

Hawks Report
La Center Middle School
October 2014

September and October Students of the Month are:

8th Grade:

Tucker Harrington
Jordan Fox
Catherine Pederson
Connor Myers

7th Grade:

Ceanna Johnston
Aaron Sundahl
Kaitlin Boyle
Sean Fox

6th Grade:

Wade Cox
Amy Chisolm
Abdul Ahmad
Emily Holyk

These students will receive their certificates at an assembly on Friday, October 24, 2014.

Healthy Youth Survey

The middle school students participated in taking the Healthy Youth Survey on October 17th, 2014. With the exception of a few students who opted out of taking it, the students completed the survey in their homeroom classes on Friday morning. The data collected and shared with us at a later time will be a very good source of information for us to know how to best serve our students in La Center.

Science

Our science classes are getting exposure to real world problems and experiences. Our 7th grade students of Mrs. Cripe's are currently designing their own stream table investigations to mimic real world erosion causes, effects and prevention or slowing down of the problem. They have been able to have discussions as large as global issues and as close to home as their own back yards. Coming soon, our 7th grade students will be working with Clark County Water Resource Center personnel and going to the wetlands to study soil samples, profiles and erosion. This project is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) curriculum.

Meanwhile, our 6th grade science students of Mrs. Schneider and Mr. Totten are taking monthly walks down to the wetlands for training on various water quality tests (ph, temperature, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, phosphates, stream measurements, turbidity). Students are split into small groups and assigned a task, which they will monitor throughout the school year. In the spring, a selected few small groups (4-5, roughly 20 students) will participate in the Watershed Congress at WSU-Vancouver, where they will make a presentation on their tests, findings and learnings from their work.

Our 8th grade science students of Mr. Ecklund have been trekking down to the wetlands each month as well, to focus on water quality and the health of our streams. Both 6th and 8th grade have been fortunate to partner with Clark County Water Resource Center and have Judy Bufford working with our students each trip, providing testing equipment and necessary tools for the students to successfully complete their experiments. The 8th grade students get to choose their own focus question and design their own data collection methods. Examples would include comparing survival rates of tolerant and intolerant macro invertebrates, or investigating how rainfall affects phosphate levels in Brezee Creek.

Throughout the school year they will gather their data, and compile it for end of the year culminating presentations. Then, a few student groups will be selected to participate in the Watershed Congress at WSU-Vancouver. The participating students will get to hear from other students around the county, about their water quality tests in other areas of the county. Generally our students have learned that Brezee Creek is a healthy creek, especially when compared to other creeks throughout the county.