

VHS Band Prepares For California Tour

Thirty-three Vernonia middle and high school students are preparing for a six-day, three-performance concert tour of northern California, next month. The students will be leaving during spring break and will travel by charter bus, staying at the schools where they perform. The Vernonia Band, led by Director Rob Izzett, will be joined by twelve students and the band director from Molalla High School for the tour.

The band will perform at Yreka High School on the first night, and then travel to Healdsburg High School, which is where Izzett grew up. At the Healdsburg concert, the band will be conducted by Izzett's retired high school band instructor for one song. From there, the group will head to the Bay area for a few days of fun, before concluding with a concert at Dunsmuir High School.

During their visit to the San Francisco area, the group plans to tour Alcatraz Prison, Fisherman's Wharf, and a Rubber Duck tour-- a tour of the city in refurbished WWII military amphibious assault vehicles that travel by both land and in the bay.

Izzett says he is also working on a visit to a major college in the area, where students would spend some time working with the band director there and

get to see the campus. Izzett still didn't have a firm commitment-- details are still being worked out.

Izzett says he is working with the band to tighten up their playing in



preparation. "It's time to really get down to business between now and Spring Break," he says.

Izzett is preparing his band for a full evening concert, meaning they are preparing to play nine selections during each performance. "The kids have never prepared for anything like that before,"

says Izzett "Usually, they work on their three or four songs for the Christmas program, and after that they work on three or four songs for contests, and that's almost all most schools do. Not only have they been learning the songs they performed at Christmas, but we've been working on the songs for this tour. So, we've never really done anything like this before.

According to Izzett, the band's set includes a medley of marches by John Williams that contains music from *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones*, as well as the "Colonel Bogey March" from the movie *The Bridge Over the River Kwia*.

Students in the band are excited about the trip. "I'm just really looking forward to playing with the other bands.

It's cool because we're going on a tour, not just going to one place to play," says Junior Jackson Miller, who plays trombone. Junior Samantha Morgan, who plays clarinet, has visited San Francisco before. "I'm looking forward to traveling and hanging out with my friends. I'm also excited to go shopping at Fisherman's Wharf."

Eighth grader Macayla Adams, who also plays clarinet, will be joined by her family for part of the trip. "I'll be with my family during the fun parts," says Adams. Adams also says she is looking forward to seeing the Golden Gate Bridge.

The students have been raising money for the trip for over a year; the Vernonia Community PTA is also a sponsor. Izzett says some students are still trying to raise money and if anyone is interested, the group will accept any financial support to help with their trip.



Family Reading Night

Thursday, February 24, 6:30-8:00 PM will be this year's Family Reading Night at Washington Grade School. We will have booths set up with different reading activities. A few of the activities offered are learning how to knit, making gag, and making bookcovers for your FREE books.

Barnes & Noble will also be offering activities and book sales in the gym. If you would like to support WGS by buying a book but cannot make it to Family Reading Night, then you can purchase books at the Barnes & Noble store (be sure to tell them you're from WGS!) or online with code #10391100. Proceeds will go towards purchasing books for WGS.

VHS Winter Sports Report

Wrestling--Coach Chris Wolfe's Loggers are steadily working their way towards the District Meet on February 18, 19. In preparation, the Loggers had some tough matches scheduled as they headed to the Scappoose Invitational on February 4, where they were scheduled to take on 4A Scappoose and Astoria and a very tough Nestucca squad, who has already defeated Vernonia in a dual match.

The Loggers also have a scheduled dual meet at home against district rivals Central Linn and Neah-Kah-Nie on February 8th, which will also be Senior Night for the Loggers.

"Everyone is wrestling tough and getting into the weight classes where they want to wrestle for Districts," said Coach Wolfe. Last year, the Loggers were district Champions while wrestling in division 3A.

"I'm ready for Districts and excited to see what we can do in 2A. Only the top two finishers at District go to the State meet, so we're going to have to be at our best."

Boys Basketball-- The Loggers are entering the stretch run towards the Northwest League playoffs with a league record of 8-5, after an exciting 41-40 win over Portland Christian on February 3, with upcoming crucial games against Gaston on February 5 and Faith Bible at

home on Senior Night on February 12. According to Head Coach Ted Aubin, Knappa has been at the top of the league, with Faith Bible, Gaston and Vernonia fighting it out for positioning going into the playoffs. League playoffs are scheduled for February 17 and 19.

Coach Aubin says Tanner Faber has been the team's most consistent scorer, Bob Michalac has been strong in the middle, and Craig Weller has been the team's most important player. "He can guard, handle pressure, defend, and make plays on his own," says Coach Aubin about Weller. "When he is in the game, we are winning."

"This is a fun team to watch," says Aubin. "We play pretty hard and hopefully we keep it up through the last couple weeks of the season."

Girls Basketball-- The Lady Loggers have battled a number of injuries this season, but still find themselves right in the thick of the playoff hunt with a 7-6 league record. Head Coach Steve Whiteman's team have won five of their last eight games and have had to depend on what he thought would be a very deep squad heading into the season. Whiteman has even used some JV players to fill in some gaps as expected starters. Shyla Tungwenuk, Kim Allen and Chelsea Johnson have all had to miss significant time this season.

"We have enough good players that when someone gets hurt, others step up and play," said Whiteman.

Recent wins against Nestucca, 59-20; against Delphian, 44-9; and a big win against Faith Bible, with tough losses to Neah-Kah-Nie and Knappa, leave the Lady Loggers right in the mix for the playoffs which begin on February 17.

"Our defense has been one of our strengths," says Whiteman.

The Loggers were scheduled to play important away games against Gaston on February 5 and Riverdale on February 8, before concluding the season at home on Senior Night against Faith Bible.

Whiteman has gotten solid play all season from guards Ariel and Megan Rock, with Sami Lindauer and freshman Stephanie Castro alternating at the third guard spot. Inside, Kristina Halvorson, Mickell Maller and Chelsea Johnson have played the post positions. Natalie Wallace has also been a key player all season. Samantha Wallace, Cierra Henson and Rowan Cheney have all moved up from the JV squad to contribute.

"This is one of the best and most enjoyable teams I've worked with," said Whiteman. "They work hard every day and don't complain."

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Clothing Drive
to supply Kait Mart, a new Community Closet for VMS and VHS Students

Saturday, February 12
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the covered play shed

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