

MARCH 30, 2015

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1st
Yoga for All with
Rachel de Simone

April 1st
Admissions Reception
Waitsfield

April 8th
Admissions Reception
Flying Pig

April 8th
Common Hour
Senior Send-Off

10th Grade Debates Origins of Life

Ryan Senior

The 10th grade class held a debate on how biological change and the origins of life on Earth should be taught in Vermont public science classrooms.

Students were divided into four groups: Intelligent Design, Darwinism, Creationism, and a group that combined all perspectives. They each stated why their belief in particular should be taught in science classrooms. The Intelligent Design group argued that an all-powerful being, or “intelligent designer,” created the universe, for life is too complex to exist without one. The Darwinists argued that there is proof that life evolved from multicellular forms through natural selection. The Creationists argued that the world was created by God in seven days. Finally, the Combination group argued that in order for kids to be able to formulate their own opinions, a mix of everything must be taught.

In one of the two sections of the class, the Combination group won by creating a stunning argument about the need to fully culture students, followed in second place by the Intelligent Design group. In the second section, the Creationists won and the Combination group came in second.

One of the highlights of the debate was that some of the students chose to play their parts in “character,” random roles selected to add a little fun to the serious topic. Nimaya’s portrayal of Hermione Granger, Jill’s of Sarah Palin, Kamli’s of Liz Lemon, Stefan’s of Ricky Bobby, and Alex D’s of Yoda were especially memorable. And everyone was sure to speak softly when addressing Jake W. as Bruce Banner...

All in all, the students did a great job of respectfully handling one of the toughest debates in education today.



VCSi Part III: *BilluvsAmy Attacks!*

Peter Goff

The 9th Grade VCSi forensics project recently entered its third installment, with science students splitting into groups of 3 to compete for the coveted title of Alpha Team. The crime scene is described below:

The director of SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) Dr. Shilpa Vijar and Colonel James Tiberius (commanding officer of US Air Forces' Project Blue Book) held a clandestine meeting at VCS to discuss a new anomaly discovered at the Los Alamos National Lab. A previously un-noteworthy star had begun to scan Earth's radio transmissions!

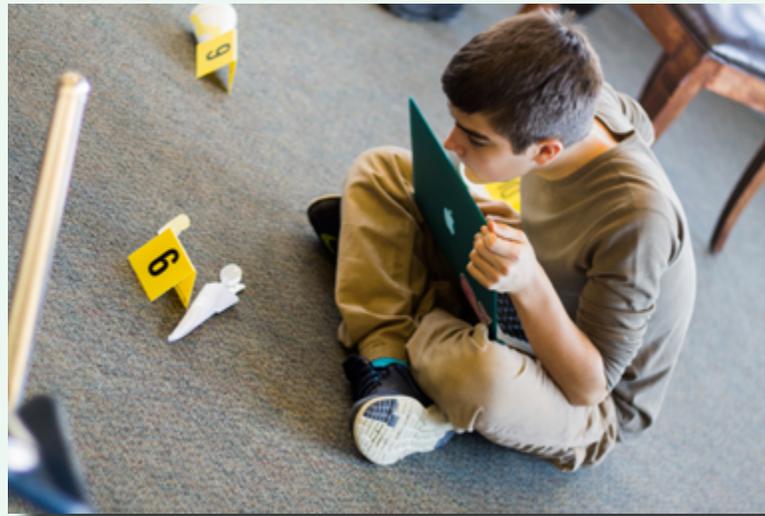
Dr. Vijar brought her husband (Payton) and two members of their family to Vermont, using a ski vacation as cover story. Colonel Tiberius brought his wife (Uhura) and five of their extended family to Burlington by way of a trek through Montreal. Unbeknownst to them all, they were being hunted by an alien assassin-clone! The signals were coming from the star known here on Earth as BllLuvsAmy (named via Star Registry) By a cosmicallyunlikely probability, "BilluvsAmy" translates directly into; "Your mothers eat mlerm" in the language of the hyperaggressive and super-advanced civilization living on the seventh moon of the third planet orbiting said star. 'Mlerm' is the condensed sweat-wax that rains from the 17 crotches of the Ravenous Bugblatter Beast...a more hideous insult has never been uttered in the 13 trillion-year history of the Universe.

The denizens of this civilization refer to themselves as Moistums (in yet another tragically unlikely phonetic coincidence). The Moistums decided to crush the rude Homo sapiens, but first dispatched their most lethal assassin (Tymi Pointibits) through a wormhole to eliminate the people most likely to discover and thwart their plans of vengeance (Dr. Vijar and Col. Tiberius). Tymi absorbed (don't ask) a local animal, assumed its shape, and waited until both families were together in the VCS Commons Room before attacking.

Grainy security footage from across the street shows a malevolent light erupting from a quadruped's head, engulfing (and vaporizing) one person after another as people try to flee the scene. Two people escaped, one from a window, and another through the North stairwell door.

It is vital to the safety of the planet Earth that we discover who survived the attack, and what shape Moistums mimic while here on Earth.

Congratulations to our new VCSi Alpha Team: Emma Bell, Nick "Bort" Bortzfield, and Megan Hosmer!



The dreaded Moistums assassin, Tymi Pointibits.



Photography by Amira Silverman

7th Graders Visit Winooski Mill



Students Attend *Macbeth* Performance at Flynn Theater



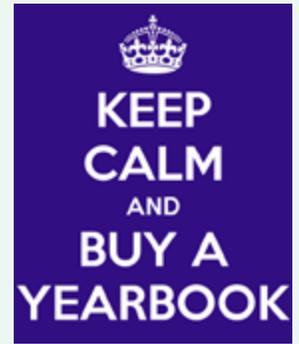
Vermont Commons joined a number of area schools at the Flynn Theater on Wednesday for a student matinee performance of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, *Macbeth*.

"The Scottish play" was performed by the players of the Acting Company, considered "the major touring classical theater of the United States." The New York City-based troupe visited the Flynn as part of their Student Matinee Series.

The Company used a minimalist set, plain costuming, and shadowy atmospheric lighting to relay the tale of the legendary Scottish warrior-king and his murderous rise to power. Many thanks to Christie & Jen for organizing our trip downtown to see the show!



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Upcoming Admissions Events

Jill Strawbridge

You've heard plenty of exciting news from VCS in the past couple of weeks. We are pleased to let you know there is even more excitement on the horizon!

Wednesday, April 1st

Big Picture Café, Waitsfield

5:30pm-6:30pm

Mingle with current families, students, and administrators from 5:30pm-6:30pm at a favorite Waitsfield haunt. We look forward to introducing new students to our engaging approach to education. Light refreshments available.

Wednesday, April 8th

The Flying Pig, Shelburne

8:30am-9:30am

Bring friends who enjoy coffee and conversation. Vermont Commons' parents and administrators will be available to answer questions about our hands-on field based curriculum and fabulous, supportive faculty.

Sunday, April 12th

Vermont Commons School, South Burlington

1pm-3pm

Please join us for our first ever Spring Open House! Experience a flavorful slice of our school. Faculty, students and parents love to share VCS with interested families. Invite your friends.

Please call or write with questions, I like hearing from you!

To Spring!



Re-Tribe Summer Program to Visit Vermont Commons

Interested in joining the Coyote and Chipmunk Clan? A summer program, called Re-Tribe, will be here on Thursday, April 2 at 11:45 a.m. to share information about their offerings. Here's a [link](#) for updates prior to their visit.

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