

Weekly Update

Our Hearts Are with the Bend Community

Our hearts are with the Bend community following the devastating school shooting at Silver Rail Elementary School yesterday. As educators, we know that violence in our schools impacts far more than those directly involved – it affects students, families, and educators across our communities. Our thoughts are with everyone impacted, and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that every student and staff member feels safe, supported, and protected at school. Please take care of yourselves and one another during this difficult time.

A few [reminders](#) for families and educators when talking to children about what happened:

- **Ask what children already know.** Start by listening rather than assuming what they've heard.
- **Be honest, but age-appropriate.** Answer questions simply without sharing graphic details.
- **Reassure without making promises.** Explain the steps trusted adults take to help keep children safe.
- **Limit repeated exposure to news and social media.** Graphic images and constant updates can intensify fear.
- **Watch for changes in behavior.** Sleep difficulties, clinginess, anxiety, anger, or trouble concentrating may be signs a child needs extra support.

VEA Member Social | Friday, October 23

Teaching can be demanding, and it's important to make time to connect with the people who understand the work we do. Join your VEA colleagues on Friday, October 23, from 4:30-6:30 PM at Heathen Brewing & Kitchen for a chance to catch up, build connections, and spend some time together. Your first beverage is on VEA. We hope you can join us.

RSVP using this link, or the QR code:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FFW2TRN>



WEA LGBTQ+ Conference

WEA is excited to be hosting the annual LGBTQ+ Conference on **Saturday, November 7, 2026**, for LGBTQ+ educators and allies at Kamiak HS in Mukilteo, WA. Attendees will have the option to take classes discussing several topics. **Register at WEA-WIN:** <https://wea-win.org/events/1951?type=Event>

You can request conference funding from VEA using this form: <https://vancouverea.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Conference-Funding-Request-Form.pdf> Funding requests are due by 4PM Monday, October 19 for Exec Board consideration prior to the conference.

Need to contact the VEA office?

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