

StEP Program Continues To Gather Data

By Jill Hult

The StEP committee met again for the important task of reviewing and collating the results of the survey given to the staff and students of District 47J. Committee members were pleased to learn there was nearly 100 percent participation by staff and students grades 6-11. The survey asked tough questions which pertained to the goals of the committee to look at the assets, opportunities, challenges, and aspirations of getting an education within the 47J District. Questions such as, "What are the assets to getting an education in Vernonia?" were structured as multiple choices with a 1-3 rating in order of importance. All questions did have an option to write in an answer that may not have been offered. Another structure of questions was short answer, "What is the number one expectation you have of yourself in school?" The survey results yielded invaluable information for the future educational goals of the school district.

The committee also reviewed the make-up of a learning staff and the learning environment. Consensus was formed as to what characteristics are important in these two categories. Examples for the learning staff are being a team player, caring about children, consistency, and passion. Examples for the learning environment include: safe and clean, adaptability to meet a variety of needs, welcoming and secure.

The StEP committee members are preparing to offer a community survey similar to that of the survey offered to the staff and students. This survey will be available at the 47J School District Office in Vernonia to anyone interested in taking part.

The committee encourages participation and thanks you in advance for your time and thoughts toward the future educational development of the district's youth.

VHS Spring Sports Complete Successful Season

The Vernonia High School spring sports season reached a successful conclusion as the track, baseball, softball, golf and equestrian teams were all represented in post-season play. A number of individual athletes were also recognized with post-season honors and trips to state tournaments.

One of the highlights of the spring season was the Lady Loggers softball team who made it to the state playoffs. After defeating Warrenton, Clatskanie and Umatilla to reach the second round at state, the ladies season finally ended against Valley Catholic. Among those receiving individual recognition for their achievements this season were: Joreigh Landers who was named State Player of the Year, League Player of the Year for the fourth straight year, First Team All State and All League, and Outstanding Athlete at VHS.; Brittney Lindauer named to the Third Team All State and First Team All League; Christina Sohler named to Honorable Mention All State and First Team All League; and Miranda Nutting named Second Team All State and First Team All League. Other members of the team receiving All League recognition were Nandi VanMeter, Brittney Paden, and Danielle Robb. The team says "Thank you" to everyone for their support.

Other notable post season achievements included Tim Prpich in Golf, who made a trip to the state tournament as a Sophomore; Colton DeWitt, who finished 9th in the shot put at the State Track and Field Championships; McKenzie Carr and Stephanie Carr who set an equestrian team record in the Bi-Wrangle event and represented Vernonia at the state competition; and the boys baseball team which went to the league playoffs and had Brent Thompson and Byron Schorzman named First Team All League, and Jeramey Lende and Cody Davis named Second Team All League.

All sports teams had great turnouts this year and will have many returning players next year. One sad note is the resignation of Softball Head Coach Lindsey Dunkel who has taken a teaching position in Scappoose. Otherwise, next years spring sport's season looks bright.

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