

## 47J Board hears VHS gym is open

At the 47J School District Board meeting on November 13, Superintendent Ken Cox announced that the Vernonia High School gymnasium is now open. The first home basketball games will be December 3, with Junior Varsity playing at 5:00 p.m. and Varsity at 7:00 p.m. This is the same evening as the next Flood Town Hall, to be held in the Middle School cafeteria after a spaghetti feed starting at 5:00 p.m. for the community.

The board approved new policies, approved attendance at a conference in Seattle for the high school band teacher, and approved the establishment of the Vernonia Education Foundation. The foundation is being set up so the district can accept donations from organi-

zations that cannot donate to schools directly.

District policies are now online at <http://policy.osba.org/vernonia/>. Users need to be aware there may be a delay between the time of approval of changes to policies and the posting of the changes.

In other business, the board:

- heard that there were 13 more students in October than in September,

- heard that the district is working with Northwest Regional Education Service District to set up a secure payment account so parents and staff can pay online for school lunches.

The next Board Meeting will be December 4, at the district office, starting at 6:00 p.m.

## VHS 1st Quarter 08-09 Honor Roll

The following students were named to the Vernonia High School academic Honor Roll for the 2008-09 first quarter. Grade Point Averages (GPA) are on a scale of 1-4, with 4 equaling a perfect score.

Principal's Honors, 4.00 – Kaytee Burghard, Joshua Butcher, Crystal-Ann Carreon, Laura Hein, Samantha Lee, Tricia Levenseller, Jackson Miller, Souvanny Miller, Chelsea Patton, Sicily Scott, Kelly Smith, Natalie Wallace, Nicholas Young.

High Honors, 3.50-3.99 – Janda Barber, Joseph Benes, Bonnie Birkmaier, Jacob Bring-

man, Kyle Brixey, Kelsey Brown, Rachel Brown, Tim Brown, Eric Budge, Kaitlyn Carr, Gillian Cheney, Charles Colburn, Christopher Dass, Darly DeWitt, Jacob Dixon, Jed Douglas, Sarah Dupree, Cody Eaton, Katie Ellington, Robin Elliott, Joey Fergusson, Brandy Fosdick, Danyell Freeman, Brandon Gilbertson, Melissa Hermet, Quinlan Johansen, Calie Johnson, Keli Krieger, Alex Lende, Nicole Mitchell, Gia The Nguyen, Tara Ostrander, Ashley Paleck, Tasia Pond, Tim Prpich, Justin Rainbolt, Amy Rethwill, Gavin Roberts,

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## Chalk Talk

*Chalk Talk is a monthly column of information about Vernonia schools. It is written by various staff members. This column was provided by Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox.*

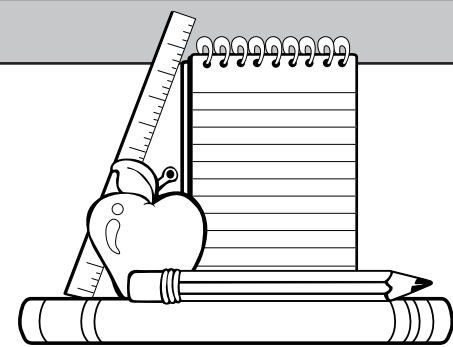
The safety of our children is one of the primary concerns we have as a district. Each year we have safety inspections of our playground equipment and buildings. In addition, our Building Safety Committees' meet monthly to review all accidents in their building and address safety concerns. I also meet quarterly with the District Safety Committee to address items identified at the building level. We take the safety of your children very seriously!

One concern that has been expressed to me recently, and on more than one occasion, is children walking to school in dark clothing. This can be very dangerous since the majority of our roads do not have sidewalks or even a decent shoulder on which to walk. So please check your children's clothes and have them wear something bright.

To assist you in this, we are looking into ordering some reflective arm bands, which we hope to have available at a minimal cost in the near future. Remember, it is going to continue to get darker and darker for the next few weeks, so please think of your children's safety as they get dressed in the morning.

As the rainy season begins, we all watch the level of the river and streams next to our homes. I want to assure you that we are also paying attention to the water level and weather forecasts as a district. I believe that we have an effective

early warning system in place, thanks to the diligence



of Curl School Bus Service employees, so we would not have students in school during a flood. However, I believe in the Boy Scout motto 'Be Prepared', so here are some of the things we are doing 'just in case:'

- We will be working with local authorities to coordinate weather updates and road conditions throughout the winter.

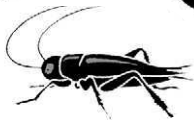
- We have contracted with Alert Now, a phone dialing service that will enable us to contact all parents in case of an emergency. We will keep you informed as to when this becomes available.

- We are in the process of fine-tuning an evacuation plan in case we have another incident like last year. To assist us in this, we will be asking parents to respond to a survey confirming your instructions on what you would have us do in an emergency where we had to evacuate our schools and you were not at home.

We are always on the lookout for ways to improve student safety. If you have any ideas and suggestions that we might consider please contact your building principal, the district office, or me directly at [ken.cox@vernonia.k12.or.us](mailto:ken.cox@vernonia.k12.or.us).

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## Pictures with Santa

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