

Hawks Report

La Center Middle School

November/December 2015

Students of the Month September and October:

6<sup>th</sup> Grade

September:

Bryten Schmitz  
Ella Stromberg

October:

Jace Story  
Viviann Lamkin

7<sup>th</sup> Grade

September:

Shawn Child  
Emily Nelson

October:

Dominick D'Emilio  
DeAnna Baher

8<sup>th</sup> Grade

September:

Cedric Hubler  
Danielle Gawronski

October:

Sean Fox  
Kaitlin Boyle

Parent-Teacher Conferences: On Monday and Tuesday afternoons of conference week, we were able to hold 43 individual conferences for students identified by teachers and parents as most needing a scheduled conference. During this round table session, teachers, parents and most of the students were able to work together and communicate how to support each student for school success. We feel real good about our ability to reach about 12% of our students and families in this focused method.

On Wednesday and Thursday afternoons as well as Thursday night, we provided arena style conferences where parents and students could go teacher to teacher to communicate and learn how classes are

going. We had 191 students represented with at least 1 parent present at these conferences sessions for a 50% participation rate for a grand total of being able to conference with 234 families reaching 62% of our student population.

Math Fellow Andrea Austad:

The Washington State Math Fellows is a collaboration between OSPI and ESD 112 to build leadership within each school district. There are 35 Math Fellows this year representing 16 school districts and Andrea Austad is our La Center School District Fellow. The Math Fellows met on October 27 and will meet with their administrator to develop a District/School Action Plan for their leadership this year. The Math Fellows are studying the book [Principles to Actions Ensuring Mathematical Success for All](#) from NCTM provided by OSPI. Their first meeting focused on the 8 Mathematics Teaching Practices that support the Washington State Learning Standards. Andrea was able to share her experience and tools, including a video clip and protocol, with her middle school math colleagues in our November department meetings. It was a very productive learning opportunity.

Language Arts Fellow Janice Brotan: The Washington State Language Arts Fellows is a collaboration between OSPI and ESD 112 (just like math) to build leadership within each school district. Janice Brotan is our La Center School District representative, and she met with the other regional Fellows on October 28<sup>th</sup> to grow their instructional practice in the area of writing, specifically with drawing evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis and reflection. Janice will be sharing her learnings with other LA teachers in our district once her action plan is completed.

Be A Hero Spirit Day and Dance: On Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> our middle school students had the theme of ‘be a hero’ for their spirit day and for the dance following school from 3-5 pm. We had 216 students stay after school and participate in the fun by either dancing to the music in the gym, playing Wii Mario Cart in a classroom or singing karaoke in the choir room. We were thankful to the many parent chaperones to help ensure a safe and fun experience for all students.

Stuff the Bus Competition: This is a homeroom competition again this year with a party for the top 6th, 7th and 8th grade homerooms for middle school, as well as a competition between La Center Schools and Kalama Schools. Stuff the bus took place for 2 weeks in November, right before Thanksgiving break, and a big thank you to KWRL for collaborating in this activity and donating the time, buses and drivers to “stuff the bus” then weigh it for determining the school with the highest amount of food donated. All proceeds go to help the Clark County Food Bank, Lewis River Food Bank and Share. Totals to be announced next month.

Anti-Bully/Free the Children Assembly: On Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> we had a guest speaker from Free the Children describe his experiences growing up with bullying behavior and how it impacts people. His story was woven into a positive message about making a positive difference in other peoples’ lives. Free the Children is an organization that our students have supported in the past, and are doing so again this year through fundraising activities like the pumpkin sales. There will be more activities to come too.

Veterans Day Assembly: We held two assemblies to honor our Veterans in the community, one during the school day and the other in the evening. We had multiple Veterans recognized in the stands, and for those that came to the day time assembly, they were given a handmade card from our students thanking them for their service. A beautiful performance by both our 7/8 band and choir topped off a wonderful celebration and video production by Mr. DeWayne Pritchett.

Real Life Exhibit 8<sup>th</sup> grade fieldtrip: All of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were able to participate in this exhibit in Tigard, Oregon. It is a walkthrough tour of various disasters (both natural and manmade) and through viewing living standards throughout the world, demonstrates the vast contrast between an average American teen life and one from another part of the world. Our students are very moved and come away wanting to make a positive difference. This exhibit is sponsored by Medical Teams International.

Hour of Code: In December we were able to secure volunteers from HP, who spent the day with our 7/8 grade students from our engineering class and our technology class to learn about reading, writing and developing code. We are super excited about this opportunity and believe it will plant some excellent seeds with our students.

Drama Performances: Our 46 drama students in two classes performed their winter plays called "Happily Ever After" and "The Dowry". Many elementary students are able to come and watch the performances throughout the day and they always get a good laugh. Our middle school students love having an audience as well. The students work hard to prepare for their final performances and do a great job.

Winter Sports: We have 24 girls filling three teams for girls basketball and then we also have 11 participants in wrestling this winter.