

VHS Band Places 5th in State

The VHS Band made it's first trip to the State Band Festival in over a decade and finished in fifth place out of six bands. Which may not sound that great, but considering there are almost 120 competitive bands in 2A in the State of Oregon, fifth in the State is something to be proud of!

According to Band Director Rob Izzett, the students played great and Rowan Cheney gave an amazing solo performance on the French Horn.

The Band has two upcoming events in June, a Spring Band Concert on June 2 at 7:00 PM which

concert uniforms – tuxedos, shoes and dresses. And of course they, like almost everything else in the band room, flooded. So we started fund raising again. Some of the money we made from the first Dallas Brass concert was used to repurchase the concert uniforms. Mr. Izzett used some donated money for band to purchase Marching band uniforms. And we continued with car washes, bake sales, hauling suitcases for Cycle Oregon and so much more. Then we took that trip to Disneyland and it was worth all the effort! It was

added band bonus this year. She donates three full days a week to volunteer to work with all percussionists.”

Congratulations to everyone--the instructors, the students, the parents, and the supporters--who has made the Vernonia Band Program such a great part of our schools and our community. It is something we can all be proud of!



will include a professional video of their state festival performance, a slide show from their spring break tour to California, and some really fun music; and a Fundraising Car Wash on June 11 at the District Office from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Speaking of fund raising when the below photo was sent for publication, we commented on how sharp the students looked in their “Band Uniforms.” We had no idea the kids looked so great when they performed, and said so. Band Mom Betsy Miller responded with the following information:

“Of course there is a story behind those wonderful uniforms. In Dec. of 2006, Mr. Izzett asked a few band moms (me, Gienah Cheney, Karrie Dass, Kelley Murphy-Shaw, Lee Anne Krause, Marie Knight, Becky Young and Orissa Burghard) if we would be willing to meet to discuss some ideas he had about trips for the band and fund raising. Mr. Izzett mentioned that there was no money in the budget for uniforms. His goal for the band program was to introduce our students to band including performing at festivals, in parades and community events. Later that month we launched our first fundraiser – cocoa at the City of Vernonia tree lighting ceremony and the students performed for the ceremony. At that first meeting we decided to form a group to help Mr. Izzett. We contacted the Booster club and they agreed to assist our group so we became the Vernonia Band Boosters.

We held a few more fund raisers (most always with band students helping) and by the fall of 2007, we were able to outfit the entire high school band with

so much fun, we all decided to try to go on a big trip every two years. Mr. Izzett started talking about a band tour – taking a bus, performing at schools, staying in gyms.

He also talked us (me) into starting a program called Ovation Food-For-Funds at the Rose Quarter. That has grown in to a \$20k a year program open to students and their parents ages 16 and up. Most band students and parents are Ovation volunteers. Money earned helps students pay for any school or Booster related expense. To date Vernonia Ovation volunteers have earned \$48,000. Most of the money pays for trips, fees, sports equipment and musical instruments. This year the Ovation volunteers donated \$250 to Boosters for their scholarship fund.

The band program now has over 100 students in grades 5-12, includes concert, jazz, marching and pep bands. Mr. Izzett's wife Lauryn McCroskey is our

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What they do: Various projects



Joachim Boru, Vernonia



Personal: Family moved here after volunteering with his Salem church to help clean up damage from the floods; carpenter since he was 19 years old.

Quote: “People in Vernonia are really joyful and happy about this project. It's an awesome thing how everyone has come together to build it.”

Chris Nickelson, Hillsboro



Personal: Wife and four-month-old son. Has worked for P&C on other projects; learned about the floods from people at the Vernonia mini-mart, where he goes everyday for breakfast.

Quote: “Over the last two years, I've been out of work for about six months. This project means I can feed my family.”

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