



MAY 9TH, 2014

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Upcoming Events

May 10th
7th Grade Potluck

May 14th
8th Grade Social
Skating at Cairns Arena

May 16th
End of 4th Quarter

May 19th-23rd
Spring Encounter Week

It Was a Gala Affair!

Last Thursday night, the Shelburne Farms Coach Barn was alight with luminaries, both of the candle kind and of the human kind. The Vermont Commons Community filled the barn with laughter, dancing and generosity as we celebrated the highest Parent Participation in the history of the Annual Fund:

99%!

That means with our 100% Faculty Participation, our 100% Trustee Participation and our Parent Participation we are at, drum roll please....

99.7% total VCS Community Participation!

Now that is something to celebrate!

Thank you to our Annual Fund Chairs, Deidre and Derrick Senior, without whom we would never have reached such heights. Thank you as well to the Gala Committee: Deidre Senior, LaTrisha Gibbs, Jen Oldham, Carey Strobeck, Liz Raddock, Rose Webb and Jill Strawbridge. Their hard work made the Gala evening look effortless.



Sustainability Update: Exploring the World of Waste - Part 2

To learn even more about what happens to our stuff when we're done with it, the off campus component of Bradley's Research & Service class has included trips to many of the places where our waste travels after it leaves the building. We learned that our trash (i.e. everything that's not recyclable, compostable or donateable) follows a fairly direct line from our dumpster to a transfer station in Williston where it gets loaded into containers and hauled by trucks to the landfill in Coventry. Because this was too far to drive, we visited a landfill in Williston that has been closed for a number of years. Our recyclables follow a more colorful collection of journeys.

We visited the "Materials Recovery Facility" in Williston where all of the blue bin recyclables from Chittenden County end up, and there we saw how a giant mountain of unsorted material is separated by a combination of conveyor belts, screens, crushers, magnets, and manual labor into piles of sorted materials that are then compacted into huge cubic bales that may weigh up to a ton. These bales of sorted recyclables are then sold to a variety of companies that may end up reprocessing the material in the United States, or may send the material to Canada or even overseas, mostly to China.

At the Green Mountain Compost facility in Williston, we visited mountains of decomposing food scraps, horse manure, yard waste and even hot cocoa mix from Green Mountain Coffee Roasters. The easiest way for VCS to begin composting is to bring our compost to a nearby drop off center, from which it is transported to the Green Mountain Compost facility. This is advantageous, because this facility is able to take things like paper towels, paper plates, pizza boxes, meat and bones, dairy products, and even whole animal carcasses (sorry, Goff, we didn't ask about shark carcasses...).

We also visited the ReSource household goods and construction materials stores, where we helped to sort old VHS videos and learned about how the items we donate can serve to benefit our surrounding communities in numerous ways, from providing inexpensive household goods to teaching individuals marketable skills such as electronics and appliance repair. Before the end of the year, we will also be visiting the McNeil Generating Station, where landscaping waste and clean wood from construction debris is burned to generate electricity, and the Environmental Depot, where hazardous waste such as old paint and household cleaners is processed and safely disposed of.

The final task of Bradley's R&S class is to redesign the system that we use to handle our school's solid waste, with the goal of creating a more efficient and convenient system that will minimize the amount of trash we send to the landfill. To that end, students collected, inventoried and cleaned all of our waste containers, and used floor plans of the building to plot the optimal locations for trash, recycling, compost and other types of waste containers that will collect things like electronics, light bulbs and plastic bags. Since April break, we have begun to implement our new system step by step, and there will be more exciting changes coming soon!

At the Green Mountain Compost facility...

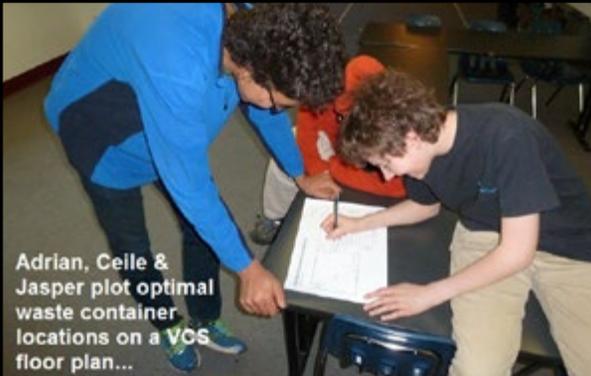


At the Williston landfill (now closed)...



More pictures on the next page! -->

Sustainability, Part 2 (cont.)



Art Camp with Ben Patrick & Amira Silverman this Summer!

Instructors: Amira Silverman and Ben Patrick

June 23rd – 27th, 2014 (Monday – Friday)
9:00am-3:00pm

Ages: 8 – 12 years old

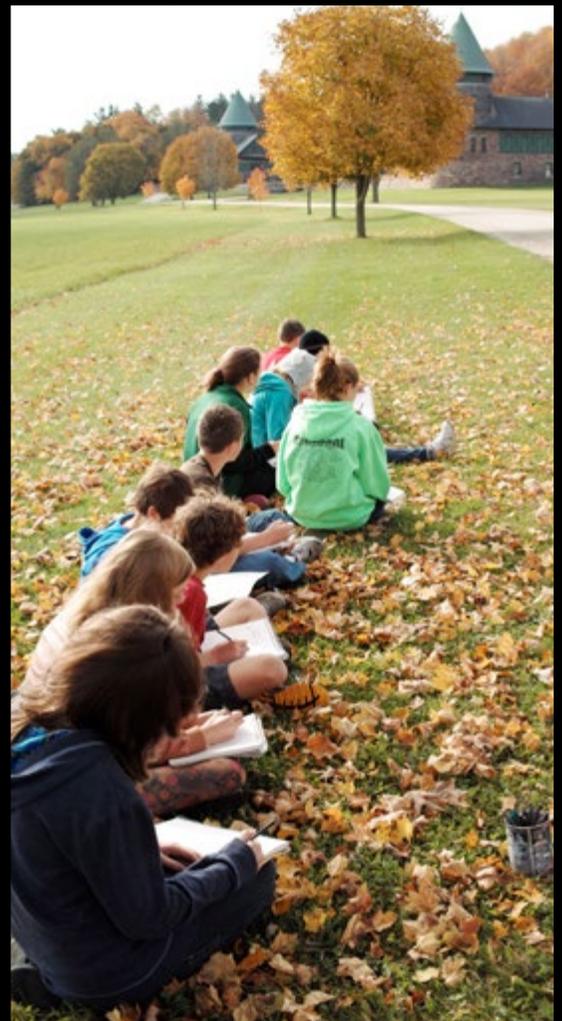
Space limit: 12

Cost: \$350 for the entire week, all art supplies and museum visits included.

Media and Materials: printmaking, painting on canvas, observational drawing, ceramics, collage, nature walks on the farm, visits to local museums.

Vermont Commons School is pleased to offer a studio art intensive summer camp for children between the ages of 8 -12. Instruction will be given to observational drawing and painting techniques and a variety of media and materials. Activities will include frequent visits to Shelburne Farms and Shelburne Museum. Students will leave art camp with a new appreciation and understanding for art and the creative process as well as a portfolio of their own work.

Please contact Ben Patrick at bpatrick@vermontcommons.org for more information.



9th Grade Social Studies on WCAX

Mark Cline-Lucey's 9th Grade Social Studies class was recently featured on WCAX, discussing their video research projects and their relationship with RETN.

[Click here to read the story on WCAX's website!](#)



Summer Opportunity for Girls in Technology

The Governor's Institutes of Vermont (GIV) has spaces available for girls at the [Governor's Institute on Information Technology and Digital Media](#). Please spread the word to your students who are passionate about learning and want a life-changing summer experience! The IT Institute will be held at Vermont Technical College from June 21-June 29. [Click here](#) to learn more – scholarships available!



Ultimate Champlainships

From Coach Jake Raisanen

Great tournament at Champlainships this weekend. While we went 2-5 with our two wins both against St J JV, we played great games once we got comfortable with the disc and fields. We capitalized on a tough three games Saturday by using all our mistakes to learn and have great games on Sunday. *Ultimate photos courtesy of Scott Decatur.*



Order your Yearbooks NOW!

Click the link to the right to order online!



Click
to order your
YEARBOOK

Coffee House TONIGHT! Hosted by Seth Evans-Diffenderfer, VCS '14!



FRIDAY, MAY 9TH

7:00 - 9:00 PM

**COFFEE
HOUSE**



**PURE ENERGY
20 WINTER SPORT LANE
WILLISTON, VT**

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