

Chalk Talk

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

Congratulations to the class of 2012! Last Saturday's graduation ceremony dodged the rain, and even the wind seemed to cooperate, as 62 students received their diplomas. This class spent their entire high school career in the mods. Next year's graduation will be just as memorable, but the students will have spent the year in our new building.

As the school year winds down for the rest of the students, it seems that concerns that have been brewing under the surface throughout the year come to a head. The District has spent a great deal of time in the past couple of years addressing the issue of bullying. I would like to think that we have made progress, but for those whose students are still being bullied it may seem like we still have a long way to go.

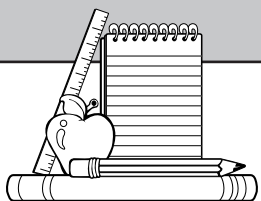
I would encourage any student or parent who has had an issue with bullying, or any other issue for that matter, to contact us. We ask that you address the issue at the lowest possible level. If you know the parents of the student who is bullying, then contact them to address the situation. If you have a concern about grades or the way your student is being treated in a classroom, please contact the teacher directly, either by email or phone. If you do not hear back from the teacher within 48 hours please feel free to share your concerns with the building administrator. This same guideline applies to concerns

that you might raise with a building administrator, once you have contacted them about a concern and you have not been contacted, or the issue has not been resolved within 48 hours (or at most a week), please feel free to contact me and share your concerns.

My greatest concern is that some issues have not been mentioned because it wasn't that big a deal at the time, and then it happens again, and pretty soon it has become a big deal that should have been addressed much sooner. Please let me know if you have a concern about our schools before it becomes a big deal. I am here, and I am willing to listen.

When someone comes to visit with me I take the time to listen. I jot down some notes and may even ask some questions. I do not try to defend anyone, I am gathering information. I will take a number where I can contact them and then I talk to those staff involved to gather more information. I want to help resolve situations, and to improve relations wherever possible. We are in the people business and I want to ensure you that it is our job to establish a good working relationship with you throughout your children's time in school.

If you have a concern, please share it with me by email, phone, or stopping by, and I will address it. I would also point out that I am human, and if you feel I have not addressed your concern appropriately, please let me know that, too.



School board finds way to keep Middle School sports in budget

The Vernonia School Board meeting of May 24 was preceded by the district's budget hearing. After discussion, the budget committee reinstated the middle school sports program by raising fees and using a donation from the Vernonia Community PTA. The changes will pay for an assistant coach only for track; other sports will have to rely on volunteer assistant coaches.

The staffing cuts approved by the budget committee were still in place when the board

approved the final budget, following completion of the budget hearing.

The board had only one additional item of business, the passage of Resolution #11-08 authorizing the district to participate in the Oregon Department of Energy small scale energy loan program. The loan will be used to help complete the new K-12 school.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held June 14, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the district office.

New school Facebook page ready to help with fundraising efforts

The fundraising effort for the new Vernonia schools has now gone social with a Facebook page.

"We hope to build on the momentum of the strong support generated from within the Vernonia community to further spur a statewide barn-raising

campaign for Vernonia's new school and community center," said John Donovan, from the Metropolitan group, in a letter about the new site,

The site, set up by the Vernonia Education Foundation is at [www.facebook.com/Vernonia Education Foundation](http://www.facebook.com/VernoniaEducationFoundation).

State results for VHS Track team

From page 1

Nicolo Casale also earned a second place finish in the Boys 100 Meter Dash (11.22). Nathan Fleck took sixth place in the 1500 Meter Run (4:28.31) and Samantha Lindauer had a seventh place finish in the Girls 400 Meter Dash

(1:03.69).

Other members of the team included Lane Sullivan, Paul Jiranek, Tynstan Talantov, Meghan Sullivan, Julie Zhunossova, Kim Allen, Lea Wilson, Stephanie Castro and Dezi Roberts.

Results of the first CCRA 2012 race

Sportsman Division – Fast Time: Eric Lindquist, Milwaukie 15.30. Trophy Dash: Bud Russell, St. Helens. Heat 1: Koish Somor, Portland; Brian Raden, Portland; Jake VanOrtwick, Portland. Heat 2: Aaron Elwess, Portland; Russell; Smith. Main: Elwess, Russell, Smith, Brad Beehler, St. Helens; Clark Tenney, Scappoose; Raden, Lindquist, Matt Taylor, St. Helens; Travis Williams, Portland; Jesse Allen, St. Helens.

Street Stock – Fast Time: Jeremy Weatherbee, Portland 16.03. Trophy Dash: Todd Newton, Portland. Heat 1: Curt Zelmer, Portland; Ron Dodge, Vernonia; Aaron Snook, Portland. Heat 2: Rick Rehanek, Vancouver; RT Cutler, Portland; Steffan Strawn, Deer Island. Main: Rehanek, Justin McMullen, Deer Island; Newton, Strawn, Ken Bryan, Toledo; John Haagenson, St. Helens; Gerardo Maya, Portland; Zelmer, Cutler, Dodge.

Mini Stock – Fast Time: John Oyler, St. Helens 16.52. Trophy Dash: Tim Oyler, St. Helens. Heat 1: Brad Beehler, Jerry Winchester, Longview;

Lisa Oyler, Gresham. Heat 2: Joel Beehler, St. Helens; Rich Gooding, Castle Rock; John Oyler. Main: Joel Beehler, John Oyler, Winchester, Lisa Oyler, Brad Beehler, Gooding, Darrin Rye, Deer Island; Gary Bragdon, Kelso; Russ Krein, Portland; Ron Krein, Portland.

Modified Division – Fast Time: Doug Davenport, Vernonia 14.45. Trophy Dash: Don Jenner, Vancouver. Heat 1: Dave Walters, Gresham; Clark Tenney, Rick Graham, Portland. Heat 2: Clint Petty, St. Helens; Dan Smith, Don Jenner. Main: Petty, Don Jenner, Robert Jenner, Vancouver; Walters, Graham, Tony Hendon, Portland; Mike Harrison, St. Helens; Matt Jenner, Vancouver; Curt Zelmer, Smith.

Women's Division – Fast Time: Jenae Frelich, St. Helens

15.96. Trophy Dash: Sundee Hamrick, Portland. Heat: Hamrick, Frelich, Susan Nelson, Portland. Main: Hamrick, Nelson, Frelich.

Pacific Mini Sprints – Fast Time: Greg Lane, Portland 12.84. Trophy Dash: Lane. Heat: Lane, Walters, Mike Opoka, Phoenix, AZ. Main: Lane, Walters, Keith Everson, Marysville; Dan Beck, Castle Rock; Opoka, Vinny Villigiarie, Portland; Kalista Ross, Portland.

Dwarf Cars – Fast Time: Kevin Hicks, Portland 15.02. Trophy Dash: Lucas Eaton, St. Helens. Heat: Ryan Martinez, Portland; Kevin Hicks, Eaton. Main: Martinez, Doug McVae, Scappoose; Eaton, Brian Hicks, Portland; Jenelle Harrison, St. Helens; Kevin Hicks.

Pet of the Month

Find the pet that's right for you at the Columbia Humane Society
2084 Oregon Street, St. Helens. Phone 503-397-4353
Open Mon - Fri 1 pm to 5 pm & Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm



I'm Sunny and they tell me I am a Labrador/Pitbull mix. I'm about 2 years old. I am potty trained, and mostly like other dogs. I love to go for walks. If you have a fenced yard and want to play with me, I'm your girl. Once I'm out of the kennel, I'm as sweet as can be. I can be a bit nervous of new places and situations (oh, yeah, and cats). If you think you might want to be my new family please stop by and say hello.

The Columbia Humane Society is a No-Kill non-profit shelter dedicated to helping friends find each other since 1985.

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