

La Center
Elementary School



Annual Report
2017-2018

MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of La Center Elementary
is to empower every student to become a successful
life-long 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 and maintenance shops. The original school was constructed in 1938. Our round building, which 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 as whole children. We recognize that no two individuals are the same; therefore, we make every effort to accommodate the unique talents of each student.

Good things happening at La Center Elementary . . .

“PAWS-ITIVE” COMMUNITY

Our children’s success is dependent on many factors. While our academic successes are critical, there are basic strengths that can have a positive impact on our student’s academic success and enhance their lives. It is our hope that supporting our students with a monthly theme will have a positive effect on their lives, help them academically, and support them in our learning efforts. Each grade level attended a monthly Character Crossroads Experience to learn about and practice our monthly themes.

Monthly Bobcat Themes

September: Self & Other Awareness – Getting to know myself and others

October: Respect – Work together and support respect

November: Gratitude – Seeing the “paws-sitive”

December: Empathy – Helping to bring good feeling

January: Kindness – Kindness/giving

February: Diversity – Celebrating our differences

March: Responsibility – Teamwork/doing my part

April: Safety– Personal safety and safety of others

May: Curiosity – Asking questions/finding answers

June: Humor/Imagination– Creativity and fun

Spirit Days

Students that are observed doing acts of respect towards others are given a coin to put into the Bobcat coin bucket in the cafeteria. Students can view the coin level in the bucket. Once the token level reaches the top of the bucket, students are rewarded with a school spirit day. Students get to come up with and vote on ideas for a spirit day. This year, we celebrated with such spirit days as pajama day, color competition day, crazy hair day and sports day.

Bobcat Store

As part of our school-wide behavior support plan, our students earn Bobcat Bucks in the classroom for doing an excellent job following the school and classroom rules. This incentive program offers students a chance to shop at the Bobcat Store using their Bobcat Bucks. Some items offered in the store include school supplies, prizes and extra recess incentives.

MindUp

Our MindUp curriculum includes lessons that use information about the brain to improve behavior and learning for students. Each lesson offers strategies for helping students focus, improve self-regulation, manage stress and have a positive mind-set.

Behavior Fairs

Behavior fairs occur twice a year and are brief lessons given by staff on appropriate school behavior. The fairs are designed to help students become familiar with the school, its policies and procedures (i.e. how to check in late and no running in the hallways).

Resolution Room

The resolution room is designed to give students a quiet and comfortable location for conflict resolution.

Kindy Cub Nights

Our kindergarten team planned three evenings in the spring to help prepare next year's kindergarten students and their parents for school. The evenings were spent working on activities that help future Bobcats prepare for school, fine and major motor skills, and learning alphabet letter basics. Bobcat cubs were able to go home with their own school boxes filled with supplies, as well as activities to do at home.

Math Is Cool!

Our Math is Cool! teams continue to enjoy exploring their math learning, fun, and competing in regional Math is Cool! competitions. Our fourth grade Math is Cool! team competed at the 4th grade regionals at Skyview High School. The competition included mental math, individual contest, team contests, team relay, and knowledge bowl. La Center finished third, qualifying for state masters tournament.

Science Olympiad

A group of students ranging from second through fifth grade participated in the Science Olympiad competition. The tournament was held at Clark College and included around 300 students coming from 14 different schools from seven districts. Our teams competed well. Our blue team came in 7th out of 99 teams in the Feathered Friends event. In the Keep the Heat event, our white team came in 7th. Our blue team came in 5th in the Bodacious Bones event.

Highly Capable Program

Our highly capable (HiCap) program is one way we challenge and support our identified highly capable students. Our HiCap students are clustered in a classroom at each grade level with other highly capable students and are encouraged to participate in enrichment activities designed to meet the needs of highly capable students. We have provided opportunity for special projects and have redesigned the candidate identification process that is shared with all families in January and utilizes common assessments for all students and more specific assessments as candidates are found. Our HiCap leadership team has continued their work to improve upon our HiCap program to identify and support our HiCap students in their learning. For example, we have in the past

found that HiCap students can appear more shy or quiet. We have worked to develop better ways to find them given this understanding. We have also worked to better support our HiCap students in their learning, such as through developing and implementing special learning projects during the school year.

Technology Tools

K-2 utilizes iPads and some Chromebooks in the classroom. Grades 3-5 use Chromebooks (1 Chromebook cart with 30 Chromebooks per 2 classes).

Assessments

School wide common assessments utilize DIBELS (reading) and MAP (math). Kindergarten also uses WaKids to help us place and best support our students in their learning.

Bobcat Ambassadors

The Bobcat Ambassador program is designed to introduce 4th and 5th grade students to a school and community service and leadership process that will encourage them to pursue student government activities and community service in middle and high school. Two students (one boy, one girl) from each 4th and 5th grade class are selected to be a Bobcat Ambassador for the school year. Students receive training in team building, working collaboratively, respect and diversity. Areas of service include assisting new students; developing and initiating our crossing guard program; and helping with events, such as our food drive, fall carnival, book fair, holiday shop, movie night and field day.

Character Crossroad

Our counseling team worked hard to design and implement our first Character Crossroad events. These hour long events took place once a month. Each grade level got together with our counselors and other staff to explore our monthly themes (such as respect) and learn strategies to support themselves and others. While our students participated in these great opportunities, our teachers for the given grade level met as a team with our administrators to discuss our students and how we may best support them in their learning.

Weekly Art Specialist

Thanks to a full time art teacher, each class had one time each week to explore the amazing world of art. Students painted, weaved, and did printmaking to name just a few activities. A district wide art show with over 800 pieces of art and musical performances by the 4th and 5th grade students gave the community a glimpse of the amazing artistic abilities of LCES students. There were about 300 people in attendance at both the elementary campus and the high school campus.

Backpack Program

The goal of the Jumpstart Backpack Program is to conduct a school readiness day and support for low-income students and families in La Center schools. Our schools have seen a significant increase in low-income families requesting assistance. Based on the federal guidelines 24.6% of the students in La Center Elementary are eligible for free or reduced meals.

Families falling into this category of assistance often find providing clothing, school fees and school supplies for their children at the beginning of the school year a nearly impossible task. This year, the project assisted low-income families by providing 155 students a free backpack filled with school supplies.

“Paws-itive” Postcards

Teachers may send home a special La Center Elementary postcard sharing with 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.

Middle School Tutors

The middle school Educational Leadership Class gets students involved in the classroom. This group tutors students in classrooms from elementary PE to middle school choir and math. This is a structured class where middle school students work with elementary students in reading groups, science labs, math tutoring or leading small band and choir sections. Many have been trained in the Read Naturally program. Middle school students are required to write a bi-weekly blog about their experiences in the classrooms. In order to be part of this class, students are required to take a health class during the summer. Elementary teachers have greatly benefitted from having the students work in their classrooms. This year there were 24 middle school tutors.

Our Students

	Am. Indian	Asian	Black	Pacific Is.	White	Hispanic	Multi-Racial	Total
Kindergarten	0	0	1	1	103	7	4	116
1 st Grade	0	2	0	0	109	9	4	124
2 nd Grade	0	0	0	0	103	8	2	113
3 rd Grade	0	2	1	0	102	10	5	120
4 th Grade	0	0	1	1	122	11	4	139
5 th Grade	0	0	0	1	122	4	5	132
Totals	0	4	3	3	661	49	24	744

State Testing

Smarter Balanced Assessment

This year, the Smarter Balanced Assessments for English Language Arts and Math were administered to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. The 5th grade was also administered the MSP for science. Below are the percentages of the 4th grade students who met or exceeded the standards in the tested areas and 5th grade science:

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
4 th Gr. Math	51.3%	Math 50%	Math 43%
4 th Gr. ELA	49.5%	ELA 42.9%	ELA 50.3%
5 th Gr. Science	60.5%	Science 52.0%	Science 54.8%

For additional state results, check out the OSPI Website:

<http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx?groupLevel=District&schoolId=1&reportLevel=State&yrs=2016-17&year=2017-18>

Fundraiser – 2017/18 Bobcat Walk/Run

In our desire to encourage healthy living and raise money for our students, we held our fifth annual Bobcat Walk/Run event on the elementary track. Students solicited pledges per lap or single donations. Our students did a phenomenal job raising over \$13,000. The proceeds pay for playground equipment, awards for the Bobcat Buck Stores, celebrations, and any additional student activities throughout the school year.

General Music

The K-5 music program featured an after school 3rd & 4th Grade Holiday Choir, 4th Grade Recorder Club, Ukulele Club and 4th and 5th Grade Honor Choir. These groups performed at our annual 3rd, 4th and 5th grade concerts and at the annual Christmas Bazaar. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade performed for parents in the spring. Fifth grade students choose between band, music exploration and choir as part of their music curriculum. Fifth grade band and choir perform in winter and spring.

Literacy

Kindergarten classes utilize Lucy Calkins curriculum in reading. The reading series is rooted in best practices and newest thinking. The series includes state-of-the-art charts and tools, methods for teaching reading, and learning progressions in reading for literature and informational texts.

Grades 1-3 use the Wonders program for literacy. Its intervention program, WonderWorks, is a flexible, grounded in research, and provides support designed to accelerate students back to grade level.

Grades 4-5 use the Read Side-By-Side program for literacy. The program exposes all students to longer, more complex texts, using scripted lessons for fiction and non-fiction novels, book clubs and independent reading.

Accelerated Club for Education (A.C.E.)

Accelerated Club for Education (A.C.E.) has offered supplemental reading & math support to targeted students in grades K-4. We utilize learning data from such sources as MAP tests, common assessments, DIBELS and teacher feedback to evaluate students to receive targeted learning support. We continued to adapt and change in an effort to better serve the needs of our students. By working together, we were able to effectively differentiate instruction. The program was staffed with one teacher, four full-time instructional assistants, and also utilized instructional assistants with classroom support hours. We continue to strive to provide students with instruction that meets individual needs and puts them on the path to accelerated learning.

Students entering fourth grade that received a score of level 1 on Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) at the end of their third grade year were offered reading support. These student worked very hard on improving reading and writing skills.

Overall, A.C.E. maintained the philosophy that students struggling in math at any level should receive support. To find these students, all second and third grade students were given a district math test at the beginning of the year. Based on the results of the district testing, students were identified as either strategic or intensive and placed in small groups (average 3 students) needing similar types of support. When students were able to demonstrate the necessary skills, they moved on to the next skill or were exited if appropriate. All K-3 students received services in the A.C.E. classroom.

A.C.E. also supported students identified as intensive in reading. Students that tested as strategic were offered the opportunity to use Read Naturally. An instructional assistant from A.C.E monitored Read Naturally. That assistant trained parent volunteers, other classroom support assistants, and Middle School Leadership students to use the program with elementary students.

A.C.E. rank-ordered kindergarten students whose skills were screened using DIBELSNEXT. Those needing support received services for reading. We worked on such skills as letter identification and letter sounds, pre-reading skills identified as weak for kindergarten students and continued use of templates, a technique for improving specific skills.

First grade students that tested as intensive for reading were further screened to see which program worked best for their specific needs. They were placed in Read Well or Barton. Barton is a program that is designed to help students that may have dyslexia, but can also benefit struggling readers.

In both second and third grade, reading groups were focused on Read Well 1, Fluency Foundations, Read Well Plus, Read Well 2 or Barton. Again, we worked to group students by needs and kept the groups small.

We held A Cookie Expedition with a good turnout. Students and their parents explored different countries/activities to have their passport stamped to earn toppings for a cookie. One activity included parents completing a program survey via an iPad that provided us with valuable feedback regarding the A.C.E. program. It was great fun for students, as well as staff, to share the A.C.E. experience with parents.

Dream Team Dental

Dream Team Dental visited our school this year and provided free dental care for those that qualified. This year, about 20 students received free dental care.

Kindy Cub Camp

Kindy Cub Camp was offered and open to all incoming kindergarteners the last week of summer to learn and experience what it is like to be a kindergarten student.

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. The office is also in need of volunteers for vision/hearing screenings, photo days, etc. All volunteers need to fill out the Volunteer Packet for a background check.

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:

- Boohoo or Yahoo – Greeting the parents of kindergarten students the first day of school helps welcome parents to the school. Parents met for tea/coffee and goodies while socializing with other parents.
- Birthday Books- Free books are offered monthly to each student whose birthday falls in that month.
- Fall Carnival– The Fall Carnival offers fun games for all ages.
- Holiday Shop – 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.
- Father/Daughter Dance – The Father/Daughter Dance offers an opportunity for students and family members to socialize and interact in a non-academic setting.
- Mother/Son Event – The Mother/Son Event offers an opportunity for students and family members to socialize and interact in a non-academic setting.
- Field Day – Students, volunteers and teachers enjoy this day of fun, water-filled activities.

La Center Elementary Staff for 2017 – 2018

We have an outstanding, hardworking, group of individuals dedicated to the success of all children. Below is a list of the staff at La Center Elementary School. All of our staff work to find ways to help children become successful. Thank you to our staff for their energy and dedication to our students.

K-5 Principal	Scott Lincoln
K-5 Associate Principal.....	Jeremy Kidd
Elementary Secretary	Melissa Lile
Assistant Secretary	Joyce Hantho
Office Assistant	Tasha Clinton
K-2 Counselor	Lisa Halstrom
K-5 Counselor.....	Tami Karchesky
Resolution Room.....	Susan Shufeldt
Kindergarten.....	Shawna Corl, Lisa Graham, Colleen Johnson, Lynette Lindblom, Amy Webberley
First Grade.....	Nancy Buhrmester, Megan Cooper, Lois Englund, Rita Persic, Denise Skufca
Second Grade	Megan Bright, Michelle Cuthbert, Joni Hancock, Jennifer Matanich, Laura Tomberlin
Third Grade	Liz Crandall, Kris McKinney, Peter Poppert, Kris Sawyer, Jessica Wanke, Shannon Warren
Fourth Grade	Michelle Collins, Carrie Cablay, Butch Lepak, Bonnie Lock, Teri Schlenz
Fifth Grade	Karen Alanko, Kate Denney, Greg Hall, Scott Holt, Peter Sloniker
Special Education.....	Alicia Flanigan, Katie Morehouse, Teresa Warnke, David Williams, Kim York
Music.....	Tonya McCord, Brenda McKay
5 th Grade Band.....	Perry Calabrese
P.E.	Rob Bucklin, Treasha Reser, Amy Wise
K-12 Media Specialist.....	Lynn Cooke
K-2 Library Teacher.....	Kathy Griffith
Library Technicians.....	Anita Calnan, Mary Lynn Henderson
A.C.E. (Accelerated Club for Education)	Colleen Wing
ELL	Melissa Flatt
School Nurse	Danielle Rivers
Speech/Communication Disorder Specialist	Nicholas Montoya, Jasmine Stohr
School Psychologist	Brian Terletzsky
Paraeducators	Stefani Amstutz, Mandy Cole, Cynthia Elliott, Rachel Gregg, Christine Matzdorff, Kelly Sullivan
.....	Jessica Willoughby
Special Ed Paraeducators.....	Jackie Coleman, Kelly Dunn, Heidi Hallstrom, Krystle Hinterlang, Jennifer Stephens
.....	Kate Soske, Maria Rolph, Emily Seastone, Shannon Washburn
Playground	Darlene Bechtold, Alma, Denney, Bo Knight, Tammy Meyer, Deena Reed
Kitchen	La Dona Brown, Donna Burnett, Christine Cook, Kirby Phillips, Christine Rew
Lunch Clerk/Cashier	Dana Hantho
Custodial	Bill Bauman, Londa Brown, Melissa Hendrix, Nicole Mayfield, Tom Murphy, Tom Rice
.....	Eric Stenberg, Herm Von Weerdhuizen, Rob Williamson

Certificated staff: 52

Support staff: 44