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NOVEMBER 7TH, 2016

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 9th**  
NOON DISMISSAL -  
Classes end at 11:45am  
Pick-up by 12pm

**November 11th**  
Boys & Girls Volleyball Clinic  
at Bellows Free Academy

**November 11th -13th**  
Brown University Simulation  
of the United Nations

## VCS to Host Author and St. Michael's Professor Rowena He, PhD, November 16th

by Ben Wang

"The distortion of history is accompanied by distortions of all kinds — political, social, psychological. Such values, stopping at nothing for its goals, have not only affected China, but the world." -Rowena He

The Vermont Commons School World Languages department is bringing Dr. He, author of *Tiananmen Exiles: Voices of the Struggle for Democracy in China*, and named one of the top five China books in 2014 by the Asia Society to speak to the entire school community. Dr. He designed a course at Harvard, "Rebels With a Cause: Tiananmen in History and Memory", which she now teaches at St. Michael's. She will speak about the outcomes from Tiananmen Square uprising: speaking truth to power, the suppression of those actions, and the costs of both for an entire generation.

**What:** Presentation on Tiananmen Square and the fall out of governmental suppression, both for China and globally.

**Who:** Dr. Rowena He, St. Michael's professor and author of *Tiananmen Exiles: Voices of the Struggle for Democracy in China*

**When:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016, 9:30am to 10:45am

**Where:** Vermont Commons School  
75 Green Mountain Dr.  
South Burlington, VT 05403

**Why:** In our world of the Black Lives Matter and Standing Rock, North Dakota protests as well as one where China plays an increasingly dominant role in global politics and economics, we can learn from the events of the past to better put in perspective the events of the present and their potential role in our future.

Professor He received her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto and conducted her postdoctoral research at Harvard's Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies. Her book *Tiananmen Exiles: Voices of the Struggle for Democracy in China* has been named one of the Top Five China Books of 2014 by the Asia Society's China File. The book has been reviewed favorably in the *New York Review of Books*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Human Rights Quarterly*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New Statesman*, the *Spectator*, the *Journal of East Asian Libraries*, the *China Journal*, and other international periodicals and newspapers. She has taught at Harvard University and Wellesley College. The seminars that she created on the 1989 Tiananmen Movement and its aftermath have earned her the Harvard University Certificate of Teaching Excellence for three consecutive years.

## TIANANMEN EXILES

Voices of the Struggle for  
Democracy in China

ROWENA XIAOQING HE  
FOREWORD BY PERRY LINK



# Flying Turtles Selected to the Vermont Youth Volleyball Association All-State Team!

By Peter Goff

In volleyball, opposing coaches nominate players after matches....and four of your turtles were nominated for outstanding play during the regular season. A week ago, at the beginning of the playoffs, the Vermont High School coaches narrowed that field of nominees to a starting dozen boys and girls. First time VYVA All-State players were **Jalen Gibbs** and co-captain **Ryan Senior** on the boys side. They were joined by second-time selection co-captain **Danny Watson**. These three boys were joined by the only 4-time selection to the All-State team (the only person in the state to make All-State for his/her entire High School career); co-captain **Amira Silverman**. Once the team was set, the coaches also voted for captains, this selection was based solely on demonstrated sportsmanship on the court. Of the 8 candidates on the boys side, 7 were current or past Flying Turtles! The 2016 Vermont All-State captains are; **Danny Watson** and **Amira Silverman**!! The girls will travel to Keene High School on Sunday, November 20th for the first-ever VT-NH All-Start match. The boys will also play NH, but that has to happen in the spring due to NH rules. Congrats to the entire Flying Turtle family for a great season!



## Environmental Journalism Course Begins Site Visits

by Christie Beveridge

Students in Christie's Environmental Journalism course have begun doing research and conducting interviews for their independent projects. After visiting different media outlets *Seven Days* and *VPR*, as well as conversing with several journalists, each student successfully pitched a story that fulfills three requirements: it has to be local, it has to be current, and it has to concern the environment. Topics range from the effects of this summer's drought on Vermont, the presence of wildlife in densely populated neighborhoods, and the impact of climate change on the local ski economy. Each student is now in charge of planning our Friday off-campus trips so that they can assemble the footage and interviews that they need for their project. Last week, we headed to the decommissioned Moran Plant so that Oliver Jager could take pictures of it; his video will focus on the future of the building. This Friday, we went downtown so that Jasper Goldman could investigate citizens' views on the Burlington Mall

*continued on next page...*

# Environmental Journalism Course Begins Site Visits Continued...

by Christie Beveridge

Redevelopment Project, which will be coming up for a vote on this upcoming Election Day. We happened to come across a group of people who were protesting the project, and stood and listened to them share their passionate views. Next week, we will head to Shelburne Farms so that Caleb Morehouse can research their use of solar power, which will help him in his investigation into the cost efficiency of the alternate energy source. We are excited to have all of these projects underway, and look forward to sharing them with the VCS community--and beyond--at the end of the semester!



# VCS Students Join Youth Environmental Summit

by Mark Cline Lucey

On Wednesday, six Vermont Commons students headed to Barre for the Youth Environmental Summit. Sevi Burget-Foster, Alexis Marnellos and Lilah Neider all attended as workshop presenters while Max Perrotto, Taegen Yardley and Zoe Hecht went as regular conference-goers. They joined almost 200 other students from around Vermont who care about the future of their planet and want to make a difference.

As the only students conducting a workshop at this conference, Sevi, Alexis & Lilah presented on the complex and

and very current debates around wind energy projects in Vermont. Building on their work in the Wind Documentary Road Trip Encounter Week, they showed their videos and raised the important question: "How can Vermont move toward a sustainable energy future in a way that respects local communities and democracy?" Showing just how much they have learned about wind energy, the three girls easily facilitated discussions with over forty-five students and adults!

Max, Taegen & Zoe attended workshops throughout the day, ranging from "How to Organize an Event" to "How to Make Your House More Energy Efficient." Next year we hope to have our students presenting another workshop!

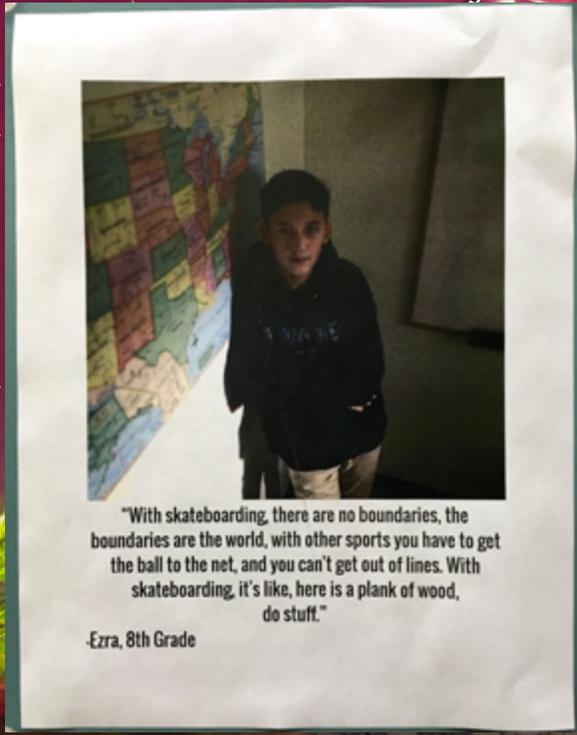


How do we move toward a sustainable energy future in a way that respects democracy & communities?

- Need to balance positives & negatives
- Don't think it's worth it unless it's on a big scale
- Wouldn't it be worth it in the long run?
- What is the difference: wind vs solar? why not more solar?

**Ageing & the Persistence of Memory R&S Class Presents *Humans of VCS***  
*by Kris Mohlman*

The Research and Service class, Ageing and Persistence of Memory, has been meeting regularly with older members of the South Burlington community, learning from their experiences and recording their stories. As part of the preparation for this work students interviewed each other and additional members of the VCS community, and paired a short, meaningful passage with a photo of their interviewee. Because of the similarity to the vignettes on the famous Humans of New York website, the class dubbed this project Humans of VCS. The full set of student work for the project can be found on the wall in the art hallway.



# High School Information Night at Vermont Commons School

by Jill Strawbridge

Are you interested in learning what makes our high school experience unique? Would you like to know what a diploma certificate from Vermont Commons School entails? Perhaps you're curious about what exactly Contract Honors is - and how is it different than an AP class? How familiar are you with Senior Internships and Senior Projects? Do you know the specific ways we support individual student passions outside of our curriculum? Or the many Encounter Week and student leadership opportunities available to Vermont Commons high school students?

If these topics pique your interest, or you have other queries about High School at Vermont Commons, please join Dexter, Ari and me at **5:30pm on Wednesday, November 16th**, for High School Information Night! We look forward to seeing you!



Background photo by Amira Silverman '17

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