



MARCH 28, 2016

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 30th**  
Middle School Volleyball match (location TBD)

**April 1st**  
Spectrum Sleep-Out & Trustees' Day

**April 2nd**  
MS Volleyball Season-Ending Jamboree at Essex High School

**April 3rd**  
Spring Open House

## Friends' Day

This past Monday, students invited close friends from outside our community to come spend a day with them at VCS - as you can see, it was all smiles! Many thanks to our student body for being such wonderful hosts, and to our visitors for taking time to spend a day at 75 Green Mountain Drive!





## 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 THIS Friday, April 1st.** If you have any questions, please let us know at [a.comtois@vermontcommons.org](mailto:a.comtois@vermontcommons.org).

# Before the 6th Graders Were American

by Jory Hearst

The 6th graders have just completed beautiful, hand-drawn, and hand-painted maps that tell the narrative of their cultural heritage and their families' journeys to the U.S. This project was about studying our cultural roots -- reclaiming stories and memories from the past "Before We Were American." 6th graders conducted interviews with family members and used family trees (as well as other online resources like [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and Ellis Island immigration records) to learn as much about their roots as possible. We then made comparisons between the reasons our families came to the U.S. and reasons that immigrants and refugees seek citizenship today; finding there are more overlaps than we might have realized. These maps are all hanging in the hallway outside the 6th grade room -- stop by and take the time to remember stories you might know about your own family's journey to becoming "American."



# Extinctus

by Ben Patrick

[extinctusbags.com](http://extinctusbags.com)



## 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. Dates are: the **next three Tuesdays (3/29, 4/5, 4/12) during lunch** in Room 206.



## 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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**ENGAGING STUDENTS WITH THE WORLD**