

## Celebrating 20 Years of Community 101

*Students, teachers and donors celebrate the joy of community service and grant making*

Community 101 is a collaborative effort among foundations, donors, educators, students and nonprofits to engage young Oregonians in their communities. Now celebrating their 20th anniversary, Community 101 was created in 1997 by the PGE Foundation to connect classroom learning to the community and introduce students to the importance of civic engagement, leadership and philanthropy. In 2008, The Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) partnered with the PGE Foundation to expand the program to more schools statewide. Today, the PGE Foundation continues to be the top funder of the program.

"What's wonderful about Community 101 is the exposure students have to the power of philanthropy and volunteerism," said Kregg Arntson, Executive Director of the PGE Foundation. "We're honored to have created this program and celebrate the lasting impacts it has had across Oregon over the last 20 years."

During the last 20 years, Community 101 has taught civic engagement, grant making, leadership and teamwork skills to Oregon students; approximately 20,550 Community 101 students have granted \$4.5 million to thousands of organizations throughout Oregon, volunteered 90,000 hours and raised more than \$200,000 to give to causes they care about. Community 101 provides an opportunity for young Oregonians to speak up for what they feel is important, openly discuss issues that impact their lives and their futures, learn about the role of nonprofits and charitable giving, and grant funds to causes they care about.

North coast region participants in the Community 101 program during the 2016-17 school year included Vernonia High School, Scappoose High School and Tillamook High School.

"As high school students, it's not every day that we get to witness the amazing things people do for our community, but Community 101 helped open us up to that. That sense of purpose was very inspiring, and

our committee at Southridge High School couldn't be happier knowing that we helped make a difference in others' lives," affirmed Olivia DeSimone, Southridge High School student.

Community 101 is grateful for the donors, nonprofits and particularly to the many teacher advisors who make this program possible. "Our hope is that Community 101 students take this experience with them throughout high school, college and their adult lives. We'd like them to look back and remember what it felt like to give time and/or money to causes they care about and in turn, continue to support their community through charitable giving and volunteering. Whether it's \$5 or 5 hours, Oregon youth are making a difference," said Jenessa Datema, Associate Program Officer, The Oregon Community Foundation.

Administered by OCF, Community 101 provides student leadership and civic engagement through charitable giving. For information about how to become involved or to support a class in your community, please contact Jenessa Datema at The Oregon Community Foundation, [jdatema@oregoncf.org](mailto:jdatema@oregoncf.org) or (503) 227-6846.

### About The Oregon Community Foundation

*The mission of The Oregon Community Foundation is to improve lives for all Oregonians through the power of philanthropy. OCF works with individuals, families, businesses and organizations to create charitable funds to support the community causes they care about. Through these funds OCF awarded more than \$108 million in grants and scholarships in 2016. For more information about OCF, please visit: [www.oregoncf.org](http://www.oregoncf.org).*

Vernonia School Board Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. The next School Board Meeting is scheduled for August 10 at 6:00 pm in the Schools Library.

## Schools Update: Kindercamp

By Aaron Miller

Parents of incoming kindergarten students who have not yet registered their student(s) can do so beginning Monday, August 7 when the Vernonia Schools office reopens after summer break. If you or a friend has a kindergarten age student who has not yet registered, please come in and sign them up.

In addition to starting school, incoming kindergarten students in the Vernonia School District (VSD) will once again have the opportunity to participate in Kindercamp from Monday, August 14 through Monday, August 28. Kindercamp is a two-week "pre-session" for kindergarteners to provide them with a great opportunity to begin their academic career in the big school without other, older students present. This allows students a chance to meet their teacher and assistants, to become acquainted with their classroom and school, to learn the routines of a typical school day and begin getting to know each other better prior to having the halls filled with tall people that can be somewhat intimidating.

Last year Kindercamp was a huge success with our new, little students making the adjustment to school quickly, and feeling like the building was their school to start with, and they now just have to share it with some taller students once all students begin attending school. We are certain we will see similar results again this year.

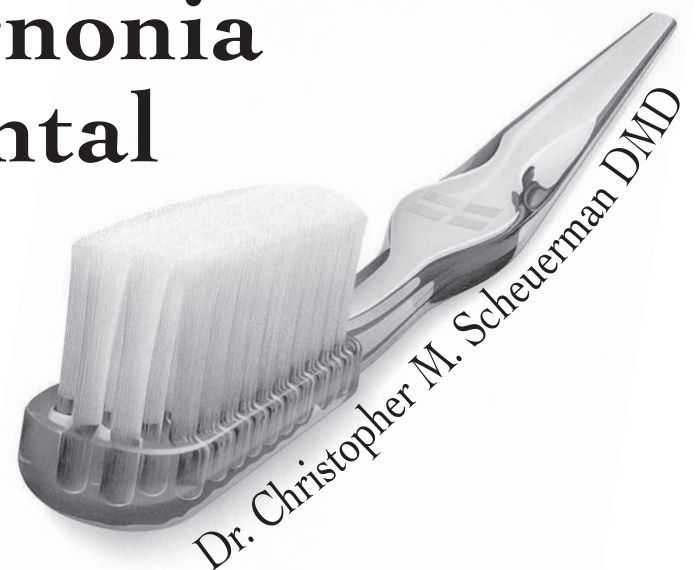
During Kindercamp there will be two information/training dinners for parents and families. The first night of Kindercamp, Monday, August 14 will be the first dinner, with spaghetti on the menu and babysitting available following the meal. The second dinner will feature tacos and babysitting, and will take place on Thursday, August 24. This is a great opportunity for parents to learn how they can support their students in kindergarten, connect with other kindergarten families, and to feed their family for free.

If you have not yet registered your student for kindergarten or Kindercamp, please do so, so we can plan accordingly for the "final" number of students who will participate. Please have immunization records and a copy of your child's birth certificate when registering.

Another element in place to help kindergarten students, and parents, transition into school more easily is our free backpack program. If your student is in need of a backpack and/or school supplies, just let the office know and the school can provide these items free of charge. This is a part of our on-going student backpack program supported by The United Way and private donors, as well as from a grant through the NW Regional Educational Service District.

If you have any questions regarding kindergarten, Kindercamp, or any other school issue, please call the school at (503) 429-1333, or the Vernonia District Office at (503) 429-5891.

## Vernonia Dental



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