

MARCH 21, 2016

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 23rd
Coffee with Dexter
& the Faculty

April 1st
Trustees' Day

April 1st
Spectrum Sleep-Out

April 3rd
Spring Open House

Spring 2016 VCS Model United Nations

by *Camille Bartsch '16*

This past Saturday, VCS hosted its second annual Model United Nations at the school, with students from Burlington High School and Middlebury Union High School, totaling 37 attendees. Students designed and ran a futuristic crisis: the Defense of Earth, which featured the United States of Earth, the Socialist Union, and the invading, alien Xalgon Empire. The event earned \$335 in revenue, and initiated a bake sale to earn \$72 for the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf. An expanded list of committee members, Best Delegate winners, and the Best Best Position paper winner are listed below.

Special thanks to Mark Cline Lucey for supporting and inspiring global debate and student leadership. Photo credits to Mark for photographing the event, and thanks again to Mark and Jory for chaperoning!

Best Delegate Winners

United States of Earth: Nina Mantegna, VCS

Socialist Union: Josh Wolfstein, VCS

Xalgon Empire: Will Shayne, VCS

Best Position Paper

Zoe Moskowitz, Burlington High School

Crisis Committee

Camille Bartsch, *Secretary-General*

Galen Fastie, *Crisis Director*

Lincoln Pierce, *Vice-Crisis Director*

Jamie Benson, *Technology Director*

Caleb Morehouse, *Crisis Writer*

Ana Kusserow-Lair, *Under-Secretary-General*

Committee Chairs & Directors, respectively

U.S.E: Alex Duchac, Graham Byers

Socialist Union: Henry Harder, Eliza Jackson

Xalgon Empire: Nimaya Lemal, Jacob Decatur



Middle School Volleyball

photos by Amira Silverman '17



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@vermont-commons.org.

NHS Food Drive

by Amira Silverman '17

Hello VCS Families! Our National Honor Society chapter, with help from the *All The World's a Stage* R&S class, will be running a food drive for the Chittenden County food shelf. YOU can help by sending your flying turtle to school with non-perishable food items to donate. Donation bins will be organized by grade, and can be found in the VCS lunchroom. The grade that donates the most food (by weight) will earn themselves a treat!

Getting Things Done

by Jasmine Walker

In our fast-paced packed schedules, it's sometimes difficult to find time to get things done. And even when we have pockets of time, how do we know that we are focusing on the "right things"? During several lunches in the beginning of the fourth quarter, I will be teaching a mini-workshop on the Getting Things Done and Pomodoro philosophies as well as some other strategies for productivity. The workshops are open to both students and faculty, and although they will follow a progression, folks are welcome to drop in or come to all sessions. Please let me know (in person or [via e-mail](#)) if you are interested. I will announce the exact dates soon.

VCS Students Attend "Gravity" Opening at BTV Airport

article & photos by Mark Cline Lucey

Last Wednesday a crew of VCS students attended the opening of the new exhibit, *Gravity*, at the airport. *Gravity* is a life-sized sculpture of an elephant made by artist Eben Markowski and is displayed on the 2nd floor of the BTV airport, next to a screen that is running our video, *Vermont Battles for Elephants*, on continuous loop. The entire exhibit is in support of Bill H.297 to end all ivory sales in Vermont. 7th grader Taegen Yardley spoke at the event and continues to bring her message and her passion for elephants to people far and wide!



7th Grade Aztecs Unit

article & photos by Adriana Comtois

During the last couple of weeks, our students in the 7th grade have been busy building some of the most important buildings and structures from Tenochtitlán, the capital of the Aztec Empire. After discussing how this city's island was formed, students set to build its magnificent buildings out of cardboard, tape, popsicle sticks and paint. The final projects will be on display for the next couple of weeks, on the second floor next to my office. Please stop by to admire these creations when you have a chance.

We also explored the peculiar dishes available at that time and re-made them out of Play-Doh. Students created tadpoles and red chili, wild turkey and green chili, duck egg with avocado and tomatoes, and fish with unripened plums, among others. Can you spot them in the pictures?



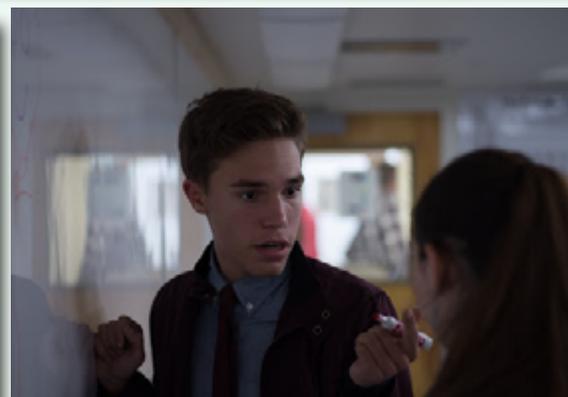
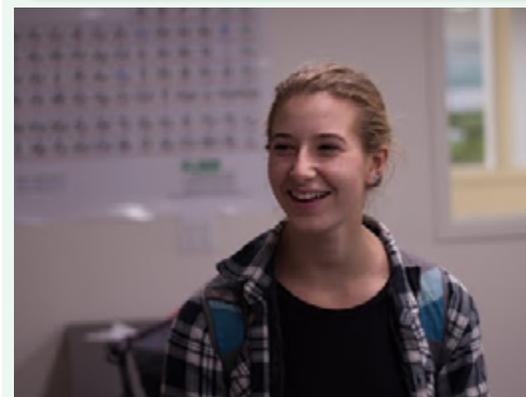
March of the Turtles Day of Giving

by Mary Hamilton, photos by Will Shayne '17

The March of the Turtles Day of Giving was a fantastic show of community support for the Commons Fund! Thank you to everyone who gave so generously! Currently at **\$87,647**, the Commons Fund 2015-16 is at **53%** of our goal of **\$165,000**. Thanks so much to everyone who has helped to get us this far!

If you haven't yet given, please consider a gift today. The Commons Fund provides for Faculty Professional Development, Tuition Support, and those programs that set Vermont Commons apart from other independent schools, namely 3 Encounter Weeks/year and Research & Service.

Go to the website at www.vermontcommons.org/giving/ and donate on-line, or send in a check! We also take gifts of stock, mutual funds or bonds!



Spring Open House

by Jill Strawbridge, photo (left) by Amira Silverman '17

Our annual Spring Open House is coming up on Sunday, April 3rd, from 1-3pm!

Please reach out to interested friends, family, and colleagues and invite them to attend this inside look at our community.

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