

47J Board chooses new superintendent



Kenneth Cox

Kenneth Cox, currently an elementary school principal in The Dalles, was unanimously approved as the new superintendent at the May 11 Vernonia School District board meeting. Cox served as Assistant Superintendent in The Dalles in 2003-2004 and has been in The Dalles schools in one capacity or another (assistant superintendent, teacher, coordinator, principal) for 23 years. Before that, he was a teacher in Washington from 1978 to 1983. He will be starting his full time duties here in July.

Whether to keep Mist Grade School as is, add students or close the school in the 2006-07 school year, were options discussed. The board agreed to put this item on the June agenda for more detailed discussion of the options.

Jackson Gillette was selected as next year's High School Head Football Coach by an eight person committee of parents, faculty, administration and community members.

The board decided, based on lack of consensus, not to change the kindergarten schedule from four days to five days a week for the next school year. They agreed, with the exception of a no vote by Randy Hansen, to set aside the first four days of kindergarten for parents and kindergartners to meet with teachers to determine placement in the two classes and to help build relationships between the kids and the teachers.

Resignations of two teachers, Laura Prins and Kara Bjorklund, were accepted.

Teacher Bonnie Holce presented the art and music instructional materials she would like to have approved for next year. After the second reading of the proposed curriculum, at next month's meeting, the new materials can be adopted.

A .98 acre parcel of land by the Vernonia Airport, owned by the district, was declared surplus and will be sold. Additionally, area realtors have received letters regarding marketing the Lincoln Grade School property.

Interim Superintendent Al Davidian told the board that the project to bring the portable classroom from Lincoln down to the Middle School is moving ahead, and that Columbia County will require a four foot pad under it because the placement will be in the flood plain.

Graduation will take place on June 10, at 2:00 p.m. and June 13 will be the last day of school for students.

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 8, at 6:00 p.m. at the District office.

47J seeks one new board member

Qualified residents of Vernonia School District may seek appointment to the Board of Directors to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Dick Brunsmann. To qualify, applicants must be registered voters who are at least 18 years old and have lived in the district for the

past year.

The board plans to appoint the successful applicant at the July 13 board meeting. Applications may be picked up at the District office, 475 Bridge St., Vernonia.

Deadline to submit an application is June 15, 2006.

DAR award goes to Laura Brookins

Laura Ruth Rebecca Brookins, a senior at Vernonia High School, recently received the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen Award for her leadership, involvement and volunteer work. Brookins is the daughter of James and Rebecca Brookins of Vernonia.

Brookins is Treasurer for the Vernonia High School Student Body. She is also a varsity athlete in volleyball, basketball and track. She has worked summer vacations as a camp counselor at Camp Meriwether, Camp Wilkerson, and Camp Macgruder, in addition to being an Outdoor School camp counselor for the past four years.

A member of the National Honor Society, Brookins is slated to be the Valedictorian of this year's graduating class. She helps with her church benevolence and distributes food to the needy in the community.

The DAR Good Citizen Award has two parts. The first is to describe how the candidate has tried to manifest the qualities of a good citizen, along with a copy of grade transcripts and two letters of recommendation. The second part is an essay on "Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It," which must be written under supervision with no computer help.

Family meetings can teach leadership and caring

Family meetings teach important skills including leadership, trust, caring, and good decision making. A family meeting is a way of making decisions that affect all family members. Children like it when their ideas and suggestions are requested and valued. All family members are more likely to support a decision when they have a voice in making it. The following tips can help in carrying out successful family meetings.

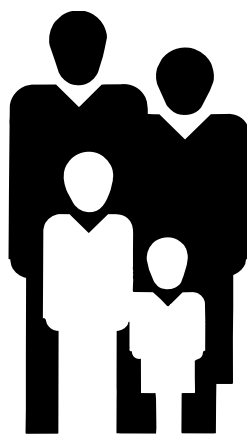
- Schedule your family meetings on a regular basis, such as once a month or once a week.

- Plan ahead for discussions. Ask children for any topics that they would like to discuss.

- Plan to meet at a time when you will not feel rushed. Make time for everyone to express their feelings without interruption.

- In the first few meetings, focus on planning fun family activities. Once everyone feels comfortable, they will be more open to discussing issues that bother them.

- Start and end on time. Keep meetings fairly brief, especially if young children are involved.



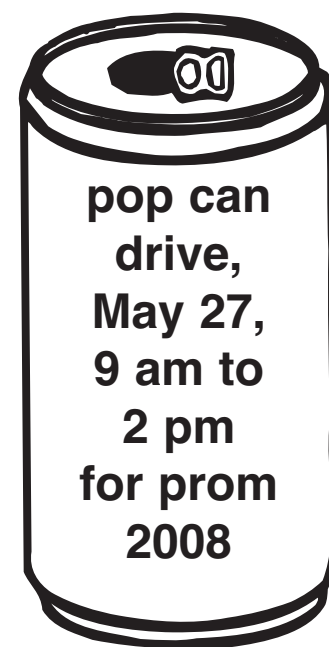
pecially if young children are involved.

- Appoint, vote or draw names for a different family member to run each meeting.

- When one family member talks, everyone else listens. Be patient with younger children.

- Focus on the issue at hand.

Sophomores to hold can drive



Sophomores from Vernonia High School will be canvassing Saturday, May 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for pop cans.

There will also be a drop-off site at the district office parking lot on Bridge Street. If you would like to have cans picked up, call sophomore class president Michael Calhoun at 503-429-4611.

Proceeds from the can drive will go toward the 2008 prom.



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