

Want to see more? Follow us
on Facebook & Instagram!



MARCH 28TH, 2017

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 31st - April 1st
Vermont Commons Presents
Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead

April 1st
Middle School
Volleyball Jamboree

April 2nd
Spring
Open House

April 4th
Parent Coffee with
Dexter & the Faculty

Senior Forensics Class Meets With Local Experts

by Peter Goff

This has been a great second semester with our seniors, as they wind up their VCS science career with a truly multidisciplinary course; Forensics. We've been lucky enough to have enjoyed some great field trips and visitors which include; a tour of the Leahy Center for Digital Forensics, a visit by the commander of our region's Forensics unit, Det. Comm. Lance Burnham (who presented on Blood Spatter analysis), a trip to the Burlington Police Department to learn about fingerprinting and more digital methods, a visit by Det. Sgt. Todd Ambroz who is one of the state's few arson investigators. He had this to say about your seniors; "Peter, please extend my complete gratitude and appreciation to your students. They were totally engaged and attentive during the class and asked great questions. Best group of students I have ever taught! And I taught intelligence classes for the U.S. Army/VT Guard for the last 8 years to all branches of services and all ranks. These young adults are top notch." Moving forward, we will host a local Private Investigator, then a Forensic Psychologist, and wrap up the semester with a trip to the Forensics barracks to check out their mobile lab (and blow some stuff up!!!) I couldn't be more proud of this group of young scientists for their efforts in the class, and how they have represented the whole VCS community!



Det. Comm. Burnham

VCS PRESENTS

Friday, March 31st

Pre-Show Spaghetti Dinner @ 6pm

Curtain @ 7pm

Saturday, April 1st

Curtain @ 7pm



Tom Stoppard's
**Rosencrantz & Guildenstern
ARE DEAD**

Pre-Show Spaghetti Dinner RSVP

Seats are still available for our Pre-Show Spaghetti Dinner on Friday night, hosted by parents of the VCS Players! Please RSVP with Jen Oldham (jenontheroad@yahoo.com) or Steve (slausier@vermontcommons.org) by tomorrow - **Wednesday, March 29th** - to reserve your seats.

Last Call for Playbill Ads!

We will be accepting ads for our playbill thru tomorrow - **Wednesday, March 29th**. Please e-mail Steve (slausier@vermontcommons.org) with the graphic you would like to use & the desired size. Pricing is as follows:

Full page (5" x 8"): \$40

Half page (5" x 4"): \$25

Business Card (2.5" x 2"): \$15

Middle School Volleyball

Background photo by Graham Byers '18

by Peter Goff

Last Friday afternoon was the snow-delayed opening of the March Middle School Volleyball season. Our stalwart band of players were divided into two teams (with the expansion of this league, the organizers have asked schools to divide multiple teams into more- and less-experienced squads). Veterans Sam Nichols and Luke Melemede (Floor Captain) added some valuable experience to our team of new players, while our A-team was lead by Floor Captain Will Kusserow-Lair (who was one of the strongest players in the whole 10-team/80-player field).

Some highlights included; Riley Tyler and Magnus Ames getting multiple “Roof” blocks each, Cece Hinds, Riley Bagnato, and Sophie Richardson-Shepard with some great defensive digs, Finnegan McGowen with some smart volleyball, Charlie Melemede with a run of 6 serves while facing set-point-against (not sure if he knew that....), Emmet Cline-Lucey, Charlotte Dodds, and John Bingle with great scramble plays, Lilah Neider and Sam Nichols with some floor-burn-generating rally-saving hits.

The Floor Captains and I selected Game Ball winners from each squad, following the tradition of our JV and Varsity programs that award the Game Ball to the player(s) who showed the greatest improvement in their games, not necessarily the ‘best’ player on the floor. Luke and I quickly agreed that Sophie Richardson-Shepard earned the Game Ball for the B-team (thanks in no small part to the number of times her glasses got knocked off because she was so aggressive in going after passes!) The A-team Game Ball was a little trickier, as the team really performed as a team.... struggling in the beginning of the day and then coming together in the end to beat the undefeated hosts of the venue in their last set. However, we agreed that the A-team Game Ball was earned by Magnus Ames. Special thanks to our Varsity team members who have donated time to help the team (Amira Silverman, Graham Byers, Jalen Gibbs, and Ryan Senior)

Since this story, we’ve had another match; Floor Captain Finnegan McGowen selected Anjay Mital-Skiff for the B-team Game Ball, while Floor Captain Catherine Krahl selected Mollie Allen for the A-team Game Ball.



Spring Open House

by Jill Strawbridge

Spring has sprung! This season’s Open House will take place on Sunday, April 2nd, from 1pm - 3pm. Please let your friends know!

If you are willing to post a sign in your yard* or hang a flyer in your local coffee shop, hooray! We have beautiful signs and flyers to share at the front desk. Drop by anytime, we’d be happy to give you a few.

*it would look lovely in a snowbank!

FROM DEXTER

\$343,479

That's how much was raised towards Spectrum Youth and Family Services as part of their Sleep Out event, and the Vermont Commons community took care of about **\$5,000** of that. Fantastic! Thanks to everyone who supported the effort in one way or another!! Kudos to faculty member Mark Keegan and senior Amira Silverman for organizing our Student Sleep Out and leading our troupe of fourteen Friday night. They were the only student group among all school groups in the area participating in the Sleep Out to brave the wet, harsh conditions and actually stay outside overnight. They were dedicated, and they made a big difference.

It's another exciting week with the production of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* going up this Friday and Saturday nights. I hope to see many of you there for Friday's dinner theater. I've had a few glimpses of rehearsal and can't wait to see the show at last! If for any reason you can't make one of the shows this weekend but still want to get a taste of it, this week's Common Hour (9:50-10:45 in the Commons Room) will be a teaser of the play; feel free to join us for that.

The Middle School mini-volleyball season wraps up this week with a game at Essex Middle School at 4 p.m. Wednesday and an afternoon Jamboree at Essex High School Saturday starting at 12:30. GO TURTLES!!!

As you've seen in Jill's announcements, our final Admissions Open House for the year is this Sunday, 1-3 p.m. Year after year you tell us that the vast majority of you learned about Vermont Commons from a family who had enrolled their child here. Please do the same for someone else by connecting them with the school, and in so doing helping to build the future of Vermont Commons!

Looking ahead to next week, we host our monthly Parent/Guardian Coffee next Tuesday, April 4, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Please join me and the faculty in the Faculty Lounge upstairs for conversation, morning refreshments, and a time to check in on what's going on at school and conversation around current topics. It's a great chance to check in with your children's teachers but also with other parents/guardians in the community.

And we're getting down to the last couple of weeks with our beloved Seniors. The last day of regular school for the Class of '17 is Friday, April 14th, after which they embark on their individual Senior Projects. We wish their parents/guardians all the best in this transition time!

Have a wonderful week!

VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL - 75 GREEN MOUNTAIN DRIVE, SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT 05403

P: 802-865-8084 F: 802-865-2429 EMAIL: INFO@VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG

WWW.VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG

ENGAGING STUDENTS WITH THE WORLD