

FEBRUARY 13TH, 2015

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 14th
Valentine's Dance

Feb. 16th
Middle School
Dynamics Discussion

Feb. 18th
6th Grade Day at
Vermont Commons

Feb. 20th
World Language
Celebration Day

Penguin Plunge 2015

Mark Cline Lucey

On Saturday, the Vermont Commons School Frozen Turtles celebrated a full decade of plunging into Lake Champlain to support Special Olympics Vermont. Sixteen hardy turtles, dressed as *Lord of the Rings* characters and led by the fear-

less Bilbo Baggins (Dexter), participated in the Burlington Penguin Plunge and raised \$4,175 for a great organization. Thank you to everyone who supported us!

Watch the epic plunge by [clicking here!](#)



Valentine's Dance!

Saturday, February 14th, 7-9:30pm

Vermont Commons invites students to the annual Valentine's dance, here in the Commons Room, from 7-9:30pm on Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14th. Admission is \$5/person in advance, \$10/person at the door, and snacks will be provided. Special guest Eliot Crawford, of Vermont Commons' Class of 2012, will be DJing! Students are reminded to check with Chance regarding any guests accompanying them from outside the Vermont Commons community. Only 1 outside guest allowed per student.



Yoga Class for All at VCS

February 18th, 4-5pm

Instructor Rachel De Simone will be offering a yoga class for students, faculty, and parents on Wednesday, February 18th, from 4-5pm. The cost for the class will be \$10, and participants are encouraged to arrive 5 minutes early, and to bring a yoga mat if they have one, a water bottle, and comfy clothes. The class will take place in the Commons Room. Special thanks to Susan Randall for organizing this class!

Chinese New Year Celebration

Friday, March 6th, 5:30-7pm

Come enjoy a meal at Zen Gardens, support the China trip, celebrate Chinese New Year, and connect with the community! All faculty, students, parents and families are invited. Cost: \$20/adult, \$15/child under 12. Includes a buffet dinner!



World Language Celebration Day

Friday, February 20th, 1-3:30pm

World Language Celebration Day is coming! Come see our students present songs, skits, dances, etc. in Chinese and Spanish.

Everyone in our community is invited!

Coffeehouse

Friday, March 20th, 6-8pm

Come see some local talent! We will be holding a coffeehouse to benefit the England and China trips. Students, faculty and parents are all invited to perform. Food and beverages will be served!

Order Your **YEARBOOK**



Griffin Cannon '15 Places 2nd in CIMSEC High School Essay Contest

Vermont Commons senior Griffin Cannon has taken 2nd place in CIMSEC's (Center for International Maritime Security) 2015 High School Essay Contest. Griffin's essay, entitled "A Comprehensive Anti-Piracy Strategy," covers the history of marine anti-piracy strategies, and suggests "how it could be done better and in a more sustainable manner. Congratulations, Griffin!

[Click here](#) to read Griffin's essay!



Nora Hill '15 Testifies for Climate Change Legislation

Mark Cline Lucey

On Thursday, Nora Hill presented testimony in Montpelier in favor of Senate Bill 28. Speaking to the VT Senate Government Operations Committee, Nora gave a personal and impassioned plea to pass this bill that would divest all state pension funds from fossil fuel-related industries. Nora was asked to provide this youth perspective to the committee because of her work to raise support for Bill S2864 in Washington. Called the Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act and introduced by Senator Markey (D-MA), this bill would "publish and implement a national strategic action plan to assist health professionals in preparing for and responding to the impact of climate change on public health in the United States and other nations, particularly developing nations." Nora was joined by the President of Goddard College as well as several investment professionals.

[Click here](#) to watch Nora's speech!



EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY EVERYONE HAS A WAY TO GIVE

If part of *your* way of giving is monetary, please consider a gift to the [2014-15 Annual Fund!](#)

We are 57% (\$100,750) of the way to our year-long goal of **\$175,000**, which is pretty close to how far we are through the school year!

Please help us get to **\$150,000** by March 31st!





National Honor Society

Mark Keegan

Interested in joining NHS? Applications for the Vermont Commons chapter of the National Honor Society will be distributed to interested students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades starting today, Friday, February 13th. For more information contact the NHS Chapter Adviser, Mark Keegan.

Middle School Dynamics Discussion with Tiff Bluemle

Monday, February 16th, 7pm

Please join us for an evening with Tiffany Bluemle to discuss social issues and dynamics at the Middle School level. Parents of 7th and 8th graders are invited to attend the discussion, which will take place at the school from 7-8:30pm on Monday, February 16th.

Tiffany will speak to the fact that school communities commonly experience negative social behavior in the Middle School years, particularly 8th grade. She will help parents develop understanding about how these behaviors manifest and the underlying dynamics that give rise to them. She will host an informal discussion aimed at helping parents gain literacy around these issues as well as tools for talking about them with their children and others.

Read more on our website by [clicking here](#).

Common Hour Speaker

Wednesday, February 18th, 9:50am

Vermont Commons is pleased to welcome Dr. Allan Strong as our Common Hour guest speaker on Wednesday, February 18th at 9:50 a.m. Al is the Associate Dean of the Rubenstein School of Natural Resources at the University of Vermont. Parents are invited to join us for his presentation!

Extra Monday

Tuesday, March 3rd

We will be running a **Monday schedule on Tuesday, March 3rd**, the first day back from vacation, to make up for a number of lost Mondays this quarter. The rest of the week will follow a normal schedule.



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