



MARCH 28TH, 2014

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Upcoming  
Events

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

Mar 31st-Apr. 4th  
Spirit Week

April 4th-5th  
VCS Presents  
*Much Ado About Nothing*

April 9th  
Community Film Series:  
*The House I Live In*

## Trustees' Day 2014

The Board of Trustees welcomed the opportunity to visit VCS today and were welcomed themselves by both students and faculty alike. The day began with coffee and bagels for parents, Trustees and Faculty. Heather Moore then gave a talk on R&S and the changes being implemented in this signature program.

Morning Meeting was a riot with a Green vs Gray, Trustee vs Student Competition. As Master of Ceremonies "The Goff" explained, the Board is entrusted with the mission of the school and, therefore, provides the foundation upon which the school is based. The competition then was to use K'nex to build the tallest tower possible employing a stable foundation. "The Goff" announced the Board of Trustees' Grey Team as the winning team with a tower of 57" after a SNAFU with the measuring apparatus was resolved.

Trustees then attended classes ranging from Big History to Pig Heart Dissection to Chinese to Geometry to Language Arts to "The Goff's" CSI Class.

The finale was a luncheon hosted by the Board for the Student Senate members!

Thank you to the Trustees for taking an entire morning out of their very busy lives and schedules to spend time as Flying Turtles!



# Where's the Trustee?



# Foundational Learning







# Vermont Writes Day Winners

Below you can find some work submitted by the winners of VCS' contribution to Vermont Writes Day. The event occurred in February when we took 7 minutes of MM to write as a community on the prompt "Write about any kind of pressure, and begin with the phrase, 'My mind was racing...'" Congrats to the winners!

## By Ben Maksym

*My mind was racing, my heart pounded like a piston. "Deep breaths" I told myself. "In, out, in, out." It was as if my breaths had to climb over thresholds as I went, or I'd start to feel worse and worse, and have to stop. But I couldn't stop, not with so many running ahead. I wouldn't, no, couldn't be last again. But my heart continued pounding in my chest, going as fast as I wished I could go. My breathing transformed from the deep inhales, to shallow gasps. My body was drained. Already, more people were passing me as I slowed, nearly choking from lack of air. It was over. I had lost.*

## By Heather Moore

*My mind was racing, and it started so quickly. The morning always came so fast. As a child I can remember slowly waking up, slowly acclimating to a bright world, rosy clouds peeping through my windows. But now, now it was heavy, a weighty creature in the corner that saw my awakening and scrambled its heavy, misshapen body towards my chest. Without worry about my small frame, it scrapped and clawed, messing the blankets to create a heavy nest. The feeling of Tuesday. The feeling of many issues small and large, the scales of the creature – I could look into each shiny scale – visions of what I must take on... on Tuesday.*

## By Peter Larsen

*My mind was racing, what do I do? Do I lose my mind and let the depths consume me? Do I hold my breath until my lungs collapse and I see stars in the daytime? The instructor told us to breathe slowly, but everything in my mind, and plain-old common sense, screams, "No! Don't open your mouth!" I am not a fish, though I may swim. My vision starts to blur and my face feels tight. I feel as if I am in a trash compactor, and am slowly being squeezed until I am flat, like a little child draining the Capri-Sun pouch that is my body. I need to decide. Do I swim up to the surface and face the ridicule of my peers? Or do I welcome the shamelessness of the void below and slip beneath the waves? Somewhere in the back of my mind, a voice cries out, "Open your mouth! For god's sake, open your mouth!" Reluctantly, I force my jaw down, and wait for the water that will spell my doom. Instead, a cold blast of pressurized oxygen rushes into my gullet, and I wince. But I open my eyes.*



## From the Yearbook Committee

As we are creating the yearbook 2013-2014, 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: \$15

Quarter of a page: \$25

Half a page: \$50

Full page (8x11): \$75

If you are interested, please fill up this Google form: Yearbook Ad Form . We will be accepting ads until Tuesday April 1st. If you have any questions, please let us know at [a.comtois@vermontcommons.org](mailto:a.comtois@vermontcommons.org).

Thanks!

## From the NAIS Annual Conference

A group of VCS Community members were able to attend the NAIS Annual Conference this past February. Our own Mark Cline-Lucey, reporting on the conference, shines some light on some of the discussions which took place in Orlando. Check out the article on [his blog](#).



## Some Volleyball Updates

### Digging Out From Winter: All-League Volleyball team vs. Coaches/Refs

Last weekend, thirteen of the nineteen 2013 All-League players from around the state met at the Edge for an afternoon of volleyball. Two teams of students took on two teams of adults in a round-robin. Almost half of the All-League team was made up of your own Flying Turtles (Amira, Mason, Eli Hulse, Mikhal, Nora, and Maggie).

### Volleyball clinics offered at VT colleges

St. Michael's College in Colchester, and Norwich University are both offering clinics through their varsity volleyball programs. The St. Mike's clinic is three weekend days spread out over a month (open to 5th - 12th grade boys & girls), and the Norwich clinic is a one-day offering. See <http://gmvb.weebly.com/vyva-news.html> or VYVA's Facebook page for more details. These clinics are designed specifically to include brand new players...but there will be opportunities for upper-level players to work with collegiate volleyballers on advanced techniques. If you are a potential new player for next fall, I strongly urge you to get to know the sport as soon as possible!





# Students Host Model U.N. Conference at VCS

Vermont Commons seniors Emil Koenig and Miles Lamberson hosted the school's first completely student-run Model United Nations conference. The conference was a simulation of World War I, with four committees representing the cabinets of Russia, France, Germany, and Austria-Hungary. Students from around Chittenden County and beyond attended.



## Coming Soon! VCS Presents William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*

**When:** Friday, April 4th & Saturday, April 5th  
**Where:** Contois Auditorium (Burlington City Hall)

### Who:

*Our talented students! Including:*

**Mitch Leffler** as Claudio

**Natalie Senior** as Hero

**Galen Fastie** as Benedick

**Lauren Howe** as Beatrice

**Ben Maksym** as Don Pedro

**Amber Quinlan** as Leonata

**Rainer Kannenstine** as Dogberry

*And many more!*

Hope to see you there! [Click here for more info!](#)

*Shakespeare's*  
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING



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