

**VERNONIA EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION**

Vernonia School District  
1201 Texas Avenue  
Vernonia, OR 97064  
Phone: 503-429-5891  
Fax: 503-429-7742  
E-mail: [bcarr@vernonia.k12.or.us](mailto:bcarr@vernonia.k12.or.us)  
[www.vernoniaschools.org](http://www.vernoniaschools.org)  
[www.vernonia.k12.or.us](http://www.vernonia.k12.or.us)  
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**catalyst**

The campaign for Vernonia's Schools

**A Message From The Chairman of the Board** by Bill Langmaid**Vernonia Schools seeks Bond Approval**

Following the announcement that the school district was seeking voter approval of a \$6.8 million bond measure to retire construction debt and complete the campus, a group of community leaders formed a Political Action Committee to enlist voter support of the bond.

Over the past month area voters have been blitzed by mailed info cards, articles in the Voice, and Facebook postings, all supporting the bond measure. The VEF board agrees that it boils down to completing a job already started in 2009.

While a loss means an annual \$410,000 hole in the schools budget, lost staff and days of school, a funded bond means a completed campus, a budget hole filled, and a rejuvenated Mist School. The voters already committed to funding \$13 million of the construction costs. If the measure passes, this ups the total to almost \$20 million, which is less than half the total cost of the school.

The district and bond committee are both excited that the school was selected by lottery to receive matching funds from the state for the portion of the bond that will go toward completing the campus and upgrading Mist School. That's a \$2.7 million dollar incentive to pass the bond.

The Foundation board supports the bond and encourages everyone to vote for its passage.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR***Upcoming Events*

**VEF Board Meeting:** Nov. 15th 6:30 p.m. School Library.

**SPROUTS Ice Cream Social:** Oct. 6th 6:00 pm Covered Play Area

**VHS Homecoming Week:** October 3rd—7th See back page for a detailed event schedule.

## VEF Board of Directors

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

## VERNONIA SCHOOLS HIGHLIGHTS

By Aaron Miller

Students at Vernonia High School had another successful summer working as interns here at the school district, and with other local agency partners. For our third summer in a row we have had student interns placed at Stub Stewart State Park (Intern Assistants), the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council (Geographic Information System Technician and Field workers) as well as here in the Vernonia School District (Grounds, Maintenance and Custodial).

These internships were originally paid for through a Career and Technical Education Grant through the Oregon Department of Education, but were such a success that the VSD has included them in their General Fund budget since that grant funding has ceased. In addition to supporting our students through the VSD budget, Stub Stewart State Park has accessed their own grant money to continue this program through their own funding.

These summer job experiences have had a huge impact on our students. They learned valuable work skills, have valuable experience to place on future resumes, and were able to put some money in their pockets to boot.

In addition two of our original VHS grant interns at Stub Stewart were hired this summer to be full-time Ranger Assistants. The skills learned during their internship helped earn them these positions. The VSD will continue to fund these positions and also look for ways to expand opportunities for our students to gain valuable work experience that they can utilize for the rest of their lives.

## VHS HOMECOMING SCHEDULE

**Mon. Oct. 3**—Powderpuff Football 7:00 pm Greenman Field

**Wed. Oct. 5**—Air Jams/Coronation 7:00 pm Big Gym

**Thur. Oct. 6**—Cross Country 3:30 pm Greenman Field and Volleyball 5:30 pm Big Gym

**Fri. Oct. 7**—Football 7:00 pm Greenman Field  
Bonfire following the game.

**Sat. Oct. 8**—Homecoming Dance 7:00-10:00 pm Vernonia Scout Cabin

## SPROUTS Update

By Camrin Eyrrick

### What is VEF SPROUTS?

We are “planting seeds for a brighter future” by helping to bridge gaps between parent, teachers, students and community. VEF SPROUTS wants to help support teachers in their everyday needs and welcome families to join our school community to help ensure a healthy school community. We are governed by the Vernonia Education Foundation, but work more like a committee to accomplish our goals. We plan to organize events, fundraisers, offer support to teachers/ staff and students as well as help encourage volunteerism in the school and classrooms. Our main goal is to help offer new opportunities for students and increase opportunities for all to become involved at school.

We are currently in the formation stage of this new and exciting group and would love your input on what is important to you!

### Upcoming Meetings & Events!

The first SPROUTS meeting was held **Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>** in the school library. We will be meeting monthly starting on Wednesday, **October 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm** in the school library.

Please join us for a *FREE ice cream social* at the Vernonia Elementary open house on **Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 6pm** in the covered play area adjacent to the school commons area.

For more information about SPROUTS, please contact Camrin Eyrrick @ 971-258-9994 or email at [eurichclan@gmail.com](mailto:eurichclan@gmail.com)

## SPORTS INITIATIVE UPDATE

By Aaron Miller

Construction of the new VHS Baseball Field, Holce Field, began over the summer and is close to completion. All excavation is complete and the majority of dirt is in place. The irrigation lines are in, the cinder perimeter is done, and fencing has been ordered.

What remains is Hydro seeding which will happen mid October, installation of the sprinkler heads and the fencing. Currently efforts

are underway to get the backstop and dugouts for both the Softball and Baseball fields. The goal of having all home Softball and Baseball games on the new fields next Spring is still on track.



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