

Elementary Board Report

A Paws-itive Learning Community Striving to Meet the Individual Needs of Each Student as a Whole Child

Our theme for the month of November is gratitude. The following shares just a bit of what we have to be thankful for:

2014 Science Olympiad

Our students recently represented La Center Elementary at the regional Science Olympiad. This is our fourth year joining in. Twenty five schools and 116 teams participated this year. While this is open to third through fifth graders, many schools only send their older students. We were one of the few that sent third, fourth, and fifth graders. Our students placed second in the Rocket Boats competition and third place in the Green Eggs Go Bam competition. Congratulations!



Led by Kris Sawyer, Jason Grotte, and Liz Crandall, our students met twice a week for eight weeks leading up to the Science Olympiad. Each practice lasted about 75 minutes and included science experiences such as formulating baking soda and vinegar concoctions to power boats for distance through gutters full of water, developing gliders to go for distance, and learning to identify rocks and minerals. Students appeared to enjoy their experiences and set a fine example of what Bobcats can do. Those representing La Center Elementary were as follows:

Sean Barsness
Mikaela Bright
Grace Clinton

Tommy Coffman
Stephen Croskrey
Parker Ellson

Kennedy Flatt
Jake Kiever
Lucia Poehlein

Sydney Sloniker
Emily Surdam
Zev Wolverton

Elementary Honor Choir & Holiday Choir

We are lucky to have opportunities for our students who enjoy sharing their music talents in support of our community. Brenda McKay leads two such opportunities, holiday choir and honor choir. Our holiday choir has already been practicing twice a week for some time now. We have 34 third and fourth grade students participating. They have already performed at our Veterans' Day assemblies and will also perform at the Holiday Bazaar at the high school and the elementary Holiday Concert. Our students are enjoying themselves and there have already been many requests from parents for the holiday choir to carry on through spring.

Honor choir will be made up of 13 fourth and fifth grade students who will be selected to participate in the Lower Columbia River Music Educators Association regional choir. Typically the top five students from each participating school are selected. We often have higher choir interest and have more who qualify and are granted permission to send more than five students. The photo at the right is of our 2014 honor choir at the regional concert venue. Higher level music pieces are chosen to challenge the honor choir. Our participants will practice twice weekly starting in January to prepare for regional practice and a concert in March.



Tech Camp with Mrs. Alanko

As you know, technology has impacted many of our lives. Mrs. Alanko has been working to find ways to support her students in utilizing technology as learning support tools. Recently she held a tech camp with her students. Her camp was a mix of a bit of camp and technology. “Campers” enjoyed such things as a “camp fire”, picnic table cloths, rugged surroundings, a camp kitchen and lots of snacks in coolers. They also hiked to such areas as the library, middle school, and kindy camp to work with such people as Stephanie Holmes at the middle school and Rita Peterson at our library. “Campers” participated in such activities as utilizing a Classroom KidBlog, learning to use QR scan to find images in the library, developing computer coding with middle school students, utilizing our school website homework resources, using FOSSWeb science website, utilizing Google Drive for creating presentations, and working with the IXL math site. Along with many more fun experiences, “campers” enjoyed learning through a hybrid of newer and older technology. This was a fun example of integrating learning concepts, tools, and conditions to make for meaningful learning experiences.



Community Member(s) of Mystery

Our November Community Member of Mystery is in her ninth year of teaching. This is her first year working at La Center Elementary with a continuing contract, though she has worked with us in various roles previously. She and her husband just celebrated their twelfth anniversary two weeks ago. They live in La Center with their three children. They have a daughter in third grade, a son in second grade, and another son in kindergarten here at La Center Elementary. Our Community Member of Mystery enjoys spending time with her family, reading fiction, and jogging. They are into sports as a family, which currently includes a busy soccer schedule. For fun, they enjoy jogging on the elementary track together. This cannot happen at certain times on Saturdays during the fall. She is one of the world’s biggest cougar fans and dresses up with her family for Washington State football games. Who do you think our November Community Member of Mystery is?

Our October Community Member of Mystery has worked in our district in various roles in recent years. She grew up and graduated from high school in Battleground (one of our fellow staff members also graduated in the same class). La Center is now her home. She has been married for 21 years and has three children; a daughter who is a freshman in college, a daughter who is a junior at La Center High School, and a son who is a fifth grader at the elementary. This Community Member of Mystery loves spending time with her family. Her three favorite things are books, coffee, and ice cream. She also enjoys attending sporting events, playing cards, and playing board games. Who do you think our October Community Member of Mystery is?

If you guessed Kate Denney, 5th grade teacher, you were correct.



