



DECEMBER 5, 2014

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Upcoming
Events

December 6th
SATs

December 12th
Vermont Commons
Coffee House

December 13th
ACTs

Dec. 20th-Jan. 4th
Winter Vacation

Vermont Commons Hosts Annual Sibling Shadow Day

Vermont Commons hosted its annual “Sibling Shadow Day” on Thursday, and sixteen brothers and sisters of currently enrolled students attended classes for the day. The day was designed to give each visiting student an introduction to a “day in the life” of VCS. They attended classes, had lunch,

and participated in a Green/Gray competition (Gray won!). We host visiting students throughout the academic year, but Sibling Shadow Day is devoted solely to current families and this year was by far the largest one we have ever had. Thank you to all who joined us!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Coffee House** - Our annual Coffee House will be next Friday evening, 12/12, in the Commons Room. All are welcome!
- **Dumpling Monday** - Don't forget to sign up for dumplings on Monday!
- **Math League** - The Math League will compete in a meet on Tuesday, 12/9, 3:30pm at Missisquoi. Good luck to our Math Turtles!
- **Basketball** - Flying Turtles Basketball will be competing twice next week against Waldorf at Memorial Auditorium - the middle schoolers on Tuesday at 4pm, and high schoolers Thursday at 4:15pm!

Auburn Sendra '16 Honored by Rotary Club

Auburn Sendra was honored at a special breakfast on Wednesday, December 3rd by the Charlotte-Shelburne Rotary Club for her participation in the RYLA program. RYLA offers leadership training to students and is held each summer on the Lyndon State College campus.

She was chosen to attend after going through a competitive application process. She joined students from across Vermont at a special weekend retreat in June 2014. Auburn is the first student from Vermont Commons to be involved in RYLA. Congratulations, Auburn!



Holiday Food Drive!

Our NHS chapter is holding a holiday food drive. Please bring in food to help feed families in Chittenden County this holiday season. (For details about what they need, [click here](#)). VCS will deliver the items to the Food Shelf next Friday, December 12.



Teacher Appreciation Luncheon



from PACS

It's that time of year again! We will show our appreciation to our fabulous faculty and staff on Wednesday, December 10th. Parents supply the food and serve the meal. The luncheon is a wonderful occasion for the teachers and we would love for you to be a part of it. If you have not had a chance to do so, please sign up through the SignUpGenius that was sent via email Monday. If you drop off food items that need cooking/heating, just leave instructions and PACS will take care of it. Please have all items at the school by 11:00. Your help is immensely appreciated!

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!

The Governor's Institute Winter Weekend 2015

The next opportunity for your talented teen to participate in the Governor's Institutes of Vermont is coming right up at the Winter Weekends in February! This year, Winter Weekends will be held at Goddard College February 6th-8th and at Marlboro College February 13th-15th. These 48-hour learning extravaganzas provide students with hands-on learning experiences, complete immersion into the topic of their choice, and a network of peers from all over the state.

Winter Weekends are for Vermont high school students who have strong artistic or intellectual curiosity. These weekends are a perfect and affordable precursor to the life-changing summer Governor's Institutes. Tuition is slid-



ing scale and can be as low as \$10! This year topics include Astrophotography, Current Issues, Comedy Theater, Advanced Math for Girls, Songwriting for Writers & Musicians, and Entrepreneurship. Registration forms will be available online December 10th at www.giv.org. The deadline for registration is January 13th and registration forms can be sent directly to the GIV office. Make sure your teen registers early -- spots fill up fast!

Over the years, many VCS students have participated in the Institute. Please read up about their offerings and consider applying. It is a great opportunity! See Sarah for more information. Also, please speak to Eli Hulse or Alex Duchac if you would like to know about their experiences.

Use Amazon Smile This Holiday Season!

Planning on buying gifts online? Use Amazon Smile, and a percentage of your purchase could come back to Vermont Commons!

To sign up, go to smile.amazon.com and sign in using an existing Amazon account. When asked which program you would like your purchases to donate to, be sure to select Vermont Commons School! Thanks in advance, and happy shopping!



Adrian Kelly '15 Featured on Local Fox News 44

Flying Turtle Adrian Kelly '15 was featured on Fox 44 My Champlain Valley last night for his award-winning robot!

Adrian recently won the Rookie of the Year Award at MIT's Mini-Maker Faire.

You can check out Fox 44's story, including an interview with Adrian and Peter Goff, by [clicking here](#). Well done, Adrian!



World Language Scavenger Hunt

The 2nd annual World Language Scavenger Hunt took place the afternoon before Thanksgiving Break. Much of our student body spent the afternoon on Church Street in downtown Burlington, searching for clues relayed to them by Chinese and Spanish-speaking student dispatchers back at the school.

Congratulations to the Snappers, this year's winners!



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