

APRIL 3, 2015

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 8th
Admissions Reception
Flying Pig

April 8th
Common Hour
Senior Send-Off

April 10th-12th
Dartmouth
Model U.N.

April 12th
Spring Open House

Vermont Commons Presents *Our Town*

This past weekend, a small group of turtle-thespians presented Thornton Wilder's timeless classic, *Our Town*. Presented at the Off Center for the Dramatic Arts in Burlington's North End, the players turned this tiny black box theater into the quaint town of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, for four fantastic shows over three days.

The players & production crew would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the Vermont Commons commu-

nity for their support of this year's play. From the faculty who helped take tickets, to the Off Center, to the parents and extended families who lent props, costumes, and set pieces to the cause, and everyone in between. Your generosity gave us the foundation to build a great show!

If you missed the show, not to worry! We're hoping to have filmed copies of the performance, courtesy of Will Shayne, available soon!



World Language/Mathematics Interdisciplinary Project

Tenochtitlan

Adriana Comtois & Jess Redmond

Students in the 7th grade spent a week researching the ancient city of Tenochtitlan, now known as Mexico City, for their Introduction to World Languages class. Then, as part of an interdisciplinary project with the Math department, they launched onto building parts of the city to scale.

As you can see in the pictures, students worked very hard to be as culturally accurate as possible, using cardboard, clay, wire and sticks to build the houses, temples, market and the base of the city itself.



Reviews of *The Acting Company's Macbeth*

Last week, Vermont Commons students traveled to the Flynn Theatre for a student matinee showing of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, performed by the famed Acting Company.

Students in Christie's LA 9 class followed up their viewing by writing brief reviews of the performance. Below are some excerpts from their reviews.



The performance pleased the generally harsh audience of all high school students, keeping them engaged with the dramatic acting and thought-provoking direction. -Beckett

Each time a death occurred because of Macbeth, the character chalked a line down the gray wall. This choice was a great idea for the play because it also brought out Macbeth's regrets as he began to fear being overthrown. -Jalen

When Macbeth saw Banquo's ghost for the first time, and the bass-heavy, close to dub step sound resonated through the entire Flynn Theater, those who weren't paying attention were roped in, and those who were had their eyes glued to the stage for the rest of the show. -Jacob

The costumes made the play take a seemingly post-apocalyptic setting, which was a nice touch, but was tainted by the characters still addressing each other with medieval titles. -Nick Jennings

Lawrence's (Macbeth) and Janas's (Lady Macbeth) blocking during the performance was appropriate for the context. They faced the audience, including them in the play, along with engaging the character they were speaking to on set. -Matt

Another positive aspect is that the characters were engaging, and fun to watch, especially the Porter with his childish humor. -Nick Mantegna

The play opened with the singular witch, singing an eerie song that seemed to foreshadow what was to come. She was dressed in a long, grey-blue robe, with a hood, one black glove, and a piece of cloth over her eyes. The bottom of her cloak was red, as if dipped in blood. -Ana

The set was simple, a grey backdrop with a door in the middle and a stump that also acted as a stool. It was functional and useful for creating the eerie mood, especially the chalk lines later etched in the wall as a tally for the murders in the play. -Megan

As they begin their feast, Macbeth plays with a crimson apple, throwing it up and down. The witch sees this, and quickly snatches it out of the air as soon as it leaves Macbeth's hands.... a symbol for what is to come. -Graham

Some of the actors lacked the intensity that their characters required, leading to a let down in the overall performance and how the story progressed. The soliloquies were lacking a bit of emotion and were deprived of force. -Eliza

The sound was mostly well done, especially in the scene with Banquo's ghost. It made Banquo's ghost seem much more intimidating and terrifying, as it should be. The set was well done, the stump was an unusual, but welcome addition, and the chalk streaks were wonderful. -Nick Bortzfield

The set also, though discreetly, provided a sort of portal between the two worlds we feel Macbeth and his wife are in: the mortal and the supernatural. -Harry

England Big Trip Fundraising

Maple Syrup For Sale!

Christie Beveridge

The England trip is selling maple syrup, courtesy of the Jennings family! The bottles hold 500ml, and we will be selling them for \$20.

Anyone who wants to order to bottle can place an order with James Jennings. His email address is james@javahill.com. They can also let me know in person or by e-mailing cbeveridge@vermontcommons.org, and I will pass the order on to him.

The syrup itself is classified as 'dark' or 'amber.' It has a traditional maple flavor, but due to soil chemistry it also has flavors in the dairy family - like cream or melted butter. That makes it great for making whipped cream instead of sugar. It also has vanilla notes. The sugars range from caramel to toffee depending on grade.

Place your order now, and help support the England Big Trip this spring!

College Counseling

Junior Class Attends CVU College Fair

Sarah Soule

On Monday, March 30th, our junior class attended the College Fair held at Champlain Valley Union High School in Hinesburg with close to 100 colleges and universi-

ties in attendance. It was an opportunity for members of the Class of 2016 to meet with a variety of institutions and speak directly with admissions officers.



Admissions

Spring Open House!

April 12th at Vermont Commons

A reminder that we will be holding our first ever Spring Open House on April 12th! Please invite your friends, family, and acquaintances to stop by the Commons Room at

1pm for a flavorful slice of our school. Contact Jill at jstrawbridge@vermontcommons.org with any questions you might have regarding this fresh new tradition!

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

P: 802-865-8084 F: 802-865-2429 EMAIL: [INFO@VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG](mailto:info@vermontcommons.org)

WWW.VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG

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