

# Newsletter

Dec. 2015

**VERNONIA EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION**

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**All donations to VEF are  
tax deductible**

**catalyst**

The campaign for Vernonia's Schools

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Aaron Miller

Time flies when you are having fun and working hard, so it is no surprise that the Holiday season is upon us. In this time of giving and thanks we are so appreciative of all the support our alumni and partners continue to provide for the Vernonia School District (VSD) and the Vernonia Education Foundation (VEF). As partners we can truly make a difference.

This season will be a critical one for the VSD. The state legislature will meet in January and February and we continue to hope for some sort of relief from loans incurred at the end of our school construction project. Our overall debt is slowly decreasing and is now below the \$5 million mark, but the annual payments of over \$500,000 are becoming increasingly hard to make as the majority of these bills have been paid with dwindling cash raised through legislative actions and private donations to the VEF.

At last month's VEF Board meeting alum and longtime district supporters Evelyn Holce and Randy Holce made combined donations totaling over \$120,000 to provide funding for the Vernonia High School baseball field to be constructed on campus this spring. This type of generosity continues to bolster the district as we work to make ourselves whole at the new campus.

If you are able to donate to the VEF, whether it be small or large, in the form of a check, donated stocks or other forms of securities.....Every Little Bit Helps!!! Please help us as we strive to eliminate the final bills incurred for our new building.

I want to again give my sincere thanks for all your past donations to the VEF, and encourage you to donate again (or for the first time) to support all the goals and initiatives of the foundation. Your continuing support helps provide our students the best educational opportunities and facilities possible and is so appreciated! Thank you!!!

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**VHS Hall of Fame Nominations Due:** January 4th. See back page article.

**VEF Board Meeting:** January 14th 7:30 p.m. School Library.

*Upcoming Events*

## VEF Board of Directors

**Pam Weller**

Wauna Federal Credit Union

**Aaron Miller**

Vernonia School District

**Bill Langmaid**

Vernonia School District

**Cari Levenseller**

Vernonia School Board

**Ronda Smith Lennen**

VHS Alumni Class of 1974

**Camrin Eyrrick**

Vernonia Community PTA

**Jim Eckland**

VHS Alumni Class of 1962

**Mark Lemay**

Vernonia Boosters

**Greg Kintz**

Vernonia School Board

**Barb Carr**

Secretary

**Marie Knight**

Treasurer

## VERNONIA SCHOOLS HIGHLIGHTS

By Aaron Miller & Matt Urban

Recovery efforts in the Vernonia School District and the community of Vernonia are being noticed outside of our town, with other schools wanting to participate and help in some of our natural resource/sustainability programs.

In the fall of 2014, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from the Jane Goodall Environmental Middle School in Salem, Oregon joined our Kindergarten, 4<sup>th</sup> grade and High School Forestry students during Salmon Watch activities learning about salmon life cycles, riparian zone health, water quality and actually observing salmon spawn in Rock Creek.

In the fall of 2015 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Lakeside School in Seattle, Washington made Vernonia the focus of their annual, week-long, community service field trip. These students also participated in Salmon Watch activities and performed community service at the local museum and wetlands; helped support reading and math instruction in the Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms at Vernonia Elementary School, and joined Vernonia Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> graders for several academic activities. Their students were so excited about the work they performed and the connections they made that Lakeside 8<sup>th</sup> graders will return to Vernonia in the Fall of 2016 for a similar experience.

The work we are doing in Vernonia Schools is making a difference.



It is making a difference for our own students, in the lives of visiting students, and in our entire community. Thank you so much for being a part of it, and contributing to help us continue our journey forward!

## ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

By Gordon Jarman

Deadline to submit names for the 2016 Induction Ceremony is Jan. 4, 2016. Categories for this honor include:

- ◆ Older Athletes—VHS graduates more than 10 years ago
- ◆ Modern Day Athletes—VHS graduates 5-10 years ago
- ◆ Community Members—those that have gone above & beyond through their volunteerism, dedication, and contributions to VHS Athletics.

Older and Modern Day categories must include participation on a state championship team or be a state caliber athlete by earning all-state recognition or honors. To submit a nomination please contact Gordon Jarman, VHS Athletic Director at [gjarman@vernonia.k12.or.us](mailto:gjarman@vernonia.k12.or.us).

## ALUMNI UPDATE

The VEF Board unanimously voted to recommend naming the new softball field, "Alumni Field." This recommendation is being passed on to the VSD Board and district naming committee for further consideration in this process. We are confident that this name will be approved and ready for dedication at our first softball game ever on the field this spring.



Alum and shop donor Lloyd Johnston, representing the family of E.T. and Norma Johnston, was here this fall to visit the new facility. Mr. Johnston's family was a major donor that provided funding to push our shop construction project to completion. Anyone wishing to tour our new facilities should make an appointment through Barb Carr in the District Office at 503-429-5891. (pictured are Llyod Johnston and Superintendent Aaron Miller)

**The Vernonia Band** participated again this year in the Macy's Holiday Parade the day after Thanksgiving in Portland. Band Director Matt Urban stated the band did a fantastic job with only a couple weeks to memorize music and practice marching! The Vernonia Logger Banner made by VHS Digital Arts Class led the band through the streets of Portland. As a surprise, former band Director Rob Izzett joined the band and marched with the band at the end.

Photo courtesy of Roger Thompson Photography.



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