

La Center High School Board Report

April 20, 2015

Dear School Board Members,

This particular high school board report is in a different format. As you can understand, this is a very busy time with the transition of the Special Education program and moving Peter Rosenkranz into his new position. I want to assure you that our team is eager to step up to the plate and support him, our Special Education staff and our students during this exciting time for the district. Matt Cooke will help with some of the discipline issues that arise throughout the day and I will take on several of Pete's other responsibilities in order to free him up during this transition. The following are just a few of the other notable activities that are currently taking place. Please trust me that there are many, many more successes each day with our students which aren't mentioned. What a great place to see students excelling in all areas.

Mrs. Newman's **Marine Biology class** had the opportunity to speak with a former La Center graduate, Josh Emerson, Class of 2003; who pursued a career in the sciences. Josh talked about his love of science and his interest in zooplankton. He developed that interest while working on research in the environmental lab as he acquired his master's degree at WSU-Vancouver. He went on to study zooplankton, focusing on invasive species, in the Columbia River.

Josh currently works in Washington DC with the EPA as a science expert, collaborating with politicians to formulate regulations dealing primarily with the ballast of ships and the introduction of invasive species to our lakes and rivers. Josh answered questions from the students about specific invasive species, research work, and his life in Washington DC. We are so pleased that Josh Emerson, as an alumni, kept in contact with Mrs. Newman and volunteered to share his journey and job details with our students.

The **Human Anatomy & Physiology class** has been invited to a Heart Watch Surgical Viewing on Friday, May 22, 2015 at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center. This opportunity brings relevancy to students' classroom learning as well as interaction with health care professionals for students exploring career opportunities in the health care field. Dr. Storm Floten, cardiothoracic surgeon, will perform heart surgery in the hospital's operating room and it will be shown live for the students to observe.

An audio feed will enable students to question Dr. Floten in the operating room and he will be able to talk to the students during the surgery. Several presenters, including another cardiothoracic surgeon, Dr. Anthony Furnary; and an Operating Room nurse will be in the Auditorium during the surgery. Following the surgery, Dr. Floten will return to the auditorium to wrap up and answer any remaining questions about the procedure. The students are very excited and didn't even bat an eye when Mrs. Vierck told them they would have to leave school at 5:15 am. Most said, "Tell me what time, and I'll be here."

Danielle Rivers, the district's nurse, has completed this year's HIV and AIDS Presentation for all high school students. She did an excellent job presenting the basic facts though a short quiz the students took at the beginning of the workshop. As Mrs. Rivers went through the quiz students could see how they scored and some wonderful yet frank discussions took place. Danielle's professional manner and expertise provided our students with clear and defined facts. Thank you, Danielle, for taking the time to meet with all of our students.

Scheduling is underway! Students in grades 8-11 have now completed their requests for classes for the next school year. At first glance, we will need to pull Andrew Helm back into full time math and Kate Stevens back into full time social studies. This will mean that PE classes will be full, but manageable. We are pleased to welcome Joyce Mosby back to the high school where she will be teaching the Health classes.

The **8th Grade Orientation** took place this past week and was well attended by 8th graders and their parents. Kristin Krem did a fantastic job presenting with a PowerPoint the graduation requirements for high school, including how important Pathways are as a tool to help guide the student for a positive and prepared outcome during their four years. It was a very successful evening.

State testing begins next week and will run through the end of the school year. Home School Academy's middle school students begin next week followed by the AP exams and high school testing dates. Parents may check the high school website for dates and times.

Dance Team

The Dance Team placed 2nd in State for their Show Routine on March 27th. They missed out on being State Champions by only a few points to Hanford HS (3A Classification). Dance State is different than other state competitions in that the 1A schools must compete against 2A and sometimes 3A schools if not enough teams qualify for state in the 1A classification. We should be very proud of our ladies for qualifying for state in all 3 routines as well as their high placing with their Show Routine.

Baseball

The baseball team has had a couple of injuries to key players which has necessitated some young players stepping into pivotal roles. Dustin Ell, a senior and catcher, broke his hand in the first game and will not return to the lineup this season. Sawyer Bierscheid, our ace pitcher, has been battling some back issues. Despite all of this, Coach Rob Williamson is proud of how our young players have responded and he sees the team improving with each game. Our team currently has 1 win and 4 losses.

Softball

This year looks to be a very promising season for our softball team. We have the 2014 Trico League MVP, Abby England, returning as our starting pitcher. Other notable returners from last year's All-League selection are Jessi Weaver, Emily Muffett, Kayla Aguirre, Alicen Smith, Charlotte Royal, and Amanda Moudy. So far this year, the team has done well in their non-league schedule despite 2 losses. According to Coach Randy Martinez, the team was a bit rusty

after not playing for almost 2 weeks due to rain outs and Spring Break. The team and their coach are confident and the expectation is that they will qualify for state and hopefully will place there.

Soccer

Coming off their undefeated league schedule last year and first ever Trico League Championship, this team had the expectations of repeating this feat. Well, it is difficult to go undefeated and they have found that to be true. Their league record is 4 wins and 2 losses, and the overall record is 7 wins and 3 losses. The good news is that they have learned a lot through their losses. This team still has the expectation of qualifying for the District Tournament and then qualifying for the State Championships.

Girls Golf

It has been refreshing to see the numbers in our girls golf program improve. Last year, we had only 3 freshmen on the team and there was some consideration of closing the program down. This year we have 13 active participants. Coach Kyle Simmons says there were so many new golfers that he had to start at the very ground level in coaching them. However, the girls are having fun and improving each day. We have had 5 matches so far and are getting closer to securing a team victory.

Track

Our Men's and Women's Track teams have shared some success and look to be a dominant force not only in the Trico League, but also in the District Championship Meet, which is the qualifying meet for State. In the 3 league meets so far, La Center Men's team has placed 1st, 1st, and 2nd, and the Women's team has placed 2nd, 2nd, and 3rd. There were 7 teams at each of the meets. Other good news is that we have 4 top 10 ranked athletes in their events among all 1A schools in the state: Philipp Tistov for the 200m (23.12 sec, 8th) and 400m (51.83 sec, 6th), Matthew Sheldon for the High Jump (6'4", 2nd), Jenna Melanson for the 100m Hurdles (15.93 sec, 3rd) and 300m Hurdles (49.01 sec, 5th), and Shelby Vermeulen for the discus (114'2", 5th).

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Patton, LCHS Principal