

Timberline Topics

Vernonia High School will not be publishing *Timberline*, the school newspaper, this year. The Independent has made this space available so the work of VHS journalism students can be published. The only changes by *The Independent* are in spacing and fonts.



TEACHING RESPONSIBILITY WITH LEADERSHIP

By Larinda Botchie

When people step into Vernonia High School, they see many things. Students filing into the halls and running to get to their next class. Teachers standing outside their classrooms making sure that the students behave themselves, and when the halls empty, they see the school itself. Though it is not large or grand, it is still our school and should be taken care of, but nobody is going to want to hang bulletin boards, or fill the pop machines and empty the pop bins. Or organize dances, pep assemblies, and winter festival by themselves. It is too much work for one person. In order to fix this there was a class created dedicated to the school and the students that wish to take care and pride in it.

Sometimes I wonder if the students of Vernonia High School realize how much the leadership class does for this school and how hard they work. Leadership is a class that not only goes on during school hours but drags students to school early, has them stay late and pulls them out of their beds on the weekends. "I personally never noticed how hard they worked until I joined the class myself."

This year's leadership class varies from freshmen to seniors and has a large variety of people. It has only been a few weeks into school and already the leadership has its plate full. With pop machines to organize and a dance to plan, I have already seen students stay after school to make sure the things are done and ready for their fellow students.

Mrs. Dickens was the lead-

ership teacher here for six years but since she departed the new school counselor Ms. Webb has taken over the challenging position. She started the year with a large class, something that is unusual for leadership, and many challenges ahead of her. So far she has faced every challenge and plans on bringing some positive changes to the class.

SCHOOL TO WORK PROGRAM.

By John Kintz

Once again this year, Vernonia High will be offering placements in the School to Work program. Students take on jobs, usually volunteer, for school credits. The program itself has been going on for some time, whereas the idea of career related learning is relatively new. However, the two seem to be made for each other. Students gain work experience while working through high school.

Usually, the type of work performed by students in the program relates to skills learned in school like journaling, and categorizing. The local companies currently working with the school to provide jobs for students are: West Oregon Electric, NAPA Auto, and Triple S Saw Service. Program director Dana Hyde is hopeful and optimistic that other jobs will soon open in the program, including jobs with: City Hall, Senior Center, Vernonia Cares, Dr. Scheuerman (Vernonia Dental). As Dana Hyde stated it "The program is a partnership between the school and the community." Many student are wondering if their after school job (or any other) is gaining them credits. The answer is yes and no. Yes, one can earn school credits under the label of "work experience." However, it is not the same as School to Work. If a student has a job outside the ones specifically named by the school in accordance with the program, they aren't earning as many credits as they could with one in the program. With a School to Work job a student can earn .5 elective credits for every 90 hours of work, whereas they would be required to work 180 hours of any other job to earn the same amount of credits.

There are, however, some

problems with entering the program. Because the job earns students elective credits, it may take the place of elective classes in the student's schedule. As Principle Scholl explained, "Most of the jobs are on an as need basis. Which kids have openings in their schedules." He also explained that the jobs that pay are less lenient about working around the students timetable, and the volunteer work that will still allow you to earn credits, usually works out better for scheduling purposes. They may even allow students to work after school. If you have questions about the School to Work program, please see Dana Hyde or visit <www.OregonJobs.org/stw> for more information.

WOODSHOP RECEIVES MAKEOVER

By Kayla Pollock

The Vernonia High School will be receiving an undetermined number of new machines for the woodshop classes. The school has been in need for new equipment and maintenance on the old machines for quite a while now. The old machines are just not "cutting it." They are simply just worn out.

Mr. Fellas, the new woodshop teacher, has had to repair some of the old machines himself. "All the machines need is tender love and care" says Fellas. "If all the students could just treat all the tools with respect and take care of them, we shouldn't have to receive new machines for a while." The lathe is so old that there was a problem with trying to find a clear guard for it. Some of the other machines are not being used because they have minor hazard issues and some just do not work.

The school is still unaware of how much the machines will cost, but they do know that Home Depot may give them a school discount. "We are still waiting on how we are going to get the funds for the machines, but we will hopefully have them soon," stated Fellas. VHS is waiting to get some support from a couple of different companies now. The students need to be able to cut, measure, and put together pieces of wood as well as other materials. Their projects might include design-

ing and making a wood product such as a tool box or a picture frame, and right now it's hard for them to do that because of the condition of the machines. The school intends to get the support as soon as possible, so that the students of Vernonia High School can complete assignments on machines that work.

NEW FACES

By Natalie Rombach

Have you ever heard the saying, "You learn something new everyday,"? Most everyone does learn something new everyday and many don't even know it. Learning something new doesn't always have to be about a thing, it can also mean about people too. Every year Vernonia High School is blessed enough to be visited by new faces from around the world, and this year we are pleased to say that we have two visiting our little town. These foreign exchange students came to America to learn about our culture and our language, but what do we know about them?

First of all, we have a very nice guy from Ngymegyer, Slovakia named Viliam "Wil" Gőrföl. Wil first set foot in America in New York and said that so far that is one thing he will never forget when he is back home. The main reason he came to America was to improve his English, and even after only a couple weeks he seems to be showing everyone that he has a very good idea of what Americans are talking about. When asked about what he thought of Vernonia so far he only had three words "small, very small". He will be staying here for the next ten months at the Ward's home, and he is sure to adapt to the dramatic change in population by the time he heads back home. Wil is currently a member of the Cross Country team and is planning to play Basketball in the winter. He enjoys roller blading in his spare time and has a few plans to do a few tricks here before he leaves. He also enjoys playing computer games and getting online.

When interviewing Hana Chrastinová, from Zlin, Czech Republic, she was asked the same question as Wil, (What she thought of Vernonia so far)

and her response was very much the same "very small". This visit to America is Hana's second, her first was to New Jersey three years ago, this is her first visit to Oregon. On this visit to America, she went to visit New York and says that she will never forget seeing where the Twin Towers stood only a few years before. Hana's main decision to come to America was to learn about the culture her and the people, and with all of the cultures in America there are many different kinds of people to learn about. In her spare time, she enjoys painting and back home she enjoys playing volleyball for fun with friends. Although she is sure to have fun on her stay here she, is also certain that she will miss the food in her country most of all.

Hopefully now the people reading this article learned something new about the two great people staying with us for the rest of the school year. So everyone listening should know that we should try to make their stay as fun as possible. Also Homecoming is just around the corner. Wil and Hana are not quite sure what this whole Homecoming thing is about so maybe we can also teach them a few new things while they are staying here.

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