

VHS Basketball Camp sign-ups June 14 and 17

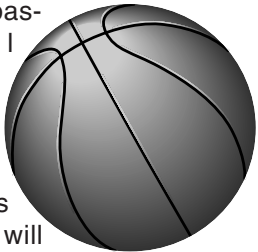
There is still time to sign up for the VHS Basketball Camps to be held June 14 through June 17.

The camps will have four groups – one each for boys and girls entering grades 4 – 6 next year, and one each for boys and girls entering grades 7 – 9 next year. The fee is \$25.00 per student.

In addition to improving overall basketball skills, participants will have an opportunity to get to know the new high school coaching staff, and other players.

The camp philosophy is to create a safe environment that is fun for all participants; enabling them to improve both their on-court conduct and overall basketball skills.

The coaches for this year's camps will be Matt Blair and Doran Lower. Registration forms are available in the office at Vernonia High School. For more information, contact Coach Lower at 503-429-3521 or Coach Blair at 503-429-7941.



Chalk Talk

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

By Anne Kingsley, Principal, Grades K-3

From butterflies to flight and airplanes, from animals on the farm to hieroglyphics and pyramids of Egypt, the children at Lincoln are expanding their horizons as they explore the curriculum.

Kindergarten classes are studying the life cycle, habitat and ecology of the Painted Lady Butterflies. Having started with five very small caterpillars, they watched as the caterpillars formed their chrysalises and waited for the butterflies to emerge. Mrs. Eagleson integrated art, writing, math and science with this unit. It has been so exciting.

Mrs. Fleenor's second grade class will be joined by Mrs. Loudner's third grade for a field trip to McMinnville's Evergreen Aviation Museum. They have been learning about the long history of people wanting to fly and the persistence of people like the Wright Brothers in order to invent new and improved ways of flight. The science involved in airplanes being able to fly includes the forces of lift, thrust, drag and gravity. Students are also learning about the difference in air pressure above and below the wings. The students will use their reading and math skills as they read words, dates and numbers on many signs around the museum. The children are excited about getting to see vintage airplanes as well as the world's largest one and learning from the many hands-on educational exhibits.

Staying closer to home, the first graders have centered their learning on the farm, what lives there and how it works. They have been writing about the different animals found on a farm. The children have also been learning about mapping skills and how to locate places. Ms. Murphy-Shaw will be taking her class to visit a local farm to see how it works and will have the class make maps of what they found there.

Mrs. Gingerich's class is studying modern and ancient Egypt. Each child selected a topic and researched it. They were required to write a short paper, make a project and present a speech telling about how they made it. These requirements are related to the first CIM benchmark. The culminating activity will be an Egyptian Museum featuring their projects and other Egyptian artifacts collected by Mrs. Gingerich, who taught school in Egypt from 1984 to 1987.

With no designated funds for field trips in the general budget, we have worked to raise funds and still have field trips. We appreciate all the parents and friends who participated in the "School Mall," Forest Grove Theater ticket promotion and

the yo-yo sales this year, which were small fund raisers designated to help our "field trips." In the past, most, if not all, classes would board a bus for a long trip to a destination, spend a short time at the site, then board the bus again for the long ride back to school. Transportation usually is the biggest expense for the outing.

Now, instead of spending our hard earned money and lots of time in transit, several classes have decided to bring the field trips to their classrooms. The Audubon Society of Portland will bring a presentation called "Beautiful Birds" to four primary classes. This program is an all-time favorite! Working in lab teams, the children will discover the fascinating world of birds as they study avian bones, wings, feet, feathers, nests, eggs and more. They will learn about the birds of the Pacific Northwest and how to identify many of them.

This spring's "Run for the Arts" event was very successful, even though the rain tried to dampen the spirits of our runners. Preliminary totals register about \$6,200.00 collected by the students. These funds will be used to bring in performances by artists or cultural experiences for the students, as well as a possible "artist in residence" to guide the children in producing some type of art. In the past the children have made dream catchers and masks. On Wednesday, May 19th, the children took an imaginary musical vacation to seven Caribbean and South American countries, "A Musical Tour of the Americas." The musicians donned clothing showing the culture of each country. The K-5 students from Washington, Lincoln and Mist Schools were invited to participate and ended the program by joining the performers in a group dance.

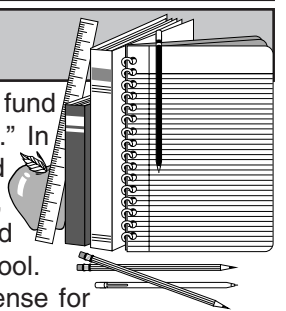
The t-shirts and awards earned for Vernonia "Run for the Arts" will be given out during the week before school is out, in June.

Mist School will be conducting their own Jog-A-Thon to raise funds for Art and Music supplies, as well as materials to supplement their hands-on Science lessons. All the Mist students are preparing to visit OMSI to culminate the year's activities. The Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Department and the Mist Helping Circle have provided much support this past year, which has been most appreciated.

Lincoln School recently hosted the Kindergarten registration. Many parents brought in their eager young scholars to register for fall kindergarten. All new incoming kindergarten students were given a new book to take home and read with their families. If you have not registered for Kindergarten please come in to the Washington Grade School office to complete the paper work. Remember to bring your child's birth certificate and immunization records. Your child must be five years old on or before September 1, 2004, to enroll for school. Head Start classes visited the kindergarten on May 13 to see what it will be like to be a part of the "Big School." The children shared story time, snacks and recess, as well as other activities in the classroom. Everyone enjoyed the visit.

The district recently conducted spelling contests to identify our top spellers. Two students from each division traveled to Clatskanie on May 19 to compete against the top spellers from each of the districts in the county spelling bee.

Representing Vernonia in Division I were Tierra Mitchell and Kira Paragon; Division II, Yolande Gendron-Herndon and Celia Gendron-Herndon; and Division III, Andrew Brookins and Damon McNeill. In two of the divisions, winners were decided by tie-breaker words.



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