

It's not too late to join parenting class

Make Parenting a Pleasure class started October 15 at the Vernonia Head Start Center. The nationally recognized strength-based parenting class supports families in building positive foundations during the formative years of their children's lives.

Parenting is the most challenging and most important job there is. There is no one right way to be a parent or a child but parents are the experts about their children and this

class will show you the joys of parenting.

The class is designed to explore proven techniques for challenging behaviors; reinforce taking care of ourselves; create a support network that allows parents to make new friends; provide education in stress management, child development, communication skills and positive discipline; encourage positive interactions with children; help parents develop and accomplish personal

and parenting goals; share community resources; and have a fun time.

Although the ten-week class started October 15, space is still available. Call 1-503-556-3736 to register. Registration is based on a sliding fee scale.

The classes are on Mondays at 9:00 a.m., at Vernonia Head Start, 500 California Ave. No cost quality child care and snacks are provided.

Enter to win money for student loans

American Education Services (AES) announced The \$20,000 Lighten Your Loan SweepstakesSM, an innovative initiative created to assist borrowers by alleviating their student loan debt.

The \$20,000 Lighten Your Loan SweepstakesSM is part of AES' nationally recognized public service campaign, YouCanDealWithIt.com, which emphasizes the importance of repaying student loans, the long-term implications of default, and the importance of overall debt management and financial responsibility.

"Most of today's students are finding that their dreams of higher education are unobtainable without some form of educational loans, which places them in debt upon entering the real world," said AES Interim President and CEO James Preston. "We've held this sweepstakes twice thus far and each has proven incredibly successful. Not only do four winners find their debt considerably lighter, every entrant finds useful debt management and loan repayment information on YouCanDealWithIt.com while entering the sweepstakes. So, in a way, every entrant is a winner."

AES' Lighten Your Loan Sweepstakes includes four prizes: \$10,000, \$5,000 and (two) \$2,500 FFELP loan payments to be made toward each

winner's student loan balance. The sweepstakes will run from October 15, 2007 through December 15, 2007 and is open to all AES customers holding a FFELP loan guaranteed by AES.

Students and recent graduates can enter for a chance to win at YouCanDealWithIt.com. There is a limit of one entry per day per student loan borrower. Bonus entries will be awarded when a contestant refers a friend who also enters the sweepstakes. The four winners will be drawn at random in January 2008.

YouCanDealWithIt.com was launched over eight years ago in an effort to educate students on debt management and loan repayment and ultimately lower the number of student loan defaults. The nationally recognized campaign has contributed to AES' all-time low cohort default rate of 2.9 percent for the 2005 cohort year, which is the most recent reporting timeframe. The cohort default rate measures the percentage of borrowers who have defaulted on their student loans within 12 to 24 months of entering repayment. The AES rate of 2.9 percent marks a 24 percent decrease from the 2004 cohort rate of 3.8 percent.

American Education Services (AES) is among the nation's leading providers of student financial aid services.

Babysitting class offered at VCLC

The American Red Cross Babysitting Class will be offered to all students who are at least 11 years-old. The class will be held at the Vernonia Community Learning Center,

939 Bridge Street on November 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. with a half-hour lunch.

The cost is \$20. Please call 503-429-1030 or email vcclc@vernonia-or.gov to register.

Chalk Talk

Chalk Talk is a monthly column of information about Vernonia schools. It is written by various staff members. This column was written by Glenda DeLemos, District Technology Coordinator.



Washington Grade School (WGS) opened this fall with a new computer lab in the media center. Students are learning about computers during scheduled library times and teachers can schedule the lab for class projects. The computer lab consists of 30 new Linux-based thin-client computers that all run off of a single, powerful server. These computers use LCD monitors, have no moving parts, and produce very little heat. This keeps the lab cool and quiet and saves on energy costs even when it's full of students exploring the new systems.

Linux is a free, open source operating system. The new WGS lab is running a version of Linux called K12LTSP which is used widely in schools all over the world, but was developed here in Oregon. Students are learning to type, using art programs and working on basic math skills on the new computers. Older students are learning about Internet searches and about the District web pages and resources. All students will use the lab to learn about basic productivity software like word processing, spreadsheets and presentation tools.

All students K-5 are scheduled for weekly visits to the WGS Media Center. Each week we are learning about books, libraries, and computers. The 4th and 5th grade students are being introduced to the Vernonia School District Web page (www.vernonia.k12.or.us). They are learning where to find teacher homepages to check on homework and where to have their parents sign up for our new List Serve. The website is improving and changing, please check it out when you get a chance!

VCLC seeks original art to display

The Vernonia Community Learning Center Gallery is seeking exhibition-ready original art, photography and sculpture for display and possible sale. Also needed are people with a strong interest in Art to serve as jurors for the selection process, which will take place on November 30.

Entries should be received at the Learning Center no later

than November 27. Submission criteria are available at the Learning Center between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., or by e-mailing vcclc@vernonia.or.gov. Newcomers to gallery exhibition encouraged.

The Vernonia Community Learning Center is located at 939 Bridge Street. The phone number is 503-429-1030.



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November 3