

JANUARY 9, 2014

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Feb. 5th**  
Parenting &  
Technology Forum

**Feb. 7th**  
ACTs

**Feb. 7th**  
Penguin Plunge

**Feb. 8th**  
VCS February  
Open House

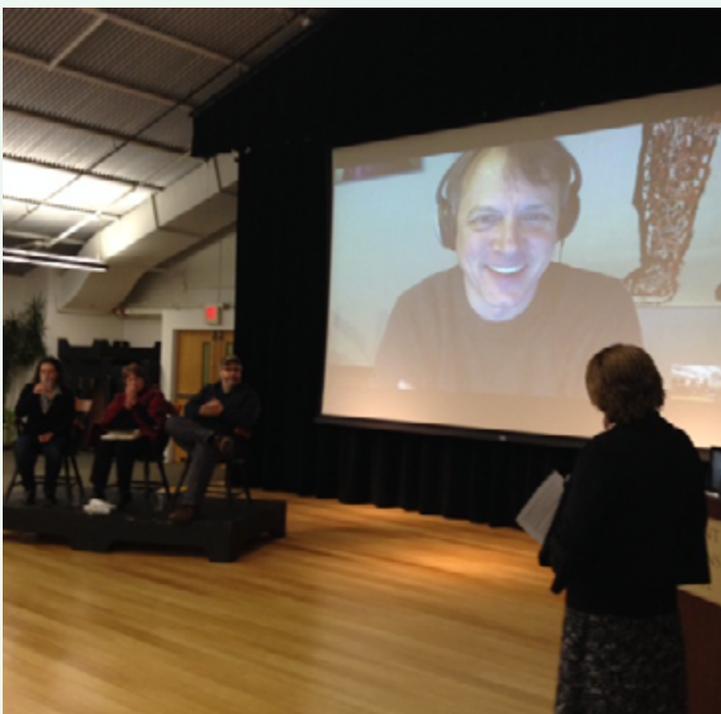
## Documentary Film Series Screening *The Internet's Own Boy: The Story of Aaron Swartz*

A great crowd of students, families, and new and old friends of Vermont Commons School gathered for the screening of *The Internet's Own Boy* Wednesday evening.

Filmmaker Brian Knappenberger attended via Skype from the office of his production company, Luminant Media. He shared his process of making the documentary, his thoughts on information access, net neutrality and the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act which were at the heart of Aaron's story.

Local panelists included Bill Simmon, filmmaker and Director Media Services at Vermont Community Access Media; Marty Reid, Vermont State Librarian and Cathleen Stadecker, a lawyer with Downs Rachlin Martin who focuses on trademark and copyright law and internet issues.

Thank you to the Documentary Committee of students and parents, and a special thanks to Susan Randall who put us in touch with Brian Knappenberger.



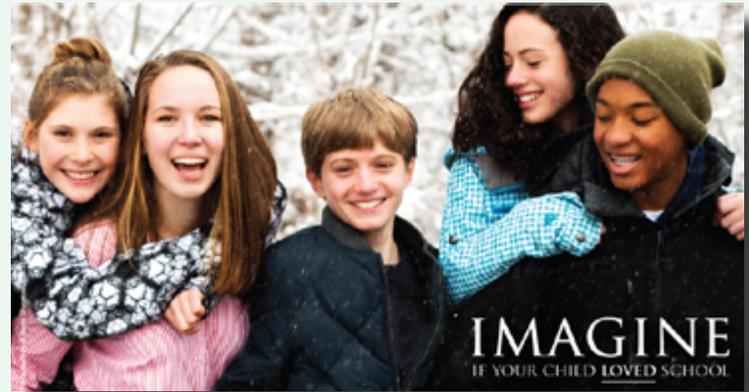


## Parenting & Technology Forum Thursday, 2/5

Vermont Commons parents are invited to a panel discussion this Thursday, February 5th, at 6pm on parenting and technology. Panelists will include Dr. Elaine Young of Champlain College, Susan Hennessey of the Tarrant Institute for Innovative Education at UVM, and Ari Shapiro-Miller, our very own school counselor. Please forward any questions or topics you'd like to address to Chance at [chance@vermontcommons.org](mailto:chance@vermontcommons.org).

## February Open House, Sunday, 2/8

Vermont Commons' annual February Open House will be taking place this Sunday, February 8th, at 1pm. Please encourage any interested friends, family, and acquaintances with grade-appropriate children to attend! They can RSVP with Sarah at [ssoule@vermontcommons.org](mailto:ssoule@vermontcommons.org). A special thanks to the students, parents, and community members who have volunteered their time to this event, and to all those helping to spread the word!

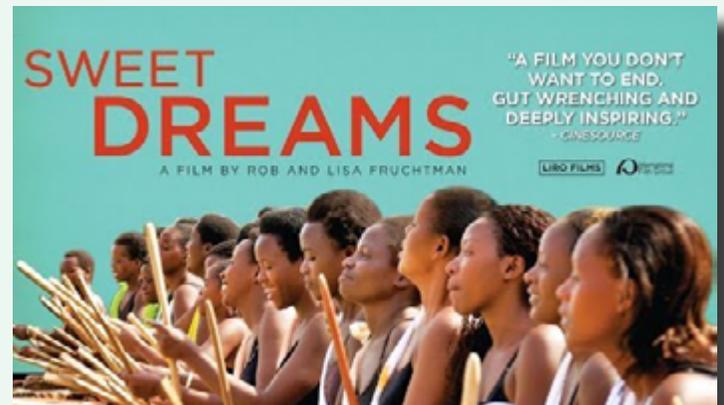


## Evening of Readings, Tuesday, 2/10

Parents, students, faculty, and community members are all invited to join us on Tuesday, February 10th at 6:00 p.m. for one of the highlights of the academic year -- the Evening of Student Readings. Our students will read from their written work and share their talents with our community. We invite you to join us! Please take a moment to review our [Uncommon publication from 2014](#), as it gives a sample of some the work produced by our students.

## Screening of Sweet Dreams Thursday, 2/12

Join us for *Sweet Dreams*, the story of how women from both sides of Rwanda's devastating genocide came together to form their country's first women's drumming collective. It is also how they managed to open the country's first ever ice cream shop. The screening will take place on Thursday, February 12th at 3:45pm, and will be followed by an ice cream social. The screening and social are generously sponsored by [Homemade Island Ice Cream](#).





## VSAC College Pathways Workshop Saturday, 3/21

*Sophomores & Juniors, Save the Date!*

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation is hosting their very informative College Pathways workshop on Saturday, March 21st at 9:30 a.m. at St. Michael's College in Colchester. The program is free and open to all juniors and seniors, and their parents, as they consider higher education. Our students who have attended in previous years have found this event to be very valuable and informational. There will be workshops on college visits, essay writing, scholarship searches and financial aid. For further information, go to [www.vsac.org](http://www.vsac.org).

## Thanks from PACS!

PACS would like to thank all of the parents who were able to attend the parent social at Bluebird BBQ on January 21st. We had a great turnout, and many parents met other families that they had not previously met. Parents had a relaxing time enjoying great food and conversation. If you have any suggestions on future parent gather locations or ideas, please do not hesitate to let us know. We hope to see you at the next event!

-LaTrisha, Holly, and Jen



## 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!

## China Trip Fundraising News

The China Trip has discontinued Dumpling Mondays. Please do not plan to order dumplings for lunch on Mondays.

## No Skiing Friday, March 6th

Vermont Commons' ski program will not extend to Friday, March 6th as originally planned. Skiers and boarders are encouraged to attend the Chinese New Year Celebration at Zen Gardens that evening!

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**ENGAGING STUDENTS WITH THE WORLD**