

Chalk Talk

Chalk Talk presents a variety of information about Vernonia schools. It is written by various staff members and will appear monthly.

By Nate Underwood, Principal
Washington Grade School

It seems unlikely that a quarter of the school year has passed. The staff at WGS continue to work hard to make this a great place for kids to learn. Thank you for the continued support of your child's academic success, evidenced by your participation in fall conferencing, held at WGS on November 6th and 7th.

We have several new faces at WGS. It is a pleasure to welcome Ted Aubin, Jr. High History; and Shanna Sexton, Special Education. They are fine additions to Washington. Ted is also the Assistant Boys Basketball Coach at the High School. Be sure to head out this season to support the Loggers.

Additionally, there are some familiar faces with new assignments this year. I could not ask for a better office staff. Patty Fetherston, Secretary II, and Kari Moeller, Secretary I, make sure that all wheels are in place. If you place a call or stop by the office for a visit, you will always be met with a friendly smile and a helping hand. I have been forced to start exercising again, however, as the chocolate candies that are so abundantly available have become too big a temptation. Adding to my woes is the delicious food of new Head Cook, Gretchen Lindauer. Nutrition is emphasized, as all students are required to stop by the salad bar to balance out their meal with fruit and vegetables. We are very fortunate and pleased to have her in this position this year.

Other changes this year see Lynn Shaw, 4th Grade; Shauna Hoekert, 2nd Grade; and Kari Hansen, 1st Grade, return to Washington. Last year Lynn and Shauna were both at Lincoln, and Kari was teaching at Mist. Cici Bell has moved from the high school to help out with the Title 1 program and Kim Morrison, under the tutelage of Doug Tesdal, is teaching art. We are glad they are here.

With the completion of the first quarter of school, I am proud to announce that 59 Jr. High students are being recognized for Academic Honors.

Principal's Honors, Achieving a GPA of 4.00 –

Samantha Lee, Tricia Levenseller, Ashley Paleck, Rebekahann Peerson, Nicholas Young, Heather Bassett, Connor Flynn, Megan Perry, Desiree Rule, and Mackenzie Carr.

High Honors, Achieving a GPA of 3.50-3.99 – Janda Barber, Gillian Cheney, Byron Schorzman, Rebekah Young, Alexandria Chadek, Cody Eaton, Alisha Witham, Tyler Clines, Joseph Fergusson, Elliot Graf, Blake Moeller, Tim Prpich, Joshua Vanderzanden, Stephanie Benes, Marissa Clement, Allison Schilling, Lindsay Shaw, Ben Bamburg, Sandy Bevans, Kelsey King, Phillip Peerson, and Kymberlia Sebring.

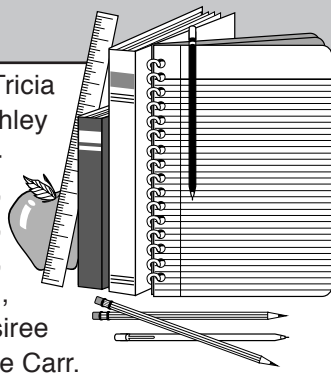
Honors, Achieving a GPA of 3.25-3.49 – Kahli Anderson, Justin Caputo, Celia Gendron-Hernon, Keli Krieger, Danielle Shorey, Amanda Sliger, Amelia Rombach, Lauren Dyer, Carrie Shaw, Matthew Threet, and Joseph Johnston.

Honorable Mention, Achieving a GPA of 3.00-3.24 – David Allen, Yolande Gendron-Hernon, Kirsten Godel, Mathew Krause, Caleb Rice, Rachel Rode, William Forrest, Joseph Hales, Brittney Paden, Megan Heironimus, Dalton Stevens, Sahrina Smith, Nicole Moss, Alyssa Bloomfield, Miranda Gunter, Bonnie Organ, and Timothy Taylor.

Congratulations to all for a fine effort. Keep up the good work!

Upcoming events include the music program and basketball season. The title of our Christmas Program is "An Early American Christmas." The music program classes will be having lunch for the seniors and a matinee and evening performance on December 18th. Be sure to mark your calendars. The boy's basketball team will open competition on November 13th. The girls begin their season after we return from winter break. Good luck to all.

A special thank you to all students and community members who contributed to this year's Canned Food Drive. Vernonia Cares Food Bank reports that Washington and Lincoln Grade Schools donated 2150 pounds of food, a value of \$3225.00. The Vernonia community thanks you for your kindness.



Students invited to participate in Model Presidential Convention

Middle and high school students from the Pacific Northwest are invited to join students from around the nation at the 11th Model Presidential Nominating Convention in March, 2004, to be held at Portland's Memorial Coliseum. Students have accurately chosen the last nine nominees from the political party represented at the Convention.

Designed to simulate the real national convention by using the same rules and procedures, the 2004 Convention will involve over 5,000 middle and high school students from around the nation. The program was developed by James Barlow, a veteran teacher at Aloha High School, so "students have the opportunity to experience politics first hand, in a creative, enjoyable atmosphere." The convention is sponsored by the Beaverton School District.

This is a non-partisan program but the party with the most competitive nomination race is selected for each convention. Based upon this standard, the 2004 model convention will represent the Democratic Party. In 2000, students picked George W. Bush as the nominee to the Republican model convention.

The Convention provides a unique learning experience for students, taking them out of the classroom and into a realistic,

hands-on environment. As delegates, the students research the states and caucuses they will be representing. They learn not only the nominating process, but also how a nominating convention really works.

Congressman Earl Blumenthal said "The Model Nominating Convention is an outstanding tool for engaging our young people in electoral politics, and has demonstrated its commitment to raising civic awareness in new generations of voters, year after year."

Requests to address the convention have been sent to several candidates in this year's crowded Democratic field. Previous keynote speakers have included candidates, now former Presidents, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton.

The convention will meet at the Memorial Coliseum in Portland, Oregon, March 10-12, 2004. Meetings to prepare students for the convention will be held on the campus of Portland State University, December 16, 2003, January 30 and February 24-25, 2004.

The entry deadline for districts or schools is December 12. Those interested are encouraged to contact the Model Presidential Nominating Convention by email at <info@mpnc.org>. The Convention website is www.mpnc.org.

Head Start programs receive \$1+ million grant to continue

U.S. Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Gordon Smith (R-OR) announced November 11 that Portland metropolitan area Head Start programs will receive a total of \$1,405,837 in grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to continue providing developmental care and education to hundreds of children aged 0 to 5.

Community Action Team of Columbia County, which administers all Head Start programs in Columbia County, will receive \$212,419. The rest of the grant money is allocated to Portland Public Schools, \$435,090; Albina Head Start, \$350,246; Early Head Start Family Center of Portland, \$228,591 and Head Start of Yamhill County, \$179,491.

"Continuing to fund Head Start programs ensures countless and lasting benefits for the community," said Smith. "This grant provides our children with a safe, solid foothold during the critical beginning steps of life."

"These grants will help continue the success of Portland area Head Start programs to provide early care and education – two invaluable resources for our youngsters," said Wyden. "making comprehensive child development and education a priority will help create a brighter future for Oregon's children."

Head Start, created in 1965, is a federal program in the Administration of Children, Youth and Families in the Department of Health and Human Services.

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Alumni vs. Varsity volleyball game

There will be an Alumni vs. Varsity Volleyball game in the Vernonia High School gym, Friday, November 21, at 7:00 p.m.

In addition to the game, there will be a baked goods raffle with tickets costing 50 cents each or three for \$1.00., plus a special raffle for four Trail Blazer tickets.

All proceeds will benefit the Zack Rumbolz Memorial Scholarship.