



NOVEMBER 16, 2015

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

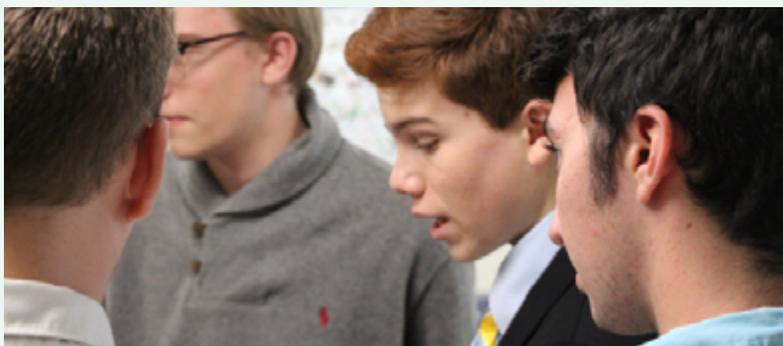
November 17th  
11th Grade Potluck

November 20th  
Progress Reports  
sent home

November 23rd-27th  
Thanksgiving Break

December 2nd  
Chagas Modeling  
Common Hour

## *Model U.N. Season in Full Swing*



# Vermont Commons Model U.N. III

Statistics provided by Camille Bartsch

This past Friday, Vermont Commons held its third annual regional Model U.N., hosting students from 6 local high schools in a student-designed and run historical crisis: the European Colonization of the Americas.

Maintaining the same number of participants as last year (90), the students were able to nearly double the amount of profits donated to the Chittenden County Emergency Food Shelf, compared to the amount donated in 2014.

The students would like to grant a special thanks to Mark Cline Lucey for supporting and inspiring global debate and student leadership. Photo credits to Mark for documenting the event. And also a thanks to Adriana and Jory for chaperoning and supporting all of the delegates on Saturday.

## Participating Schools

- Vermont Commons School
- Rice Memorial High School
- Middlebury Union High School
- Mt. Abraham Union Middle/High School
- Burlington High School
- Champlain Valley Union High School

## Best Delegate Winners

- Iroquois Confederacy:* Austin Burrell, Rice Memorial High School
- Creek Confederacy:* Elias Wyncoop, Middlebury Union High School
- Powhatan Confederacy:* Kent Vaccaro, Vermont Commons School
- Virginia Company:* Jacob Decatur, Vermont Commons School
- New France:* Daphne Cavanaugh, Burlington High School
- New Spain:* Ryan Senior, Vermont Commons School

## Best Position Paper

- Ronan Howlett, Middlebury Union High School



# 2015 Brown University Simulation of the United Nations

by Mark Cline Lucey

Twelve VCS students - including seven veteran seniors - descended upon Brown University for our 3rd annual Model United Nations conference there. Congratulations to Galen Fastie for being named Best Delegate for his committee, while Alex Duchac and Ceile Kronick were both recognized as Outstanding Delegates for their high-level crisis committees. Camille Bartsch once again demonstrated her incredible research and writing skills, winning Best Position Paper for her advanced committee. Bravo to all of the delegates for engaging in complex global issues for the weekend and for representing VCS so well!



# Join Our Efforts for National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week!

by *Phoebe Sarandos & Kent Vaccaro*

Next week is National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and there is so much you can do to contribute and raise awareness!. Students in Mark Cline Lucey's Food for All! Research & Service class and their families are taking action by participating in the 3SquaresVT Challenge. You can join us in developing appreciation for what it feels like to feed a family on a tight budget. It is a perfect lead-up to Thanksgiving in the sense of being thankful for what you have. You can do it for as few or as many days as you find desirable.

If this is not a possibility for your family, you can still help out! Our class is also running a food drive. During the next week, please bring in non-perishable food items, and place them in your respective Green/Grey bins under the lunchroom whiteboard. On Thursday before break, Mark's class will weigh both amounts of food, and announce the Green/Grey winner in Friday's Morning Meeting. Every person in the school was given a blue shopping bag, which is there to help you bring in food.

Please join us help the fight against hunger!



## Vermont Commons Students Aid in Schoolhouse Construction

by *Beckett Richardson*

At the beginning of Quarter 2, the We Love Kids and Animals R&S is starting to build the structures for the Schoolhouse in South Burlington. The students have been collaborating with Schoolhouse's 6th grade class to brainstorm concepts for structure and design them, and finally choose two to build. Having decided on the tree platform -- an observation deck about 10 feet above ground, without sides and a roof -- and a seesaw that will accommodate multiple people on each side, they have purchased materials from Lowe's to begin construction.

The plan was not to start building as the weather cools, but Adriana was injured at the beginning of the year, though she has now made an excellent recovery. The extra time was used to engage in a more in-depth planning process with the Schoolhouse students and to get to know them better. They are creative and have contributed significantly.

The class started with the Schoolhouse students coming to VCS for a building competition in which teams of four students were given a newspaper, straws and tape to build a forty centimeter bridge. The teams then used popsicle sticks to create models of their planned structure, which they then presented to the group as a whole. VCS students went to the schoolhouse for a scavenger hunt to learn about their campus ecosystem, and to plan the location of their structures as the class narrowed in on its focus. While building the structures, the students will learn carpentry techniques and general building skills, and the process should gain efficiency as everyone becomes more experience. The students participating from both schools are looking forward to building.



# 7th Grade Social Studies Visit the Shelburne Museum

Photos by Ben Wang



## **DON'T FORGET!**

Sibling Shadow Day is Thursday, December 3rd!

Please RSVP with Jill by e-mailing [jstrawbridge@vermontcommons.org](mailto:jstrawbridge@vermontcommons.org)  
before this Friday, November 20th.

Thank you!

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**ENGAGING STUDENTS WITH THE WORLD**