

Hawks Report

La Center Middle School

November 2014

Band: Congratulations to the following students for being named to the 2015 Junior All-State Honors Band: Madisyn Deam (Bb Clarinet), Janie Flores (Bb Clarinet), Dawson Geil (French Horn), Tyler Jennings (Euphonium/Baritone Horn), Reed Logan (Bb Clarinet), Nathan Olson (Tuba), Ewan Robinson (Trumpet). Mr. Calabrese is very proud of his students as this is the largest group he's ever had named to this honor.

Choir: Junior All-State Choir Auditions took place in October. This is a prestigious group of singers who are chosen as "the best in the state." 3 of our middle school choir students made it into this group: Ashlyn Winston, Eva Dawson, and Amanda Lewis. Congratulations to them as well.

The 7/8th grade choir participated in the Clark College Fall Choral Festival on Friday, 11/14. This event was funded by the La Center Music Association. The group performed 3 contrasting styled songs for 3 adjudicators. Songs performed were "Fun Train" and included some intricate rhythm work and fun sound effects, "Et In Terra Pax," a traditional Latin lyrical piece, and "We Will," a multi-cultural piece in English and Swahili, that was written after 9-11 and included text describing hope and "standing tall, children."

After the performance, the singers received an off-stage clinic where one of the adjudicators worked on vocal techniques to help improve their singing as a group and as individuals. The choir stayed at the festival for another hour and a half to listen to (and learn from) other choirs, from middle school groups to high school groups to vocal jazz groups.

It was a fantastic event to jump-start motivation to work hard and connect as a group for this school year.

The 7/8th Grade Choir was recently invited to sing at the "Festival of Trees" in Vancouver at the downtown Hilton the day after Thanksgiving. About half the choir is able to attend and perform at this event. We're honored to have been invited to be part of such a big event sponsored by the Vancouver Rotary Club.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Near the end of October we held conferences for parents to meet with their children's teachers. We stayed late on Thursday night to accommodate working parents. In all, we had 217 students and 191 parents attend representing 171 families. An interesting statistic that we tracked this year found that 61% of our students who pay for lunches attended conferences while 42% of our students who receive free or reduced lunches attended.

Staff: Last year we had three teachers undertake their national board certification process under the guidance and coaching of Mrs. Lynn Cooke. On 11/16/14 the results were posted and all three have passed and are now officially national board certified teachers! Congratulations and a well-deserved honor for Andrea Austad, Janice Broten and Todd Brothers. They now join Lynn Cooke and Laurie Cripe in the ranks of national board certified teachers within our middle school staff.

Stuff the Bus: La Center Elementary, Middle and High School, in collaboration with KWRL presented our first “Stuff the Bus” Competition during the week of November 17, 2014. Each school stuffed a KWRL bus in hopes of collecting the most food in the district. Non-perishable items collected will benefit Share and the Clark County Food Bank.