hear the perspective of someone who has been on the front lines.

Looking Ahead

Parent Hike, Thursday, October 13th 9-2
Open House, Sunday, October 23rd 1-3pm
Sibling Day, Tuesday, December 6th all day!

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!

Seeking Pumpkins & Carving Knives

by Amira Silverman '17

On Wednesday, the middle school students will be spending an hour doing a pumpkin carving and decorating activity, facilitated by the senior class.

We are still in need of **pumpkins** and **pumpkin carving knives**. If you can donate pumpkins or lend us knives please drop them off with Katherine at the front desk any time before next Wednesday. (Label knives so that we can get them back to you afterwards.)

Thank you for you help!

The Senior Class



Background Photo by Graham Byers '18

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