

# Chalk Talk



Chalk Talk is a column of information about Vernonia schools. This column was provided by Superintendent Ken Cox.

When I was growing up I spent a lot of time camping as a Boy Scout. Even today I can remember the very first campfire pancake I cooked, it was black on the outside and runny on the inside. We didn't eat that one, but the ones we did eat weren't much better. My campfire cooking skills have improved over the years, thanks to lots of practice, and the advice of patient scout leaders.

One of the first things I learned in Scouts, was the Scout Motto: "Be Prepared." I try to follow this even today with little things such as never going anywhere without a pen in my pocket. This brings me, in a very round-about way, to the topic of this article, Being Prepared.

The other day my wife and I attended a presentation about the fact that we are overdue for a very serious earthquake in the Pacific Northwest, one that could cripple Portland, Seattle, and San Francisco simultaneously. Now this may not happen in our lifetime, but if it did, Vernonia, and a lot of other places in Oregon would be cut off from the rest of the world because of damaged and/or unstable bridges.

Would we survive? Of course we would! Look what we have done to support ourselves and each other in

recovering from two floods. The real question is, "How well would we survive?" I would encourage each of you, each of us, personally and as families, to examine our individual situation and develop a plan that would answer the question, "What would I do if..."

As a district we have some things in place and are working on others in order to Be Prepared. We practice fire drills every month as well as numerous earthquake and lockdown drills throughout the year. These practices are done to make sure that not only can we get out of the buildings quickly, but that every student is accounted for when we do. Often, one of our administrators will pull a student out of a group that is headed outside to see if their teacher will notice that they are not there, and they have always been accounted for.

Another way we try to be prepared is our emergency phone system, Alert Now. We use this system to call parents and staff when there is a school-related weather closure or delay, in addition to notifying the local TV stations. We can use the system to notify parents of other emergencies, as well, and are looking into using it to make attendance calls before the end of this year.

While we are on this subject, I will remind parents to please make sure that your correct phone numbers are on file with the district so you will get these calls,

as the weather service has indicated that it could be a nasty winter.

We can also add others to this weather call list, so if you are a grandparent or a day-care provider, please call the district office (503-429-5891) and we will add you to the list.

As you ponder your preparedness, here are a couple of questions to consider:

Where would you meet if you were separated during an event?

Do you have enough food and water readily available to survive for the typical 72 hours it takes for help to arrive in a regional event?

For the Vernonia District the safety of your children is among our highest priorities. We are working on being prepared for any emergency and encourage you to do the same in your homes. To be better prepared all you have to do is: Make a plan, Share it with your children, and Practice.

## Child Safety Seat check on Nov. 11

Columbia County Safe Kids, in partnership with Alliance for Community Traffic Safety (ACTS Oregon) and several community partners, will be holding a child safety seat check up on Thursday, November 11, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Vernonia Fire Station, 555 E. Bridge Street.

The clinic will provide an opportunity to have a child safety seat checked by a certified technician, who can correct misuse, help with installation and teach you how to correctly install the seat. Technicians can also check for seat recalls. There is no cost to have a technician check your child safety

seats. Please plan to spend 30-60 minutes at the event.

Additionally, through a grant funded by the Oregon Department of Transportation, Columbia County Safe Kids is also able to provide low-cost child safety seats to families in need. Families who receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) should contact their worker about payment for a seat.

For more information about the clinic or the Columbia County child safety seat program, contact the Commission on Children and Families at 503-397-7211.

## Kids: Enter Radon Poster Contest

Oregon students age 9-14 are invited to compete in the 2011 National Radon Poster Contest.

Radon is odorless, tasteless and invisible. It is a naturally occurring gas seeping out of the ground. It is dispersed in the outdoor air, but can accumulate to dangerous levels when trapped in buildings. Ex-

posure to elevated levels of radon can cause lung cancer in humans.

The poster contest deadline is Sunday, Oct. 31. Contest details and entry forms are available on the Radon Program website at [www.healthoregon.org/radon](http://www.healthoregon.org/radon), or by contacting Brett Sherry, 971-673-0442 or [brett.w.sherry@state.or.us](mailto:brett.w.sherry@state.or.us).

### SCHOOL DISTRICTS SEEK TO IDENTIFY UNSERVED CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The Northwest Regional Education Service District (NWRES D) and Columbia County local school districts seek assistance in locating children with disabilities (birth through age 21) who have not graduated from high school and currently are not attending nor receiving other special education services from public schools.

Oregon and federal law mandate appropriate educational services for children with disabilities. The NWRES D provides educational services for eligible children from birth to kindergarten. Local school districts provide educational programs and services for eligible children from kindergarten through high school. These services are provided as appropriate to each child's needs and disability.

Parents, guardians or others who know of a child (age five through 21\*) with a disability who is not currently receiving educational services are asked to notify the special education contact person in the child's home district (see below).

### LOS DISTRITOS ESCOLARES BUSCAN IDENTIFICAR A LOS NIÑOS CON DISCAPACIDADES QUE NO SE ENCUENTREN RECIBIENDO SERVICIOS.

El Distrito de Servicio Educativo de la Región Noroeste (NWRES D) y los distritos escolares del Condado de Columbia desean ayudar a ubicar a niños con discapacidades (recién nacidos hasta la edad de 21 años) que no se hayan graduado de la enseñanza preparatoria (educación media superior) y que actualmente no se encuentren recibiendo otros servicios de educación especial en las escuelas públicas.

El Ley de Oregon y la Ley Federal ordenan que se provea servicios educativos apropiados para niños con discapacidades. El NWRES D proporciona servicios educativos desde el nacimiento hasta el kindergarten para los niños que sean elegibles. Los distritos educativos locales proveen programas educativos y servicios para los niños elegibles desde el Kindergarten hasta la Enseñanza Media Superior (Preparatoria). Estos servicios son proporcionados de acuerdo con las necesidades de cada niño y su discapacidad.

Se solicita a los padres, tutores legales, u otras personas que conocen a algún niño (en edad de cinco a 21 años \*) con alguna discapacidad y que no se encuentre recibiendo servicios educativos, que contacten al distrito escolar de su localidad abajo enlistados.

DISTRICT DISTRITO	SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTACT CONTACTO	PHONE TELEFONO
St. Helens	Jeri Deady	503-366-7229
Clatskanie	Mary Mitchell	503-728-0587
Scappoose	Mike Judah	503-397-2959
Vernonia	James Brookings	503-429-0487
Rainier	Laurie Kash	503-556-9121

\* For children younger than kindergarten age, please call the NWRES D Columbia Service Center at 503-366-4141.

\* Para niños menores de cinco años, favor de contactar al NWRES D al 503-366-4141.

**Lisa's Grooming again!**

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