

Schools Update

By Superintendent Aaron Miller

Kindergarten Registration

Vernonia Elementary School (VES) and Mist Grade School will be holding "Kindergarten Info and Registration Night" to begin the enrollment process for students entering kindergarten next fall. This year we will have two registration sessions on Thursday, May 10. Sessions will be held at 3:45-4:45 pm and 6:00-7:00 pm at the Vernonia Schools building. Please call the VES office at (503) 429-1333 and schedule to attend one of these two registration sessions.

Children are eligible for kindergarten if they are five years old on or before

September 1 of the enrolling school year. Vernonia School District requires a birth certificate and immunization records for enrollment.

If you have students entering kindergarten next year, or know of any other families who do, please put these dates on your calendar, and notify the Vernonia Elementary School office (503-429-1333) that you have a child that will be starting kindergarten next year.

Free Dirt

One Vernonia School District (VSD) Bond Project that is getting closer to reality is the construction of a new track and football field facility. In order for this project to move forward, the large pile of dirt that is currently sit-

ting in this area must be removed. The VSD has been providing this dirt to local patrons for free (transportation not included) in hopes that it would all be gone by the time the track and field were ready for construction.

We are working hard to make this track and field construction a reality sooner than later, so if you or someone you know is in need of fill dirt, the VSD may be able to meet your needs for free. There is a form for you to complete but the dirt is free of charge. Give us a call at (503) 429-5891 for more details.

Superintendent/Community Chats

Every month Superintendent Miller has been meeting with community members to discuss school business and answer any questions they may have. The next two sessions are scheduled for Wednesday, May 23 from 6:30-7:30 am at the Black Iron Grill, and Wednesday, June 27 from noon-1:00 pm at the Blue House Café. We hope you can join us, but if you have questions and are unable to attend, please call Superintendent Miller at (503) 429-5891 to have your concerns heard and questions answered.

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

VHS Honor Student Nominated for The Congress of Future Medical Leaders

Starr McKinnis, a sophomore at Vernonia High School, will be a Delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Lowell, Massachusetts on June 25-27, 2018.

The Congress is an honors-only program for high school students who want to become physicians or go into medical research fields. The purpose of this event is to honor, inspire, motivate, and direct the top students in the country who aspire to be physicians or medical scientists, to stay true to their dream and, after the event, to provide a path, plan, and resources to help them reach their goal.

McKinnis was nominated by Dr. Mario Capecchi, winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine and the Science Director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent Oregon based on her academic achievement, leadership potential, and determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine. She also received a letter of encouragement from Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici.

McKinnis is an honor roll student at VHS who participates in band, choir, track & field, and is the current captain of the cheer squad. She and her family have started a GoFundMe account "Starr's Future Medical Leaders Trip" to help fund her trip.

During the three-day Congress McKinnis will join students from across the country and hear Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science Winners talk about leading medical research; be given advice from Ivy League and top medical school deans on what to expect in medical school; witness stories told by patients who are living medical miracles; be inspired by fellow teen medical science prodigies; and learn about cutting-edge advances and the future in medicine and medical technology.

"This is a crucial time in America when we need more doctors and medical scientists who are even better prepared for a future that is changing exponentially," said Richard Rossi, Executive Director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists. "Focused, bright, and determined students like Starr McKinnis are our fu-



ture and she deserves all the mentoring and guidance we can give her."

The Academy offers free services and programs to students who want to be physicians or go into medical science. Some of the services and programs the Academy offers are online social networks through which future doctors and medi-

cal scientists can communicate; opportunities for students to be guided and mentored by physicians and medical students; and communications for parents and students on college acceptance and finances, skills acquisition, internships, career guidance, and much more.

The National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists was founded on the belief that we must identify prospective medical talent at the earliest possible age and help these students acquire the necessary experience and skills to take them to the doorstep of this vital career. Based in Washington, D.C. and with offices in Boston, the Academy was chartered as a nonpartisan, taxpaying institution to help address this crisis by working to identify, encourage, and mentor students who wish to devote their lives to the service of humanity as physicians and medical scientists.

For more information visit www.FutureDocs.com or call (617) 307-7425.



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