



MARCH 21ST, 2014

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## Upcoming Events

March 21st  
End of 3rd Quarter

March 22nd  
VCS Model U.N.

March 28th  
Trustees' Day

March 28th-30th  
Dartmouth Model U.N.

## Jordan Cannon Accepted to NSLI-Y Program in Ankara, Turkey

VCS sophomore Jordan Cannon has received a scholarship to the National Security Language Initiative for Youth Program! She will be travelling to Ankara, Turkey this summer to learn Turkish language and culture. Congratulations, Jordan!

### About the NSLI program:

The National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, provides merit-based scholarships for eligible high school students and recent high school graduates to learn less commonly taught languages in summer and academic-year overseas immersion programs.

NSLI-Y is part of a U.S. government initiative that prepares American citizens to be leaders in a global world. Now more than ever, it is important that Americans have the necessary linguistic skills and cultural knowledge to promote international dialogue and support American engagement abroad. NSLI-Y aims to provide opportunities to American youth that will spark a lifetime interest in language learning.



### About Turkey's summer academic program:

The Turkish summer program offers students the opportunity to increase their Turkish language skills through intensive language classes and experiential learning opportunities. Classes are held Monday through Friday and focus on improving speaking, listening, reading and writing in Turkish. Host family stays provide participants with valuable opportunities for Turkish conversation and insight into Turkish culture. Cultural activities and excursions complement the formal language classes and give participants a deeper understanding of Turkish history, society, and culture.

## From the Development Office

THE TRUSTEES ARE COMING!

Trustee Day  
Friday, March 28th  
8am-12:30pm

Parents welcome to have:  
*Coffee with the Board & Faculty*  
8:00-8:30

and/or

Attend the Morning Meeting  
Green/Gray Competition  
*Students vs. Trustees*  
9:25-9:45

See you there!



Right now we are at 65% of our  
VCS Annual Fund goal of ..

**100% Parent Participation**

**We are at 68% and CLIMBING...  
You don't need to give a lot,  
Just what YOU can give!**

**We need YOUR support!**

## VCS Hosts TDI Workshop

On Saturday, March 15th, Vermont Commons, in conjunction with the Vermont Center for Gifted Education, hosted a Winter Workshop with classes taught by Bradley Materick and Ben Patrick to students in third through seventh grade. Their parents participated in a workshop led by Dr. Carol Story, an expert on gifted education. This summer, The Talent Development Institute will host a day camp at VCS for students the week of July 21-25. For further information, visit [www.tdivermont.org](http://www.tdivermont.org).



# Check Out the GIV STEM Immersion Institutes

The Governor's Institute of Vermont is pleased to present 4 STEM Immersion Institutes for 218 high school students in summer 2014. GIV is looking for well-motivated students to attend these Institutes.

The GIV STEM Institutes are:

**Information Technology and Digital Media:** At Champlain College, up to 80 students will choose between exciting strands focused on programming and digital security, web technology, or graphic technology. They'll also explore 3D printing, interact with high-tech employers and visit the new Maker Space in Burlington.

**Engineering:** At UVM, 80 students will create their own hands-on engineering projects such as building solar panels, designing interactive robots or applying biomedical engineering concepts to the repair of injured bones.

**Environmental Science and Technology:** 26 young people will use advanced equipment such as a scanning electron microscope to explore the mysteries of the natural environment with world-renowned UVM geologist Paul Bierman and develop informed solutions for environmental health issues.

**Mathematical Sciences:** 16 boys and 16 girls will study advanced math concepts and applications such as teaching robots to think via pattern recognition in this weeklong Institute at UVM that is a winner of the prestigious American Mathematics Society Epsilon Grant.

Two additional 2014 Institutes also incorporate STEM-focused content. The Special Topics: Food Systems Institute will delve in-depth into biology and chemistry as they pertain to the production and nutritional value of food, and the Entrepreneurship Institute will promote the creation and marketization of engineered and technological products. Three additional Institutes for young Vermonters in summer 2014 are Arts, Asian Cultures, and Current Issues and Youth Activism.

All Governor's Institutes are residential to serve Vermonters from all over the state and all offer sliding scale tuition that goes down to \$10 (inc. room and board) for students in need. Special EPSCoR scholarship assistance is available for girls in STEM.

More information and applications for school nominations are available by visiting [www.giv.org](http://www.giv.org) or by calling 802-865-4GIV.

Check out their flyer [here](#), and be sure to inquire at their website or by phone!

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