

March 13, 2012

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 15**

PACS Coffee  
Hour 7:45-8:45 AM

**March 22**

Second Evening  
of Readings K-Z  
6-8 PM

**March 23**

Third Quarter Ends  
World Language  
Celebration 1:20-3:15 PM

**March 29**

Film Screening:  
Miss Representation  
with Panel 6-8 PM

## Film Screening—*Miss Representation* 3/29, 6-8 PM

### Panel Discussion to follow with Madeline Kunin

*Parents please note: Miss Representation is rated TV-14DL. This rating indicates that the material may be inappropriate for children 13 and younger. The letters after the age recommendation, DL, stand for suggestive dialogue and coarse language. However, the premise of the film is to help teenagers think critically about harmful media images and messages, to which they are frequently exposed.*



Like drawing back a curtain to let bright light stream in, *Miss Representation* (90 min) uncovers a glaring reality we live with every day but fail to see. Written and directed by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the film exposes how mainstream media contribute to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America. The film challenges the media's limited and often disparaging portrayals of women and girls, which make it difficult for women to achieve leadership positions and for the average woman to feel powerful herself.

In a society where media is the most persuasive force shaping cultural norms, the collective message that our young women and men overwhelmingly receive is that a woman's value and power lie in her youth, beauty, and sexuality, and not in her capacity as a leader. While women have made great strides in leadership over the past few decades, the United States is still 90th in the world for women in national legislatures, women hold only 3% of clout positions in mainstream media, and 65% of women and girls have disordered eating behaviors. Read more about the film at [www.missrepresentation.org](http://www.missrepresentation.org).

There will be a discussion panel from 7:30-8 with [former Vermont Governor, Madeleine Kunin](#), [WPTZ TV Anchor, Stephanie Gorin](#), and [UVM Lecturer in Women's and Gender Studies Annika Ljung-Baruth](#).

## Looking for Items for the Upcoming Auction



The Auction Committee is looking for donated items for our upcoming auction. We are looking for unique experiences, vacation opportunities, art, and gift certificates for restaurants and local businesses. The auction benefits the Annual Fund, and all donated items are tax deductible. Please contact Sarah Judd in the Development Office if you have something you would like to donate.

## PACS Coffee Hour—Thursday 3/15 from 7:45-8:45 AM



The next PACS sponsored Coffee Hour will be held on Thursday, March 15th from 7:45-9 AM. Please join us for some light refreshments and a great opportunity to mingle with other parents, faculty, and staff!

## Open House Middlebury Reception—Wednesday 3/14



On Wednesday, March 14th at 4:30 p.m. Head of School, Peter Gilmore, and Director of Admissions, Sarah Soule, will host a reception at the Middlebury Inn for interested prospective families from Addison County. Special thanks to the Beach and Reed families for helping to organize this event! Merle '16, Spencer '14 and Lex 12, will be speaking about the VCS experience and light refreshments will be served. If you have friends who live in the Middlebury area, please encourage them to attend! RSVP to [ssoule@vermontcommons.org](mailto:ssoule@vermontcommons.org)

## Board Corner – Meet Craig Heindel, VCS Board Member 2007-Present



Craig Heindel is the parent of two VCS graduates (Naomi '03 and Ruth '06) and has been involved with the school for more than ten years. While a parent at the school, Craig participated in whatever ways he could, such as leading science field trips on the geology of the Champlain Valley. In 2007, he was asked by the Founders to join the Board, and he has enjoyed serving as a Trustee ever since.

Craig currently sits on the Executive Committee, Buildings and Grounds Committee, and the Commons Campus, and Site Task Force Committees, which have shepherded the school through the exciting construction projects in recent summers and are gearing up for another one!

Grateful for the tremendously positive impact that VCS has had on his family's life and on his two daughters, Craig and his wife Judy credit much of that to the wonderful teachers at VCS. He observes that they are clearly passionate about the subjects they teach and love to share it with students – and that they're really good at it! Craig feels the teachers are excellent role models for young people and are an inspiration for him every day. It's very important to Craig that VCS is a place where every student has the chance (and even the expectation) to excel, to lead, and to grow; where it's OK to be curious about the world, and to be engaged in understanding it and the peoples and cultures in it; and where there are plenty of opportunities to spend time outdoors, which is such a great way to learn about the natural world AND to learn leadership and team skills.

Craig is a consulting groundwater geologist and part-owner of Heindel & Noyes, Inc., an environmental consulting firm based in Burlington, Vermont; as well as a part-owner of Endyne, Inc., an environmental testing laboratory in Williston, Vermont and two other locations. He particularly enjoys the “teaching” aspects of his consulting work, whether it's explaining some water supply options to a village board, or assisting a property owner in evaluating and cleaning up a contaminated industrial site, or leading a group of UVM students (or VCS silent-auction winners) on a glacial geology field trip.

When not “geologizing” or serving on town boards and state environmental advisory committees, Craig and Judy enjoy being out in the mountains and lakes of Vermont and the northeast – and any other place that's cold, stark, and wet where they can hike, ski or paddle.

When asked what motivates him to serve on the Board at Vermont Commons School, Craig answers, “I want VCS to continue strongly into the future, so that other families can experience the same benefits that we have felt. And selfishly, it's a great pleasure to work with such a committed and talented group of people: the other board members, the faculty and staff, and the students and their families. The willingness of everyone to collaborate toward our shared goals is an ongoing joy.”

“The graduates of VCS are a special group of people! They will be our leaders and thoughtful participants in our future. As VCS continues to adhere to its mission and vision, we'll slowly fill the Champlain Valley, and Vermont, and New England and the world with the best people I can imagine.”

## College Corner –by Sarah Soule



On Monday, April 2nd, all VCS juniors will travel to CVU for the spring college fair and meet with representatives from over 100 colleges and universities! On Wednesday evening, April 4th, sophomores and juniors are strongly encouraged to attend the Consider Canada College Fair which will be held at South Burlington High School on Dorset Street at 7:00 p.m. On Thursday, April 12th, at 6:30 p.m. South Burlington High School is hosting a special college information program for students with Individualized Education Plans and there will be a key note speaker from Curry College in Boston. For further information about any of these programs, please see Sarah Soule.

## It's Not Rocket Science! –by Lex Jackson



Math Club usually dedicates the second semester to board games and logic problems, but this year we tried something new: rocket science. Since the beginning of the semester we have been building our own rockets, entirely from scratch. Last Thursday, after six weeks of design and construction, our rockets were finally ready to launch. Residents near Dorset Park must have been surprised to see three simultaneous rockets whizzing above the tree line, and to hear the snaps and pops of other, less powerful explosions. Don't worry; the launches were a safe distance from all surrounding residences (and members of Math Club). All in all, we had six total launches, and rockets made of everything from empty bottles to bamboo. Since the launch was such a success, we'll be launching again, most likely on Thursday, March 15. If you'd like to join us, call ahead; we'll meet at Dorset Park around 12:15.

## This Week in Photos



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](http://WWW.VERMONTCOMMONS.ORG)