

April 10, 2012

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 13**

Last day for  
Seniors!

**April 17-18**

School Play  
West Side Story

**April 19**

PACS Coffee Hour  
7:45-8:45 AM

**April 20-27**

April Vacation!

## Amazing Items in the Upcoming Auction!



Items for our upcoming Auction are starting to come in, including this amazing Pandora bracelet with a turtle charm! Our auction will kick off on Bidding for Good on May 7th and run until May 19th. We are still looking for auction items, so if you would like to donate something, please contact Shona Mosey Lothrop or Sarah Judd in the Development Office.

## VCS Students Perform West Side Story April 17-18



Please join us for a cool night of dancing, song, and west side fights with the Sharks and the Jets! Actors at Vermont Commons School have been working tirelessly to produce this sensational Broadway musical. Roll up your sleeves, wear your Converse All Stars, and get ready to defy the laws of Officer Krupke!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Where: Black Box Theater at Main Street Landing

When: Tuesday and Wednesday, April 17th and 18th at 7:00pm

Price: Suggested Donation of \$5.00



**Put an Ad in The playbill!** Advertise your business; support a local cause; congratulate a talented musician or actor! Ads are \$25.00 for a half page (4" x 5") and \$50.00 for a full page (8"x5"). Please send ads to Ben Patrick: [bpatrick@vermontcommons.org](mailto:bpatrick@vermontcommons.org). Thank you for your support!

## Coffee House—Friday 4/13 6-8 PM –by Grace Seeley



It's that time of year again! The Coffee House is just around the corner, and this time it is to benefit the Peru trip! There will be no admission fee, but donations are encouraged. It will be this Friday, April 13th at 6:00 in the Commons Room. We will be selling food and snacks, so bring small change! Performers include Lex and Elsa, among others, so everyone should be there to support the Seniors, the Peru trip, and the performers!

# Research and Service: A Healthy Community

–by Adriana Comtois

In this R&S class we have been working with immigrant children at the Sustainability Academy (SA) as well as with adults from the Association of Africans Living in Vermont (AALV). We have been having discussions about where this population comes from, how they might have ended up here and why. We also began preparing a little for our work as ESL instructors with the Buthanese/Nepali adult group from the AALV. After a few weeks, we started working with the kids at the SA, assisting them one-on-one in the classrooms and in the library, or as a group in the art room. We read books, engaged them in conversations about their interests, and also helped them go through their regular activities in class.

We were also supposed to start working with the AALV earlier during this quarter but for reasons out of our control, we haven't been able to start until the final week of the quarter. We just started with them last week, working in basic literacy skills since many of them lack any type of schooling, even in their own language. Below are some impressions from our kids about our visits so far.

While working with the kids, we experienced some very different personalities and different emotions with kids. We had to learn how to deal with those at any time. I think this class has taught us how to interact with the community and reach out to groups of people that we probably would have never interacted with. It was also great for the kids to be able to look forward to meeting with an older kid they can look up to. We had so much fun talking and learning about where the kids came from, and I think that they really connected with us. I remember a little boy, Benny, who would always run up to us with a book, eager to read. They loved having us in their classes, and we would help them get ready to go home and organize them in line.

*-Henry Harder '17 and Ryan Senior '17*

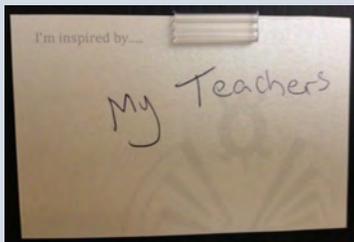
For the past few weeks we have been going to the Sustainability Academy at Barnes Elementary every Wednesday. Some of us have worked in the learning center with Mrs. Benz's kindergarten class. In the learning center we read books to the students for about twenty minutes, and cleaned up after that. When we arrive, the kids are excited to see us and bombard us with requests of, "Can you read this book?" Some books we have read include *Spiderman*, *Tinker Bell*, *Scooby Doo*, and *The Lorax*.

Once we start reading, the kids quiet down- they get "Honey Money" for being good listeners. "Honey Money" is a kind of bonus system for good behavior. It is rewarding to read to kindergartners because they can't do it themselves. It also feels great because of the joy they get out of being read to. We encourage anyone who loves kids to volunteer at the Sustainability Academy. It has been an amazing experience and we look forward to going back each week.

*-Mason Hill '17 and Giselle Glaspie '15*



# 15th Anniversary Wall—*What Inspires You at Vermont Commons?* –by Gabe Mantegna



The Student Senate, in conjunction with the Community Engagement committee, is asking all students, parents, alumni, board members, faculty, staff, and pets to share their answer to this question using just a few words. In order to do so, you can either fill out one of the cards found on the wall by the stage in the Commons Room, or you can email your response to [gmantegna@vermontcommons.org](mailto:gmantegna@vermontcommons.org) and we will anonymously transcribe your response to a card.

Your responses to this question will make up a “15 Years of Inspiration at Vermont Commons School: 1997-2012” display wall, to be a part of the 15th anniversary celebrations taking place this year. So please, take a moment to answer this question right now and email it to the above address, or come to school and fill a card out as soon as possible! You could even do a drawing if you are so inclined!

## Research and Service: Greening up VT –by Eli Hulse and Justin Decatur

The Tree R&S has been busy helping the trees around the Burlington area. This month, we started by meeting with Kit Anderson, a professor at UVM. She taught us about relationships between trees and humans, such as the Live Oak society in Louisiana, made up completely of live oak trees. Then, we worked with Branch Out Burlington or BOB! at the Burlington Community Tree Nursery. We removed the winter tree guards from the trees, and then loosened the trees from the dirt so that the head arborist of Burlington can quickly remove them, and transplant them to the streets of Burlington. In the past month we also climbed the large pine trees on the south side of the school. We learned about harnesses and the safety of climbing trees from Warren Spinner, the head arborist of Burlington. We learned three different styles of climbing trees: leg hook climbing, harness climbing, and belaying up. Finally, we worked at Perkin’s Pier. We mulched the bushes and trimmed the trees that had invasive pests. It has been a fun month with Ruth, and we are going to continue helping Burlington’s trees for the remainder of the year.



# Orchestral & Choral Auditions



April 30 through May 24

*Play or sing with Vermont's best student musicians and work under the direction of Music Director Jeffrey Domoto & Choral Conductor Jeffrey Buettner!*



- Open to instrumentalists in grades 3-12 and singers in grades 4-12
- All auditions are by appointment
- Auditions are held at the Elley-Long Music Center; selected Choral auditions held by appointment at Middlebury College
- There is NO FEE to audition
- Financial Aid is available



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Email [auditions@vyo.org](mailto:auditions@vyo.org) to schedule an audition

*Music for youth. Music for life.*

## This Week In Photos!



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