

<p>Upcoming Events</p>	<p>June 2nd-4th Final Exams</p>	<p>June 4th MME & Send Off Open House for Peter Gilmore</p>	<p>June 5th Field Day at Oakledge Park</p>	<p>June 6th Graduation Ceremony</p>
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A Message Regarding Graduation 2014

VCS PARENTS!

The 2014 graduation will take place on Friday, June 6th at 10:30am. All students take part in the graduation and, if weather permits, it will take place behind the school in the meadow of the UVM Horticulture Farm.

I urge you to attend the ceremony.

Why do I urge you to attend? If you have ever wondered if you did the right thing by sending your child to VCS, if you have ever cursed your long drive to school, if you have ever questioned the small social circle, all those things become less important on that Friday morning. Not just because it is a very moving and gratifying experience to see first hand the amazing young people VCS has nurtured, but because the quality of the education is only surpassed by the love of learning and of each other that the students and their teachers exhibit on that day.

The relationship that our students have with their teachers is inspiring. The teachers have the opportunity to watch the blossoming of young minds, but our children have the opportunity to have their minds expanded by enthusiastic, bright, and open educators with high expectations. Our teachers know our children and want them to be their best selves. This is an intimate educational experience you will not see elsewhere. This is what VCS offers. This is what is on display in shining colors on graduation morning.

I hope to see you on June 6th.

Dinah Larsen
Parent of Peter Larsen, VCS Class of 2014



Date Change for Final Exam Pickup!

Please take note! The date of final exam pick-ups has changed to **Tuesday, June 10th**. Exams will be ready for pickup at 9am that day.

We wish you continuing good luck as we move forward with exams!



Night of Glory 2014

Last Tuesday, May 27th, VCS honored its students at the annual Night of Glory in the Commons Room. New NHS members were inducted into our chapters, VCS Sports and Extracurricular Programs were honored, and Varsity jackets were distributed to our student athletes.

Also, new this year, we honored our 8th graders, the Class of 2018, with a special Welcome to High School ceremony. The students were presented with special flying turtle “hatchlings,” to symbolize this important step in their academic career. We wish them all the best in their high school careers!



Much Ado About Something

Oh Claudio, how wrong you were about Hero! Yet, who could blame you? It certainly did look like Hero was unfaithful. Is Shakespeare telling us that seeing is not believing?

Benedick and Beatrice each swore that they would never marry in Act One, yet in Act V, they joined hands and even sealed their pledge with a kiss.

Such are the questions and contradictions the audience was left to ponder after a wonderful performance of Shakespeare's *Much Ado about Nothing* on April 4th and 5th at Contois Auditorium in Burlington. With a talented cast of Vermont Commons School students ranging from 7th to 12th grade, the actors clearly enjoyed themselves as they teased, cavorted, railed, challenged, and fell in love with each other over the course of five acts of one of Shakespeare's finest plays.

Beatrice and Benedick, played by Lauren Howe '16 and Galen Fastie '16, threw themselves into character, reciting their parts in full text, and enjoyed enacting the love-hate-love dynamic between Beatrice and Benedick. Their playfulness, emotional intensity, and comic timing was impeccable. I am still marveling at how two young people could portray such a range of emotions so believably.

Yet, Lauren and Galen were not the youngest in the cast. Natalie Senior '19 played the part of Hero with such joy and heartbreak, that the audience was smitten. Fiona Oldham '19 played her sidekick Ursula, and the two seemed to revel in their roles tricking Beatrice. To round out the ladies in waiting, Zelda Ferris '17 played the mischievous Margaret with sprite-like energy. She looked for trouble innocently enough, but with a twinkle in her eye. Zelda's brother, Xavier, more than held his own as Antonio, and he had the privilege of delivering some of Shakespeare's most delicious insults. The versatile Hani Bortzfield '19, played multiple roles, including messenger, sexton, and boy, and he bumped up his performance each time, in each role. Jasper Goldman '19 played Verges opposite Rainer Kannestine's Dogberry ('16). The height difference between the Goldman/Kannestine duo may have been 18" but their physical comedy was perfectly balanced.

The seniors were not about to be outdone by the underclassmen, au contraire! Corbin Hill '14, helped organize and move sets before, during, and after production. Seth Evans-Diffenderfer '14 came back to the stage to turn an awesome performance as Conrade, and Aidan Villani-Holland '14 made his VCS debut as the mutinous Don John, the bastard from Messina. He was convincingly villainous, and his acting was impeccable. Amber Quinlan took on the complicated role of Leonata, mother to Hero, and she spoke volumes, with volume, and with expressiveness in her voice. Mitch Leffler also a senior, charmed the audience with his portrayal of Claudio, the soldier who has returned from the battlefield only to fight another battle in the affairs of his heart. Falling in and out of love, cursing and praising the fates, he acted the gamut of emotions with conviction.

Balthasar, played by Elliot Carey '16, wowed the audience with his music. Elliot composed the music for two new songs, breathing life into "Sigh No More" and the funeral music, designed to mourn the supposed death of Hero. Eli Hinds '16 played the sleeping, incompetent Watch, who ironically hears the villains confessing. Most agreed that he is ready for a bigger role next year. Ben Maksym once again held the cast together with the central role of Don Pedro, who dabbles in duplicity only to be played by his half brother and Leonata. Don John wants power and Leonata wants justice; Don Pedro has an appropriate response for each of them. Ben's acting is superb. After portraying the wise fool in Twelfth Night last year, Ben once again provided the emotional center for the production.

Everyone smiles each time Beatrice confesses, "I love you with so much of my heart that none is left to protest." And so do I. Thirteen productions later, the Vermont Commons School play continues to be a labor of love. Nothing is lost.

Cara Simone '97
Dean of Faculty
Academic Dean

Watch the production and judge for yourself.
Part I: <http://youtu.be/ztQs91gMKcs>
Part II: <http://youtu.be/CarmktwJwJuY>

LAST CALL!!!

2013-14 Yearbooks!

VCS Families!

Please click the link below to order Yearbooks for the 2013-14 school year.

All orders **MUST** be in by Tuesday, June 3rd!

Please make checks (\$55 per yearbook) payable to VCS and give to Adriana.

Many Thanks!

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Click
to order your
Yearbook

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