

SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

TURTLE TRACKS

A WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Upcoming Events

Sept 7	Sept 9	Sept 10	Sept 13	Sept 14	Sept 15
Picnic 4PM	Picture Day	ACT Test	Parent's Night 6-9PM	College Fair UVM 6:30-9	Senior-7th Grade Dinner 4:30-6PM

Family Picnic Sept. 7



To kick off our 15th year celebration, please join us for food and cake at 4pm this Wednesday. Everyone is welcome!

Parent's Night Sept. 13

Participate in a day in the life of your son or daughter! This evening is designed for parents to fully experience their child's academic life. Meet the teachers, review the curriculum and see the school in action on September 13th from 6-9 PM.

Practice Smiling! Picture Day is September 9



Picture Day will be held on Friday, September 9th. We are working with AMV Photography this year. There is a discount for [ordering in advance](#) and you will also have the option to order online. Please read the [brochure](#) carefully to understand the different ordering options. AMV Photography recommends wearing solid colors on Picture Day. Please contact AMV photography at cs@AMVphotography.com or 802-877-699 with any questions.

The Parents Association (PACS) Looking for Class Parents



My name is Suzanne Mantegna and I have two children at VCS (Gabe '13 and Nina '16). I am one of the co-chairs along with Laury Shea (mother of Nora '15 and Mason '17) of PACS (Parents Association of the Commons School).

PACS was created several years ago to allow the parents to become more involved in Vermont Commons. PACS helps co-ordinate various events with the school, raise money through clothing sales to purchase items for the school, and host two teacher appreciation luncheons. We are currently looking for Class Parents for each grade. **What's involved in being a Class Parent?** You are the liaison between PACS and the parents in your child's class. You would send out emails as needed to your class asking for assistance or giving information about various events. PACS also has a monthly coffee hosted by each grade. The monthly coffees are a great way to meet other parents from your child's class, other classes, and to talk to various faculty members. **Time Commitment?** Maybe 15 minutes a month, plus 2 hours to host the coffee. If you are interested in being the Class Parent, please contact me at sdmantegna@comcast.net

8th Grade Sleepover Friday, September 16 at 6PM



8th Graders: As you know, we had to reschedule last year's 7th Grade sleepover to this year, so now it is the 8th Grade Sleepover! Our new date is **Friday, September 16th**, starting at **6 p.m.** Pick-up time on Saturday morning is at **8 a.m.** For new students, the sleepover is at VCS and hosted by Heather Moore and Sarah Judd. We will provide dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday morning.

Here's what you should bring:

- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Extra change of clothes
- Pajamas
- Movies you want to watch (we'll have some, too)
- Games you may want to play
- Movie watching snacks
- Toothbrush

What you can expect:

- Games
- Water balloon toss
- Mayhem
- Movies

The sleepover was an Awesome April Auction item purchased on behalf of your class by the Levine family, so please make sure to thank Greg and his family for this special 8th Grade event! Please let Heather Moore or me know if you can make it. See you soon!!

Sarah Judd, VCS Development Director

College Counseling Corner – Sarah Soule



Sarah Soule, Director of College Counseling

College Fair at UVM Wednesday, September 14

On Wednesday, September 14th, approximately 200 colleges will come to Burlington to attend the college fair at UVM's Patrick Gymnasium. The fair's hours are 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. It's an ideal time for our seniors, juniors and their parents to meet with admission representatives from across the country and learn more about higher educational offerings. Sophomores are also encouraged to attend as they begin to contemplate life after VCS!

The focus of the college counseling program at Vermont Commons is on finding the most appropriate fit for each student in terms of academic program and majors offered, the extra curricular activities, and geographic region and size of student body. VCS utilizes Naviance, an online college counseling program and each senior has an account for researching colleges and universities. Juniors will be able to access their Naviance accounts in early February!

In the coming weeks, multiple colleges and universities will be coming to visit our school to meet with our students. Parents are encouraged to attend as well. Please check the college visit calendar on our website for updates and times of the visits. Students and parents are always encouraged to contact Sarah Soule, Director of College Counseling, regarding any issues about the college admission process and upcoming standardized testing such as the SAT and the ACT.

Green Facts - What to Compost?



Composting is easy! There is a white bucket for compost under the sink in the kitchen. The lid must be tightly sealed after use. When full, the bucket should be dumped in the composter behind the school. Here are some general guidelines:

Do put in: scraps of fruits, nuts, vegetables, grains, breads, noodles, coffee grounds, paper towels, popcorn that fell on the floor, and plant clippings

Don't put in: meat, meat bones, dairy (such as cheese), plastic cups, and plastic forks/knives/spoons

If you have any questions, ask Sarah Judd or Ann Janda.

Seniors Learn to Lead Text and Pictures by Ben Patrick

Last weekend was the fourth year for the Vermont Commons School senior leadership program, in which senior students learned valuable skills under the direction of Mark Cline Lucey. We spent the weekend telling truths, memorizing paths, swimming in the lake and camping with Indiana Jones, but most importantly, we spent the weekend learning to lead. I am amazed at the sensitivity, compassion and direction of each and every one of our seniors. Under their guidance, our school is going to have a fantastic year filled with respect for one another and uncompromised direction. Please enjoy the pictures from the weekend!



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