

La Center Elementary School



**Annual Report
June 2009**

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of La Center Elementary is to empower every student to become a successful lifelong learner in a changing world.

OUR SCHOOL

The school serves as a hub for the La Center community. The facilities are used from early morning until late at night for both student instruction and community events and activities.

The elementary school shares the 17-acre campus with the middle school, bus barn and the maintenance shop. The original school was constructed in 1938. Our round building, which now houses 4th and 5th grade, was constructed in 1968. Remodeling of all elementary buildings was completed in the fall of 2004.

La Center Elementary School is a safe and exciting place to learn. Children are the highest priority of all staff members. All work is directed towards meeting the individual needs of our students. We recognize that no two individuals are the same; therefore, we make every effort to accommodate the unique talents of each student.

Our Students

	Total	American Indian	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Caucasian	Pacific Islander	Multiracial
Kindergarten	103	0	1	0	2	97	0	3
1 st Grade	101	2	0	0	3	93	0	3
2 nd Grade	137	2	1	0	3	130	0	1
3 rd Grade	132	1	4	1	3	119	0	4
4 th Grade	130	2	3	0	3	119	0	3
5 th Grade	128	1	1	0	7	117	0	2

Good things happening at La Center Elementary . . .

K-3 Bobcat Awards Program

Our primary students do an excellent job following the school and classroom rules. Many students are seen helping others, being kind and considerate, and inviting other students into their games and activities. Our “Bobcats” that are “caught” doing something wonderful and meet the Guidelines of Success, are given a Bobcat ticket. Half of this ticket is taken home and shared with the parents of the student, and the other half of the ticket is placed in a Bobcat box within the classroom. Those tickets from all classrooms are brought to the office weekly for a special drawing. Ten students are selected and called to the office to receive two prizes for their recognized achievement.

Bobcat Buck Incentive Program

All students in fourth and fifth grade have the opportunity throughout the school year to earn “Bobcat Bucks.” This incentive program awards students for exhibiting outstanding “Life and Learning Skills” as found on our report card. Students collect their Bobcat Bucks and use them nine times a year at the Bobcat Buck Store purchasing items from school supplies to fun “goodies.”

Good News Postcards

Many of our teachers mail home a special La Center Elementary postcard sharing with the parents something positive their child has done in school. Our teachers work hard to let parents know the extraordinary effort students make while building their academic and social skills.

K-3 Student of the Month

Each month two to four students are selected from the K-3 classrooms that show outstanding qualities in a variety of areas and reasons, which include academic performance, behavior, citizenship and other areas of excellence. These children selected are awarded a special certificate of accomplishment, pencil and treat. In addition, the student’s picture is taken and is posted on our “Wall of Fame” for one month. Students are recognized with a “SOM Celebration” in which parents and friends join in the recognition celebration.

WASL

Washington Assessment of Student Learning

The WASL is administered each year to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in late April/early May. Below are the percentages of the 4th grade students who met the standards in each of the tested areas:

% Of students meeting the State Standard

	2007	2008	2009
Math	63.6%	44.4%	39.8%
Reading	78.5%	81.3%	74.2%
Writing	54.2%	70.3%	63.3%
Science-5 th Gr	34.3%	44.4%	30.7%

For additional state results, please check out the OSPI Website: <http://www.k12.wa.us/ESEA/pubdocs/Reportcardchecklist.pdf>

Fundraisers 2008– 09

We have two fundraisers a year. These provide money to pay for assemblies, fieldtrips and buses. It also is used for additional playground equipment, supplies for the Bobcat Buck and Bobcat ticket programs, Student of the Month Celebration items, and any additional supplemental

activities needed throughout the school year. Students also have the opportunity to use our old fashion pencil machine and can purchase a pencil for twenty-five cents. This is located in the K-8 library.

Family Reading Program	\$3579.93
Masterpiece Cookie Dough	\$7,225.00
Pencil Machine	\$ 75.75

Grants

GEMSS - Guiding Effectively Means Student Success, an elementary school Counseling Programs Grant. This is a three-year grant that started with the 2006-2007 school year.

The 2007-2008 budget is \$393,872.00

The districts and schools involved in the grant are:

- La Center - La Center Elementary
- Castle Rock - Castle Rock Elementary
- Woodland - Woodland Primary, Woodland Intermediate and Yale
- Ridgefield - Union Ridge and South Ridge
- White Salmon - Whitson Elementary
- Lyle - Dallesport Elementary

The grant pays for the elementary counselors in the buildings and the purchase of Second Step kits for the teachers.

Mrs. Cooper, 1st grade teacher, received a \$150.00 book grant from IQ credit union through the "Read To Me, Read With Me" grant. She got to go to the scholastic warehouse and purchase over 30 books to send home with the students and to enhance her classroom library.

Ms. Harmon and Mrs. Tomberlin are taking G.L.A.D. (Guided Language Acquisition Design) training of about 40 clock hours with a special focus on E.L.L, but researched based to fit all students!!

General Music

The elementary music program has traditionally followed the approach of Carl Orff and Gunild Keetman. Children weave speech, poetry, movement, dance, drama, song and improvisation while playing child friendly instruments. Music and dance in many different cultures around the world are embraced in this approach. Composition begins in the 4th grade. The 1st grade through 4th grade elementary music program currently performs one evening concert for each grade level. A daytime program is performed by our kindergarten classes, and two evening performances by 5th grade band and choir. There is an opportunity to try out for an "Honor Choir" in the 4th and 5th grade and also a "Holiday Choir" that performs at two different community events. Fourth grade students have a choice to participate in a Recorder Club with "Orff" instruments that performs twice a year at evening concerts. The music department is supported strongly and benefits greatly by the La Center Music Association parents.

Junior Great Books

Junior Great Books is an after school reading event that selected children in grades first through fifth are invited to attend. Junior Great Books stresses the enjoyment of literature; while at the same time develops comprehension, interpretive thinking, and oral and written language skills. The program's structure offers children opportunities to develop their ideas about a challenging piece of literature and share it with others.

StoryTown

We are excited about our new literacy adoption! StoryTown is a research based, developmental literacy program for all of our students. It is full of high quality children's literature as well as informational text.

StoryTown includes explicit and systematic instruction in the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing. The program provides many opportunities for practice and application.

Reading Club

This year in Title 1, Reading Club, we served approximately 110 students in kindergarten through 3rd grade. These children worked with either our Reading Specialist or one of our two highly qualified Reading Assistants. Four Reading Assistants also work with students in our kindergarten and first grade classrooms.

We assessed all students three times a year using DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills). We used the information from these assessments to better meet the needs of students in Reading Club and the classroom.

Interventions used to assist struggling readers included:

Storytown Strategic Intervention Materials- materials that provide extra support and reading practice for struggling readers.

Storytown Intensive Intervention Materials- materials designed for use with students needing substantial reading support.

These materials are designed to be used in conjunction with the Storytown core program in the classroom. Kindergarten students were served in Reading Club for 30 minutes, 2 to 3 days a week. Students in 1st through 3rd grades were served in Reading Club for 50 minutes, 4 days a week.

Math Club

Math Club underwent revitalization this year. We continue to be staffed with a Math Specialist and two full-time Math Assistants, serving the needs of our students. However, little else remained the same. Initial selection of students including assessment, instructional materials used, and the way we served students all saw change. Foremost in our minds through all the changes was, "how can we make Math Club more effective?" Massive research on how to best support our students guided our progress.

First, we looked at how we identified students needing service. WASL scores have always been a major factor for fourth and fifth grades. However, they were not the only factor. This year, we had all fourth and fifth graders complete diagnostic tasks (courtesy of First Steps Number training) regarding number sense, conducted an individual interview with the student if necessary, and created a historical report that showed the testing performance trend for each student. This information was compiled with several other factors to identify students in need of support. Selection of students in second and third grades utilized more detailed information on specific students from the current teacher than we've had in the past. Initially, we checked all first graders for the ability to write and count orally to 100. Students struggling most with forward sequencing were invited to join Counting Club. After the first trimester, we used the K/1 Common Assessment (also new this year) with all first graders to identify weaknesses in specific areas that have been identified as critical for student success. Remediation was focused on specific weaknesses. Math Club also supported Pre-K students in June through assessing of incoming kindergarten students and helping parents know how they can work with their child over the summer.

After students were identified as needing support, steps were taken to improve the quality and quantity of support. Students came to the Math

Club classroom and we worked to identify individual needs so that we could deliver targeted instruction allowing the students to accelerate in their math knowledge and skills. All students were considered to be “double dipped”. This means students had math in their classroom and an additional 30 minutes of Math Club. Flexible grouping was used; meaning groups of students were rotated through Math Club during the year as opposed to having the same fixed group all year. Group size changed from up to 7 to a maximum of 3 students per group, based on research of effective group size. In addition, we also used a motto of, “if it’s not working in class, we need to look for a different way” to meet students’ needs. Various resources were used to create lessons customized for students. We looked at critical steps of what research shows the learning progression must be for students to succeed in math and used that to help them progress. In one first grade classroom, we piloted the push-in model of intervention, which was new to us this year. The team worked with the classroom teacher, each taking a specific group, again focusing on specific skills needed for mathematical success.

Throughout the year, 185 students received service from Math Club. We learned that while flexible grouping motivates students (since they know they aren’t ‘stuck’ in program all year), it might also begin to feel like a revolving door. Even greater care can be exercised in the future to define the length of time students’ need to adapt to a different instructor, a focused learning environment, and other students. The balance between quality and quantity is affected by those variables. We know we saw number sense improve for students as a whole. We were ‘wowed’ by students’ mental math abilities and their ability to orally communicate how they solved problems. Students’ success motivated staff to keep researching what they needed next and how to deliver it to them. It also empowered students to feel better about their abilities as a mathematician, often resulting in a better attitude regarding learning math.

Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO)

Our PTO is very active and responsible for many extra events for the students at La Center Elementary. This group of parents and teachers spend countless hours to bring exciting opportunities and programs to our school and community. Thanks to everyone that has helped provide some of the following activities:

- “Tea & Tissues” – Greeting the parents of Kindy students the first full day of school helps welcome parents to the school. Parents meet in the cafeteria for tea/coffee and goodies while socializing with other parents
- “Fall Carnival” – This is the biggest event of the year! We have over 200 volunteers that help with this HUGE festival. Students, parents, teachers, and community members enjoy the many games and activities, including a very scary Haunted House!
- “Holiday Workshop” – The shop is open to students to buy gifts for their family and friends during the holiday season. Students learn to budget their money and spend wisely.
- “Scholastic Book Fair” – We love reading and PTO presents the Scholastic Book Fair each year, giving students the opportunity to purchase their favorite books. Parents also check out our teacher’s wish lists and some purchase the books requested. Students in all classrooms benefit from this event.
- “Move Night” – A FREE family movie night is sponsored in the spring. A great time for kids to come with their pillows and blankets to get comfy. Snacks and drinks are available for purchase.

- “Coffee Connection” – Once a month, parents are invited to meet for coffee in the cafeteria. This is a great time to get acquainted with other parents and PTO members. Special speakers are also provided at times.
- “Bingo & Pizza Night” – Another fun evening for everyone to enjoy yummy pizza and win a prize.
- “Field Day” – This end of the year activity involves the entire school! Students are engaged in a variety of activities on our field, which parents have organized. Students look forward to this big day as we end another year.
- “PTO Calendar” – Starting next year, every family will receive a free calendar. PTO holds an annual “cover contest” and the winning entry has the honor of gracing the front cover for the next school year. Many cute, smiling faces of our students also provide monthly inspiration.

Some of the many things that PTO has purchased or provided funds towards includes: the rock wall, elementary track (Summer 2009), books at Book Fair, laminate, charts for classrooms, paper, headphones for Read Naturally, playground equipment, memory cards, storage bins for classrooms, digital thermometer, xylophone, balloons & books for kindy Meet & Greet / Orientation and family support.

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Volunteer Program

There are many ways we encourage parents to participate in our school. As a volunteer, you can ask your child’s teacher if they need help with bulletin boards, classroom activities, or chaperoning on a field trip. We also encourage parents to help in our “Read Naturally” program, which includes a parent training class. This program is organized through the building Reading Coach. Another way to help is to sign-up outside the office on a list of building needs, such as head checks, Vision/Hearing testing and additional helpers at the Student of the Month celebration. If you are interested in helping in any of these ways, you need to stop by the office and fill out the Volunteer Packet as well as a district fingerprinting form for a background check. We thank you for your understanding, as we are always thinking of the safety of all students with any adult.

We have an outstanding, hard working, group of individuals dedicated to the success of all children. Below is a list of the fine educators who attend conferences, workshops and courses year round to better themselves as professional classroom teachers. They all put in extra time to find ways to help children become successful. Thank you to our teachers for their energy and dedication to all our students.

Principal	Carol Patton
Associate principal.....	Scott Lincoln
Elementary Secretary	Winnie Harkleroad
Assistant Secretary	Tammy Lichliter
Office Assistant.....	Joyce Hantho
Kindergarten	Shawna Dawson, Kim Hollopeter, Laura Tomberlin
First Grade	Nancy Buhrmester, Megan Cooper, Lois Englund
.....	Joni Hancock, Rita Persic, Amy Webberley
Second Grade	Colleen Johnson, Jennifer Matanich, Treasha Reser
.....	Ruth Schrock, Sarah Stein, Amy Wise
Third Grade.....	Liz Crandall, Barbara Harmon
.....	Lola Nordstrom, Kris Sawyer, Denise Skufca
Fourth Grade	Shirley Barnes, Michelle Collins
.....	Jason Grotte, Butch Lepak, Pete Sloniker
Fifth Grade	Karen Alanko, Sharon Bussler
.....	Monica Klump, Bonnie Poffenroth, Julie Smith
K-4 Choral Music	Brenda McKay, Tonya McCord
5 th Grade Choral Music	Rhonda Slinkard
5 th Grade Band	Perry Calabrese
K-5 P.E.....	Rob Bucklin, Anne Hazard, Jubilee Roth
Reading Specialist.....	Lynette Lindblom
Reading Club Instructional Assistants	Mary Byrne, Teresa Robinson
Reading Coach.....	Kim Hollopeter
Media Specialist.....	Rita Peterson
Library Technician.....	Mary Lynn Henderson
Curriculum Director.....	Bonnie Lock
Math Specialist.....	Colleen Wing
Math Club Instructional Assistants.....	Jana Carder, Christine Matzdorff
School Nurse.....	Candra Cook
Speech/Communication Disorder Specialist.....	Laurie Kerr
School Psychologist.....	Jim Prather
Counselor	Sherri Birgensmith
ESD Special Ed. District Coordinator	Michelle Murer
Special Education.....	Teresa Smith, Mary Salomon
Food Service	Linda Tuttle, Denise Yurecko, Teresa Hansen, Christine Ornelia
Lunch Clerk/Cashier	Dana Hantho
Special Ed Instructional Assistants.....	Casey Buckbee, Linda Crowson, Penny Heaton,

..... Rhonda Huss, Julie Miller, Dasia Thompson
Para Ed Support/Playground.....Darlene Bechtold, Kellie Braaten, Brenda Edwards
.....Diana Hantho, Tina Moore, Susan Shufeldt, Deena Strawn, Tammy Swanson
ESD PreschoolMichelle Anderson, Karen Eckert, Melissa Gibson
Custodians.....Londa Brown, Melissa Hendrix, Ray Juneau, Tom Murphy, Wayne Tribe

Certificated staff: 42
Support staff: 40