

Newsletter

Dec. 2013

**VERNONIA EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

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**All donations to VEF are
tax deductible.**



catalyst

The campaign for Vernonia's Schools

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On the afternoon of December 12, 2013, members of the VEF board joined family, friends, teachers and current students of Vernonia Schools to dedicate a new elementary school swing set in memory of Jacob Levenseller. Levenseller, who attended Vernonia schools, died in June 2012, shortly after graduating.

I had the privilege of conducting the event and introducing State Representative Brad Witt, who spoke briefly. After his remarks, members of Jacob's family unveiled a plaque honoring his memory that was placed at the base of the swing set. Students and community members in attendance also had a chance to stop by and honor his memory that day.

Contributions for the swing set were made in memory of Jacob and the Vernonia Community PTA and the VEF also contributed. The swing set was installed by volunteers and is the first piece of a planned outdoor play complex for both our older and younger children.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next V.E.F. Board Meeting
January 9, 4:30 p.m. in the School Library

Upcoming

V.E.F. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Most of you know that the Vernonia Education Foundation (VEF) was formed as a 501c3 public charity in 2009 primarily as a vehicle for other foundations, corporations, and businesses to donate to our new schools project when their guidelines would not allow them to donate directly to a school district. The foundation has been growing and changing as we have gained new board members and the school has been completed, but our primary focus has been to provide additional funding for our new schools.

To date the VEF has paid over \$1.1 million to the Vernonia School District to offset approximately \$5 million in construction debt for our new schools. The district continues to work with the VEF as a critical partner in retiring this debt. In addition to cash donations, the VEF can accept estates, stocks and bonds, and even property. The community passed a \$13 million bond in 2009, which was seen by the rest of the state as a 'down payment' and encouraged them to step up and help us get to our current \$35 million raised and paid for of our \$40 million project.

VEF Board of Directors

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Wauna Federal Credit Union

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Vernonia School District

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Camrin Eyrrick

Vernonia Community PTA

Jim Eckland

VHS Alumni Class of 1962

Barb Carr

VEF Secretary

If you can help the V.E.F. in any way please do so, or if you know of anyone who would like to know more about our project we would be happy to share more information about our story. It truly is inspiring what this community, region, and state have done to support the Vernonia Schools.

Dr. Kenneth W. Cox, Superintendent

ALUMNI SPORTS INITIATIVE

Many of you may have received a personal update for the Sports Initiative from VEF Board member Jim Eckland. There has been a good response to his outreach and we are pleased to announce that we will begin holding meetings to plan for the construction of the softball field this spring. It is hoped that there will be enough funds to start construction this summer. The VEF has already authorized funding for a survey of existing fields to ensure that future plans are accurate. If you are interested in participating in these meetings please contact the VEF Board Secretary, Barb Carr.

LOGGER PRIDE

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