

Newsletter

July 2016

**VERNONIA EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

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catalyst

The campaign for Vernonia's Schools

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Aaron Miller

Last year the Vernonia Education Foundation (VEF) began discussing how to further involve our school and community in their efforts to impact students in the Vernonia School District (VSD). One of the ideas that arose was to develop sub-committees that would address different needs within the school community. "Sprouts" is the first of those sub-committees to grow and develop from these discussions.

The "Sprouts" group purpose is to provide support for students and teachers within the school setting. This "Sprouts" group of VEF Board Members and VSD parents held their first get-together on June 29, with a potluck dinner and informational meeting. Those in attendance were enthusiastic about the possibilities for making an impact on the lives of students and teachers through this group.

The "Sprouts" next meetings are slated for Tuesday, August 9 at 6:30pm at the old school campus playshed for another potluck social, as well as Thursday, September 15 at 6:30pm in the new school's playshed for an ice cream social.

We hope you will be able to join our newly formed group to help increase the positive impact adults in our community have on our students. For more information on Sprouts, contact VEF Board Member , Camrin Eyrrick at eurichclan@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

VEF Board Meeting: July 12, 2016 4:00 p.m. School Library.

Sprouts Potluck Social: Aug. 9, 2016 6:30 p.m. Old School Playshed

Sprouts Ice Cream Social: Sept. 15, 2016 6:30 p.m. New School Playshed

Upcoming Events

VEF Board of Directors

Pam Weller Wauna Federal Credit Union	Aaron Miller Vernonia School District
Bill Langmaid Vernonia Community	Cari Levenseller Vernonia School Board
Ronda Smith Lennen VHS Alumni Class of 1974	Camrin Eyrrick Vernonia Community
Jim Eckland VHS Alumni Class of 1962	Greg Kintz Vernonia School Board
Marie Knight Treasurer	Barb Carr Secretary

VERNONIA SCHOOLS HIGHLIGHTS

By Aaron Miller

Teachers in Vernonia will be very busy in the upcoming year, as two new grant proposals were recently approved. Vernonia High School (VHS) teachers were successful in obtaining a \$30,000 AVID grant. This grant will provide training for our high school teachers to implement proven, research-based strategies that create a “college-going culture to increase the number of students who enroll and succeed in higher education.” AVID elective courses will help train students through rigorous writing, inquiry, collaboration, organizational and reading activities. This model has proven to be very successful in other high schools around the country. Teachers involved in the AVID project will be headed to California in August to obtain their training prior to the start of school.

Vernonia Elementary (VES) and Middle School (VMS) teachers were also successful in obtaining a \$37,500, grant-funded learning opportunity to work on Formative Assessments. These teachers will attend a two-day training in Salem, and complete on-line coursework throughout the 2016-17 school year to better implement “formative assessment” and “student feedback” techniques.

Formative assessments are tests that provide information to teachers about what students already know about a subject, so that appropriate learning targets for each individual student can be developed. Once teachers and learners collaboratively develop appropriate learning targets, teachers work to provide focused feedback for each individual student based on their learning, and current level of performance, toward meeting their goal.

We are very excited to have obtained this funding to implement these proven instructional strategies and programs, and look forward to seeing the results for each of our students.

ALUMNI UPDATE

By Ronda Lennen

The Vernonia High School Alumni Scholarship committee is pleased to announce this years recipient of the Alumni Scholarship was awarded to Paige Smith. Paige received a \$1000 scholarship to help further her education. She is the daughter of Vernonia Alumni, Ernie and Robin (Shafer) Smith -1982. Paige was choose based on her GPA, participation in sports, and support and involvement in school activities.

This is the last scholarship the existing committee will award. Beginning July 2016, the current Alumni Scholarship will be merging with the Vernonia Education Foundation. Anyone can make a donation to the fund by sending a check, or cash payment, to the Vernonia Education Foundation/ Alumni Scholarship fund. Donations can be made anonymously, or can be made as memorials. If you are alumni making a donation, please specify your year of graduation. If you choose to make a memorial donation please specify the name (and year of graduation, if an Alum) of the person(s) in whose name(s) the donation is being made.

SPORTS INITIATIVE UPDATE

By Jim Eckland

The new Alumni Softball Field was dedicated on April 26 with the Lady Loggers softball team beating Willamina 14-8. The new field was built primarily with contributions from over 200 Alumni through the Sports Initiative fund.



Jim Eckland, VEF Board Member threw out the first pitch. On hand for the dedication were Robin Murphy, Staff; Ronda Lennen and Pam Weller VEF Board; Mark Brown, Staff; and Brett Costley, School Board member.

Construction of the new VHS Baseball Field, Holce Field, will begin this summer. Funds for this project were made available through generous donations from Evelyn Holce and Randy Holce and others. This project will be completed Fall 2016.

A fundraising campaign for the construction of a new Football Field and Track is now underway. The goal is to raise \$2 million by the year 2020. Please send your tax deductible contributions to the Vernonia Education Foundation, 1201 Texas Avenue, Vernonia, OR 97064 and specify track or football. Thank you for the continued support.