



NOVEMBER 14, 2014

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Upcoming Events

November 14th-15th
Vermont Commons Model UN

November 15th
Phoenix Book Fair Open House

November 21st
World Language Scavenger Hunt

November 24th-28th
Thanksgiving Holiday VCS Closed

Vermont Commons Students Attend Brown University Model UN

Last weekend, students traveled to Brown University to attend a Model UN Conference. [Click here](#) to view Mark Cline Lucey's video.



REMINDERS

- Come to our open house at Phoenix Books in Burlington tomorrow, from 10am-3pm!
- Annual World Language Scavenger Hunt will take place next Friday, 11/21

Vermont Commons Volleyball Wraps Up Another Successful Season!

by Peter Goff

BOYS' TEAM

Our boys played a thrilling quarterfinal match at Burlington HS right before Halloween, with the winner earning the opportunity to move on to the State Championship Final. After narrowly losing the first two sets, the boys stormed (as only turtles can) back to win the third set 25-11, staving off elimination.

In yet another elimination-set, our Flying Turtles ("we're short, but we're slow") won the fourth set to force a deciding fifth-set to 15 points. The Seahorses built a small lead and we were never able to close the

gap, despite hanging with them for the rest of the set. Danny and Mason were truly flying, the Eli's (Hinds & Hulse) were anchoring our defense in support of our setters Josh & Raz. Just as impressively, Jalen, Jake, and

Matt played pivotal roles in specific rotations...always rising to the occasion. Ryan did every job on the floor, passing, setting, hitting, blocking...doing everything we needed keep us in the match.

Congrats to Mason Hill who was selected as the Captain of the statewide All-League team (he was selected as a Middle, then was selected as the Captain based on his history of sportsmanship).

GIRLS' TEAM

On Saturday, November 8, our girls' team was one of the final four to compete for the VPA State Championship at Johnson State College. In our first match (full, best-3-of-5 sets), we faced the Burlington Seahorses while the top-seeded CVU Redhawks squared off against the Essex Hornets. Please note the High School enrollment of the 4 schools: Essex: 1,300; CVU: 1,300; Burlington: 1,100; VCS: 61.

Over the past two years, we've faced BHS 3 times,

all with the same pattern: VCS wins the first set (generally convincingly) and then BHS wins the next three sets to win the match. On Saturday, we won the first set (25-12), thanks in large part to a best-of-her career performance by Nina Mantegna. The second set followed our normal pattern with the Seahorses, with them eeking out a narrow 4-point victory despite another career-best performance by Anna Hulse. With Executive Manager Emma Bell, Associate Manager Megan Hosmer, and Honorary (temporary) Manager Josh Wolfstein providing staunch support, we began the vital third set. BHS grabbed an early lead, despite remarkable net-play by setter Anna Leffler.



However, the intimidating presences of Natalie Senior and Fiona Oldham on the bench clearly unnerved BHS and we took the lead and finished the third set with a win.

That win put us in a situation where we only had to win

one of the last two sets to take the Semi-Final match and move onto the Championship Eliza Jackson set the tone with great hustle and digs, and we led wire-to-wire to win the match, ensuring us a berth in the Championship Final.

Our three All-Leaguers; cc-Mikhal Yudien, cc-Nora Hill, and Amira Silverman led us against the defending Champions, CVU. With libero Amira patrolling the backcourt, middle Nora taking control of the net, and outside-hitter Mikhal taking the offensive load, we were well positioned to compete with anyone.

In the Championship final, our Flying Turtles played well, but were beaten by a team that was simply better that day. However, our team displayed remarkable character, sportsmanship, and represented our community incredibly well. It's been a great season, thank you all for your support & encouragement!

Newly Launched Vermont Commons Math League Participates in First Meet

The VCS Math League had its first meet on November 5 at Milton High School. Thirteen schools from the Greater Burlington area participated. Our six-student team was the smallest group in attendance, and even so, we scored quite well. Two students, Eli Hinds and Ada Liu, earned perfect scores on the geometry section!



Successful Open House



Vermont Commons hosted a successful Open House on Sunday, November 2. Prospective students and their parents attended to learn more about our school and educational offerings. Ana '18 and Kent '20 were our two featured student speakers and Robert Lair spoke from a parental perspective. Visiting families met with our faculty, and current students gave tours. It was a wonderful event! Thanks to everyone who participated.

Erick Tichonuk to Speak About Local Shipwrecks at Upcoming Common Hour

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum's Executive Director, Erick Tichonuk, will be our Common Hour speaker on Wednesday, November 19. He will give a presentation about shipwrecks in Lake Champlain and take questions from our students. Parents are invited to join. The program begins at 9:50 a.m. in the Commons Room.



Driver's Ed To Be Offered At VCS

Driver's education instruction offered by Cynthia Hartman may be available to interested Vermont Commons' students this spring. The instruction will be offered Monday-Friday for 6 weeks, with a two hour weekend driving component. The anticipated start date for classes is March 30th.

While VCS will not be providing the instruction, the lessons will convene in the Vermont Commons'

parking lot at 7am. A gentle reminder, Vermont Commons doors open at 7:30. There will be no adults on campus for early arrivals.

All inquiries should be forwarded directly to Cynthia Hartman at 233-7575. She requires at least 5 participants to offer a class. Class cost was quoted at \$650.00. Thanks to Carol Blattspieler for recommending Cynthia!

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