



FEBRUARY 17TH, 2014

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## Upcoming Events

February 19th  
State of the School

Feb. 22nd-Mar. 3rd  
February Vacation

March 12th  
Community Film Series  
*The House I Live In*

March 15th  
Winter Workshop

# Penguin Plunge 2014

For the 8th year in a row a team of Frozen Turtles plunged into Lake Champlain as part of the Penguin Plunge. The Plunge is a fundraiser for Special Olympics VT, and this year the twelve Frozen Turtles raised \$2300! It was a smaller team than last year, due to last minute sickness and scheduling conflicts, but the hardy crew had enough spirit for 100 plungers. Dressed in tropical attire, they limboed into the lake! Watch videos of the plunge [here](#) and [here](#).



# Students Unite to Raise Awareness of Youth Homelessness

## *VCS Parent/Student Organizers Wanted!*

On the weekend of March 27-30, 2014, families, church youth groups, civic and school groups will be sleeping out in backyards, on football fields, and on church grounds as a show of solidarity with the many youth who may be homeless or at risk of homelessness—and to raise money for Spectrum Youth and Family Services to help those in need of services. Fun, challenging, rewarding. Kids helping kids... a powerful lesson.

The Student Sleep Out weekend will take place at the same time as business and community leaders unroll their sleeping bags to spend the night outside in downtown Burlington on March 27th. Through the generosity of friends, family and colleagues of those sleeping out, the event will raise money to help Spectrum transform their clients' lives.

To support Spectrum and to engage in this meaningful experience, please consider gathering your family, neighbors, or organizing a group of VCS students to sleep out in your own backyard or common space. To learn more about the Spectrum Sleep Out, visit <http://www.spectrumvt.org/events/spectrum-student-sleep-out/> and register today. Student Sleep Out Questions? Contact Rhonda Forcier at [rforcier@spectrumvt.org](mailto:rforcier@spectrumvt.org).

## Winter Workshop

*Saturday, March 15th*

Designed in conjunction with the Vermont Council for Gifted Education, VCS will be hosting a Winter Workshop for students in fourth through eighth grades on Saturday morning, March 15th beginning at 9 a.m. here at the school. A link with further information and a registration form can be found on our website, but students will have the opportunity to participate in two workshops (out of five offerings) taught by VCS teachers in the following areas: art, animal tracking, creative writing, Chinese calligraphy and Vermont history. We've invited students from area middle and elementary schools to attend what promises to be an exciting morning.

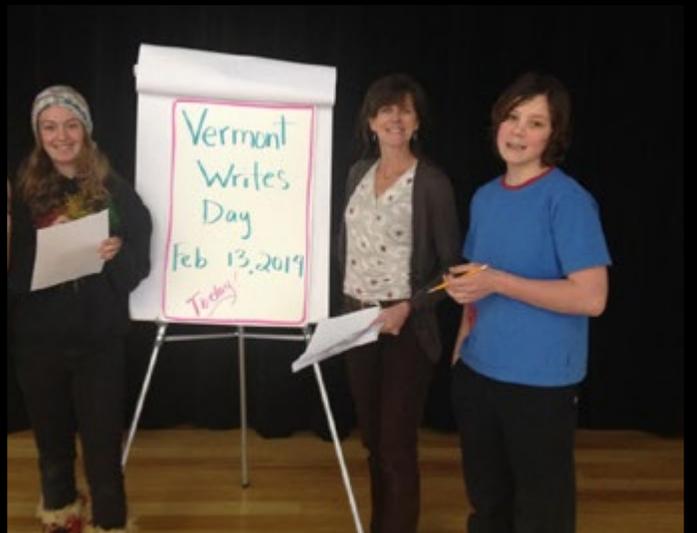


## Encounter Week Common Hour

*Wednesday, February 19th*

All VCS parents are invited to attend Common Hour on Wednesday, 2/19 at 9:50 a.m. to view special presentations by each of the winter 2014 Encounter Week trips. Come see photos and hear first hand about the exciting winter expeditions of our students travels to the Vermont back country, their volunteer efforts to local non profits, volleyball clinics, travels to Belize, movie star sitings in Utah and so much more! We will be meeting in the Commons Room.





VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL - 75 GREEN MOUNTAIN DRIVE, SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT 05403  
P: 802-865-8084 F: 802-865-2429 EMAIL: INFO@VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG  
WWW.VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG