

May 15, 2012

# TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 7-19**

Annual Fund  
Auction

**May 18**

Fourth Quarter  
Ends

**May 21-25**

Spring Encounter  
Week

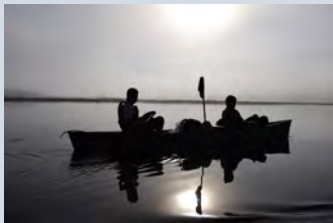
**May 28**

Memorial Day  
No School

**May 29-30**

Exam Review  
Days

## Important Encounter Week Info –by Heather Moore



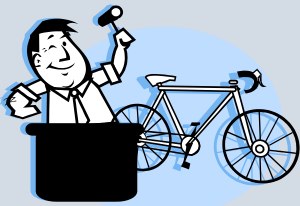
**PICK UP FOR ENCOUNTER WEEK IS AT 2:00 ON FRIDAY** (unless otherwise communicated by your Encounter Week leader).

### *Looking for the next E-Week Angel!*

Calista Hollyer has been an Encounter Week Angel for VCS. Over the years she has made countless trips to Cosco, Price Chopper, and Healthy Living in a super woman-like manner. She has made gorp bags in her living room and found the better brand, cheaper. From the bottom of our VCS hearts, thank you Calista!

We need your help! Could you do part of what Calista has done in the past? We need volunteers to fill this very important job. Please email me if you are interested: [hmoore@vermontcommons.org](mailto:hmoore@vermontcommons.org).

## Auction Closes Saturday, May 19th



There is one week left to bid on the fabulous items in our online Auction! The Auction benefits important VCS programs, such as Encounter Weeks, the Financial Aid Program, and the World Languages Program. [Click here](#) to check out our Bidding For Good auction site and to register:

Featured Auction Items: Here are some of our amazing auction items!  
Bog Walk with Peter Goff  
Downtown Burlington Studio Apartment  
Gourmet Dinner Delivered  
Prince Edward Island Cottage

Thanks for supporting the Auction!

## New Auction Item Added: Ovation Acoustic Electric Guitar



This item has just been added to the Auction this week! The guitar was generously donated by Steve Johnson, Alumni parent of Zannah Johnson, Class of 2011. If you would like to try the guitar out, it is located in Sarah Judd's office on the first floor.

## Science 7 Leads Green Up at the School House –by Peter Goff



Friday, our 7th-graders got to be the big kids for a change as we worked with the School House during Green-Up Day. School House alumni Mason Hill and Will Shayne led a group of School House kids along with three other adult-led groups as we scoured the campus for winter and spring trash. The VCS students did a great job as Turtle Ambassadors, especially at a meeting afterwards where each VCS student complimented a student or three from their specific groups.

## Multi-Media Extravaganza –by Peter Goff



It's that time of year again! The MME will be shown at the [15th Anniversary Party](#), and only at this event. I am taking a long look at VCS history, but the MME will (as always) emphasize this year, and particularly the Seniors. That being said, your friends (yes, you) have submitted horrifyingly-embarrassing photos and videos of you....really, they have (they're lying when they say they haven't). As a matter of simple self-defense (or *proactive vengeance*) I strongly recommend you send me photos/videos of them. E-Mail photo/video/audio files to me, or put them on a USB drive if they're a little big.

## Community Partners Wall –by Mark Cline-Lucey



As a visual celebration of our school mission of community engaged education, VCS now has a Community Partners Wall! The wall is a map of Chittenden County with the mounted logos of all the organizations, businesses, and agencies that our students have collaborated with over the years, whether through Research & Service classes, Encounter Weeks, days of service, or their core classes. As the text on the wall states,

"At Vermont Commons School, our goal is to engage students with their world. We achieve this through classroom curricula and extra-curricular opportunities grounded in local and global connection. Community Engagement is one of the four pillars of our Strategic Plan, and this commitment is part of what makes Vermont Commons School the extraordinary place it is. We believe that a school founded on Community Engagement:

1. fosters students' connection to place;
2. nurtures students' love of learning;
3. creates vibrant partnerships between our school and the greater community;
4. improves environmental, social and economic vitality; and
5. helps students learn to care for their world and feel empowered to make a difference."

## National Honor Society Update –by Peter Goff



Mia Jager to succeed Tim Sears as the Supreme Chancellor of the VCS National Honor Society. 2012 inductees are, Ryan Miller, Miles Lamberson, and Henry Sadler. Congratulations!

## Student Opportunity!



The Vermont Council on World Affairs (VCWA) is proud to be coordinating a two-week youth leadership exchange through the U.S. State Department's Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau through Meridian International Center.

The VCWA will be welcoming 14 students and 2 adult participants from Hungary, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia and are inviting prospective families in the Greater Burlington area to host our visitors for the duration from July 13-26, 2012. The purpose of these home stay visits is to give students a real and accurate insight into American life and host families' role as ambassadors is crucial to students' learning on this trip and for the success of the program.

Global education starts early. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome a stranger and send home a friend.

More information on the YLPCE program for Host Families and access to application materials can be found on their [website](#). For additional information, please contact Ashley Sandy at [ashley@vermont.org](mailto:ashley@vermont.org) or [802\)861-2343 ext. 4](tel:8028612343).

## For Sophomores and Juniors –by Sarah Soule



On Thursday evening, May 24th, at 7:00 p.m. admissions representatives from Emory University (GA), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Notre Dame (IN), and the University of Virginia will be at the Hilton Hotel on Battery Street in Burlington to meet with interested students and parents. This is during our Encounter Week, but if you are in town and available, as well as interested in learning more about these universities, I encourage you to attend. Parents are invited to attend without their children if they are out of town on Encounter Week. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

## Watch Graduation on RETN Channel 16 or Purchase a DVD



Watch the 2012 VCS graduation on the education station, RETN Channel 16, on Thursday, June 14, at 8 p.m. and again on Sunday, June 17, at 5 p.m., or watch online at [www.retn.org](http://www.retn.org) after June 14.

Order a DVD and watch it anytime! SAVE \$5 when you buy your DVD prior to graduation [\[click here\]](#). DVDs will be \$20 starting graduation day. For more information, contact RETN at 802-654-7980 or [info@retn.org](mailto:info@retn.org). A portion of the proceeds will benefit Vermont Commons School.



# This Week in Photos



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