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DECEMBER 12TH, 2016

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 13th**  
Basketball Game  
vs. Waldorf

**December 14th**  
Auditions Round 1 for  
*Rosencrantz & Guildenstern  
Are Dead*

**December 15th**  
Basketball Game  
vs. Mid-Vermont  
Christian School

**December 16th**  
Auditions Round 2 for  
*Rosencrantz & Guildenstern  
Are Dead*

**It's the end of the year as we know it...**

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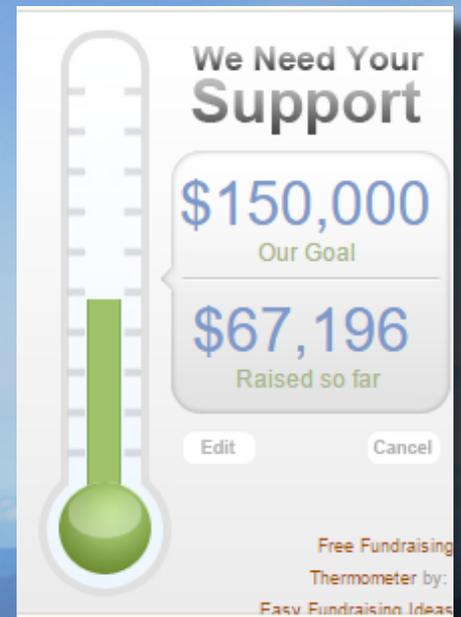
It's the end of the year as we know it...

And you'll feel fine

(if you make a generous gift to the **Commons Fund!**)

### So many ways to give!

- Join the "[Turtles All the Way Down!](#)" Monthly Giving Club!
- [Make a Pledge!](#)
- [Make an Online Donation!](#)
- **Gift Stocks or Securities!** (Call or email Mary for info on how to complete a transaction)
- **Keep the US Postal Service in business and mail in a check!**



**Auditions THIS WEEK for  
Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead**

We will be holding auditions for our spring play production of Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* on **Wednesday, December 14th** and **Friday, December 16th, from 3:30pm - 5pm** after school. Sign-up sheets for each round of auditions are posted outside the Performing Arts room.

Please prepare a **2-3 minute monologue** of your choosing to perform. All ages are welcome!

**Please Support the NHS Food Drive!**

Leading into the holiday season, the VCS chapter of the National Honor Society is running a food drive in support of the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf.

Score Green/Gray points while helping a worthwhile cause by bringing in your donation of nonperishable food items before the holiday break!

Collection bins will be located in the south end of the lunchroom.

## Thanks to All for Donating to “Pages for Prisoners!”

by *Mark Cline Lucey*

The Behind Bars Research & Service class has collected over **3 metric tons** of books! Most of those books have been donated to prisons, or will be soon. Prisons do not accept hardcover books, so on Friday the class donated 40 boxes of books to Goodwill. Thank you to everyone in the community who has helped to make our Pages for Prisoners program such an incredible success!

Specifically, thank you to the Flying Pig Bookstore and Eastern Mountain Sports for supporting us as book-drop locations. Thank you to Derrick Senior and Recycleballs for donating collection boxes. Thank you to all the parents who helped spread the word about Pages for Prisoners via social media. And, of course, thank you to everyone who donated. We officially declare this book drive closed!



## Local Government Opportunity in Shelburne

by *Adriana Comtois*

The town of Shelburne has an opening on the Planning Commission!

This is a very important commission and could be a great opportunity for a student interested in public policy. If interested, you can contact the Town of Shelburne directly at:

Dean Pierce  
Director of Planning and Zoning  
802-264-5033  
[dpierce@shelburnevt.org](mailto:dpierce@shelburnevt.org)

# Environmental Journalism Class Works on Final Projects

by Christie Beveridge

Students in Christie's Environmental Literature class are completing the media projects they began at the start of the semester. In groups of four, they are creating press releases and other media to support local organizations such as CarShare Vermont, Lake Champlain International, and the Burlington Sustainability Project.

They are also working on their individual media projects, ranging from the impact of ticks on the deer population

in Vermont, the future of the defunct Moran Plant, the cost efficiency of solar energy, and the impact of climate change on refugees. Each project will include original writing, video/photo footage, as well as interviews.

We will be putting all of the media projects on a blog that will be shared with the VCS community in the next two weeks, as well as sharing a couple of our projects during the Research and Service presentation on December 21st.



## Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

by LaTrisha Gibbs, on behalf of PACS

It's that time of year again! We will show our appreciation to our fabulous faculty and staff on **Tuesday, December 20th**. Parents supply the food and serve the meal. The luncheon is always a joyous occasion for the teachers and we would love for you to be a part of it.

We are also continuing our tradition of passing out

gift card donations to the teachers during the luncheon. The teachers truly appreciate the luncheon and the community gift cards. Please check your email for a link to the luncheon SignUpGenius for all the details.

We hope you will join us in helping provide a great holiday send off for our amazing teachers. Thanks!

# NEASC Ongoing Accreditation

by Dexter Mahaffey

We are pleased to announce that we have just received a letter from Jay Stroud, interim Director of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Independent Schools, informing us that our 5-year interim report filed earlier this fall has been received and approved. As a result we continue to be accredited through NEASC and therefore through the National Association of Independent Schools for the next five years. Please follow the link if you would like to read the letter itself. We were particularly delighted at the enthusiasm with which our report was accepted.

[Click Here](#) to Read Our NEASC Ongoing Accreditation Letter



Background Photo by Amira Silverman '17

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