

MARCH 14, 2016

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 16th
NO SCHOOL
Prof. Development Day

March 18th
End of Third Quarter

March 19th
Vermont Commons
Model U.N.

March 21st
Bring a Friend Day!

Second Annual VCS Model U.N. this Saturday, March 19th

by *Camille Bartsch*

VCS will be hosting this school year's second Model United Nations Conference on Saturday, March 19 from 9am-6pm at Vermont Commons. The crisis conference is "The Defense Of Earth," which is a futuristic conference with Cold War influences. The cost will be \$15 and includes breakfast, lunch, and materials. The conference is open to 8th-12th graders and will also include delegates from other local high schools. Please contact Camille Bartsch (cbartsch@vermontcommons.org) if you are interested in participating or have any questions. Thank you!



Middlebury College to Host VCS-Read Authors this Wednesday

by *Christie Beveridge, Jennifer Cohen, and Jory Hearst*

On Wednesday night of this week (March 16), Julia Alvarez and Edwidge Danticat will be speaking at Middlebury College. Eighth graders are currently reading Alvarez's novel *Before We Were Free*, and eleventh graders recently read an essay by Edwidge Danticat.

This is an amazing opportunity to listen to and pose questions to two brilliant and inspiring contemporary authors! The event begins at 7pm in the Dana Auditorium on College Street, and is free and open to the public.

For more information, please check out the following link:

<http://www.middlebury.edu/newsroom/archive/2016-news/node/506980>



Julia Alvarez

VCS to Host Students from Perú in October

by *Adriana Comtois*

The World Languages Department has some great news to share. We will be receiving a visit from the Colegio Santa Ana from Lima, Perú this October. It will be at least 15 high school students, although there are many more interested in visiting. They will be here for a week.

We are starting to plan for this visit and we are wondering how many families would be interested in hosting our visitors during this time. If you are interested in helping, please let us know by replying to this Google survey, and please contact Adriana at a.comtois@vermontcommons.org if you have any questions:

[Colegio Santa Ana visit](#)

2016 Yearbook Messages & Ads

by *Adriana Comtois*

As we are creating the yearbook 2015-2016, we have reserved some space for you to send a special message to a graduating senior, a hard-worker student or just your favorite VCS person. We also welcome ads for your growing businesses. Prices are as follows:

Business Card Size (3 1/2 x 2"):	\$15
Quarter of a page (3 3/4 x 5 "):	\$25
Half a page (7 1/2 x 5"):	\$50
Full page (8x11):	\$75

If you are interested, please send me an e-mail. We will be accepting ads until Friday, April 1st. If you have any questions, please let us know at a.comtois@vermontcommons.org.

A Message for 9th and 10th Grade Parents

by *Ari Shapiro-Miller*

Jennifer, Jasmine and Ari met with all students in both grades to discuss how valuable summer can be to bolster experiences within a college application. We stressed the concept of identifying one's passion and letting that interest push you towards summer camps, jobs, internships, volunteer opportunities and beyond. In conversations with your student, keep helping them identify what intrigues them and makes them feel excited! These discussions can lead to great ideas surrounding the next step of planning for the summer.

Ultimate Begins This Week!

Practices for the Ultimate season officially begin this week! There will be a meeting from 3:45-5:00pm tomorrow (Tuesday, 3/15) to kick things off, followed by practices on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. For more information, please consult the [VCS Athletics Calendar](#) on our website.

Spring 2016 Big Trip: Ireland!

by *Dexter Mahaffey*

This year during our May Encounter Week, Dexter and Jennifer are leading a trip to Ireland to explore the three-way relationship between traditional culture, colonization, and 21st-century globalism. The trip dates are May 19-29, and slots for students are now available; students may apply now and can get a form from Katherine. Dexter and Jennifer will be available for an informational drop-in between 3:30 and 5 p.m. on Monday, March 21st in the lunchroom for students and parents/guardians. They also have an informational sheet/itinerary that they can forward to you upon request. Please contact Dexter (dmahaffey@vermontcommons.org) or Jennifer (jcohen@vermontcommons.org) for more information.

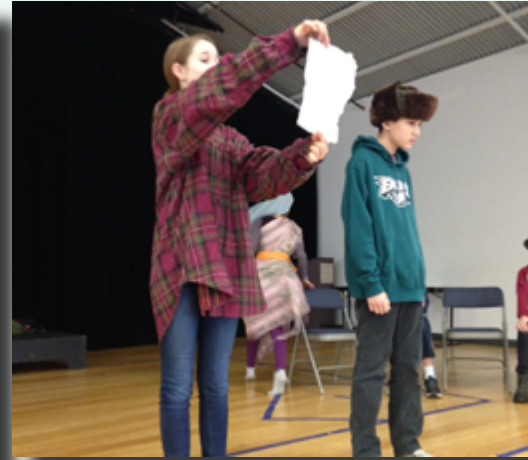


Images of the Dramatic Arts at VCS

photos provided by Jory Hearst & Heather Win

Pictured below, the 7th grade Language Arts class performed scenes from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* last week. They did a fantastic job capturing both character and humor as they acted, two aspects we emphasized in our performances. Shakespeare is meant to be spoken, not read -- and these short scenes certainly reiterated that.

Also pictured, the cast of this year's spring play, Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, have begun fitting for costumes - generously loaned from St. Michael's College - and are nearly finished "blocking" the show. Save the dates: the performances will take place on Friday, April 8th and Saturday, April 9th at the First Unitarian Universalist Society Meetinghouse, at the top of Church Street in Burlington.



Bring a Friend Day!

by Jill Strawbridge, photo by Amira Silverman '17

Our annual Bring a Friend Day is coming up on Monday, March 21st! Students are encouraged to invite a friend from outside our community to come hang out for the day. Please contact Jill either in person or by e-mail (jstrawbridge@vermontcommons.org) for more information.

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