

## Chalk Talk

Chalk Talk is a monthly column of information about Vernonia schools. It is written by various staff members.

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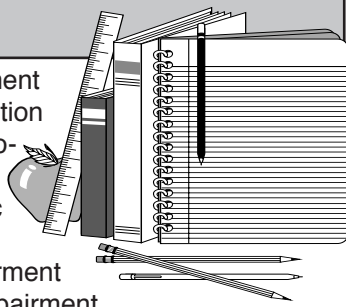
It's almost that time of year again – tax season! The Vernonia School District currently serves 87 students (K-12) with disabilities, and the below information is for the parents of some of these students.

The Oregon Tax Code provides an additional tax exemption for parents of children with disabilities in Oregon. The procedure for claiming an exemption for the 2003 tax year is explained in the *Oregon Individual Income Tax Return and Instructions, Nonresident and Part-Year Resident or the Full-Year Resident* booklet.

### Who qualifies for the exemption?

- Children who meet ALL of the following:
- Qualify as a dependent;
- Are age 17 or younger on December 31, 2003;
- Are eligible for "early intervention services" or receive special education as defined by the Oregon Department of Education (learning disabilities or communication disorders alone do not qualify);
- Have been considered to have a disability as of December 31, 2003, under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and related Oregon laws. Eligible disabilities include:
  - Autism

- Visual impairment
- Mental retardation
- Serious emotional disturbance
- Traumatic brain injury
- Hearing impairment
- Orthopedic impairment
- Other health impairment
- Multiple disabilities
- Deaf/Blind



### What documentation is needed?

The tax booklet explains that a child must have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and an eligibility statement for one of the disabilities listed above. A copy of the IEP or IFSP coversheet and a copy of the student's eligibility statement may be obtained from the school district. The coversheet and the copy of the eligibility statement should be kept with the child's permanent health records – they DO NOT need to be sent with the tax return. Write the child's name on "Disabled children only," line 6d. Also be sure to include the child's name on line 6c for "All dependents."

### More questions?

For general information, call Eric Richards, Director of Operations at the Department of Education, at (503) 378-3600, Ext. 2330. For advice or individual assistance in completing the tax form, consult a tax professional or the Department of Revenue at (800) 356-4222.

## WGS honor roll students

The Junior High Honor Roll at Washington Grade School includes the following students:

Principal's Honors – Stephanie Benes, Mackenzie Carr, Connor Flynn, Samantha Lee, Tricia Levenseller, Ashley Paleck, Megan Perry, Desiree Rule, Allison Schilling, Nicholas Young.

High Honors – Janda Barber, Heather Bassett, Gillian Cheney, Marissa Clement, Tyler Clines, Amber Eastlick, Cody Eaton, Celia Gendron-Herndon, Kelsey King, Jeramey Lende, Wesley Lubbes, Blake Moeller, Phillip Peerson, Rebekahann Peerson, Tim Prprich, Byron Schorzman, Kymberlia Sebring, Carrie Shaw, Lindsay Shaw, Sahrina Smith, Joshua Vanderzanden, Alisha Witham, Rebekah Young.

Honors – Dallas Armstrong, Ben Bamburg, Alexandria Chadek, Shandee Cota, Ashley Eastlick, Joseph Fergusson, Elliott Graf, Miranda Gunter, Keli Krieger Nicole Meglin, Jami Mehrer, Rachel Rode,

Amy Rombach, Amanda Sliger, Dalton Stevens.

Honorable Mention – David Allen, Kahli Anderson, Sandy Bevens, Jeffery Brewington, Tyler Corey, William Forrest, Yolande Gendron-Herndon, Alanna Ogden, Bonnie Organ, Taylor Smith, Mathew Threet, Brittany Villareal.

Progressive Honors – Dallas Armstrong, Alysa Brucken, John Collins, Tyler Corey, Shandee Cota, Jennifer Cutright, Johnathon Cutright, Amber Eastlick, Ashley Eastlick, Nicole Gray, Sean Grittman, Kelly Howley, Adam Lane, Jeramey Lende, Wesley Lubbes, Nicole Meglen, Jami Mehrer, Gavin Roberts, Sahrina Smith, Eric Taylor, Brittany Villareal, Brandi Westlake.

Students with perfect attendance for the second quarter included Jeffery Brewington, John Collins, Brittney Paden, Phillip Peerson, Tim Prpich, Allison Schilling, Joshua Vanderzanden, Sasha Warner, Nicholas Young.

## Soccer clinic for youths and coaches planned

The Vernonia Youth Soccer Club will hold their first annual spring soccer clinic for children aged 5 to 13. Days and times of age group play will be available at sign-ups.

Players will have the opportunity to tune their skills in a two week clinic of individual and team play. With sign-up, players will get a Vernonia Clinic jersey and club soccer ball.

Sign-ups will be taken at Washington Grade School Library on February 25, March 3, and March 10 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Or, pick up and drop off sign-up forms at Spiralz, 712 Bridge Street. Please note: a copy of birth certificate is required at sign-up.

Don't miss this opportunity to keep and tone your skills for the fall league play. For more information, call Maisie at 503-429-1059, between 3:00 and 6:30 p.m. only.

A coaches clinic is being offered March 13. For information, call Joel at 503-429-5012.

## VHS honor roll students

The following Vernonia High School students were named to the Honor Roll for the first semester:

4.00 – Principal's Honors; Justin Baer, Elise Blum, Ben Brookins, Laura Brookins, Dan Cicon, Tiffany Cutright, John Fitch, Carrick Flynn, Holly Hillyer, Brittney Lindauer, Brittanie Roberts, Katie Roberts, Kyle Suess, Katherine Traylor.

3.50–3.99 – High Honors; Amber Abney, Alex Barton, James Benes, Alex Bittinger, Taryn Braseth, Andrew Brookins, Waylon Buchan, Kristin Cota, Tasha Dillon, Rene Ellington, Ashley Forster, Jessie Gehrke, Jacob Hales, Timothy Hein, Heather Hennessey, Royd Johansen, Kevin Johnston, Kristin Kelly, Joreigh Landers, Alex Moeller, Kizzie Peirce, Natalie Rombach, Lisa Scheldt, Ben Schorzman, Zachary Serafin, Jessica Sook, Katy Taylor, Torin Tierney, Amanda Watts.

3.25 – 3.49 – Honors; Larinda Botchie, Kerstin Brixey, Justin Campbell, Jessica Eaton, Kyle Elliott, Nicole Frantz, Casandra Gunter, Travis Gwin, Melanie Holsey, Luke Johnston, Marshall King, Dalan Lee, James Maller, Kristy Meglen, Brandon Peura, Samantha Purvee, Matthew Serafin, Sarah Tatman, Erin Titus.

3.00–3.24 – Honorable Mention; Mackenzie Bassett, Travis Baker, Brian Cook, Jessica Dahl, Bryan Dennis, Luke Enneberg, Robert Fetherston, Fred Fulmer, Julie Hales, Nick Hammons, Kortni Hyde, Brandi Johnston, Paul Johnston, Curtis Jundt, Brittney Lason-Dyer, Jessie Long, Roman Manning, Damon McNeill, Katelyn McWhirter, Rhiannon Meyer, Stephanie Potter, Jacob Rice, Burdette Robb, Bodeine Rumbolz, Patrick Schilling, Jessica Shaw, Brent Thompson, Samuel Thornton, Jessica Westlake.

## Help make 2004 drug and alcohol free graduation party possible

For the past 21 years, parents of Vernonia seniors have provided a Drug and Alcohol Free All-Night Party for graduates after the graduation ceremony. The tradition began in order to provide a fun and safe environment to celebrate on graduation night, and in those 21 years there has never been an injury to a VHS graduate. One of our goals is to provide each student with a souvenir in hopes that it will serve as a reminder of a fun, safe and memorable evening. This year the party will be June 6, 2004.

We are asking for your continued support with donations of any kind: merchandise, service coupons, gift certificates, T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, or cash. Cash donations may be used to purchase additional prizes and to off set the cost of the party. All donation are welcome and are greatly appreciated.

Donations may be sent to: Lynn Shaw, c/o Vernonia High School, 299 Bridge St., Vernonia, OR 97064. Checks should be made payable to: VHS Grad Night Party. For more information, contact the Prize and Donation Committee at 503-429-2204 or 503-429-3521.

## Local named to SPU Dean's list

Danita D. Angell, of Vernonia, was named to the the 2003 autumn quarter Dean's List at Seattle Pacific University (SPU). Students on the Dean's List have completed at least 12 credits and attained a 3.50 or higher grade point average.

SPU, founded in 1891, is a fully accredited Christian university of liberal arts, sciences and professional studies.

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