

La Center High School

February 15, 2015

C

Curriculum - This year we are offering a new opportunity for students planning to take the ACT test. Aften Pankiewicz-Waldram,

the Career and College Specialist is offering 18 workshops after school from now through April 13th to help prepare students for the ACT test. These workshops are 30 minutes long and the dates are listed below. Students are provided valuable information on how to take the test, including test samples. The ACT test is on Saturday, April 18th.

ACT Preparation Class Dates

- Monday, February 9
- Thursday, February 12
- Thursday, February 19
- Monday, February 23
- Thursday, February 26
- Monday, March 2
- Thursday, March 5
- Monday, March 9
- Thursday, March 12
- Monday, March 16
- Thursday, March 19
- Monday, March 23
- Thursday, March 26
- Monday, March 30
- Thursday, April 2
- Monday, April 6
- Thursday, April 9
- Monday, April 13



Athletics & Activities

Unified Basketball

This has been one of the best programs that La Center High School has implemented. On January 31, we hosted a fun-filled morning of Special Olympics basketball with teams from Skyview, Hudson's Bay, Columbia River, and Fort Vancouver. It was amazing to see the support from our Boys and Girls Basketball teams help volunteer to run this event. The basketball players were the referees, the clock operators, the greeters at the door, the concession help, as well as part of the cheering from the stands. According to Mandy Schumacher, the Special Olympics liaison, La Center had the most volunteers out of any of the schools that she has organized an event like this. The La Center team participated in Districts where they could have qualified for state had they placed in the top 3. However, we placed 7th on February 7th at Rogers High School in Puyallup. Brain Zylstra and Karla Karukes did a fabulous job in this being the first season of Unified Basketball at La Center. I look forward to many more years of offering this opportunity for both our special needs students and our regular ed students.

Chess Team

The Chess Team wrapped up their season in the Portland Schools League. Our 13 week season ended on Wednesday, February 18. Their record was 6 wins – 1 loss – 1 draw, which earned them a first place finish in their group out of 12 schools. The top 4 teams will get a trophy. The top performer this year was Chase Jamieson, our board 1, winning 19 out of his 26 matches this year against other schools' top players. One of those losses was against the top rated player in all of Oregon. Next Friday (Feb 27), we are taking 14 chess players to the WA State Chess Team Championship at Issaquah High School. It is a 2 day tournament (Friday and Saturday) 5 rounds, 90 minutes/side tournament using the official United States Chess Federation rules. Our top 5 players will play for the team against the best schools in WA State. We will be the only 1A School there against 3A and 4A schools including Redmond, Interlake, Issaquah, Seattle Prep, and more. The other 9 players will compete in an individual side tournament, also 5 rounds. Our team has developed a lot of unity and skill this year. We now have official team shirts, a more profound understanding of chess and tournament rules, and a lot of pride. The competition and pressure has been tough for our players, but they have demonstrated great resilience and keep rising to the challenge.

Dance Team

It has been a challenging year for the Dance Team as a new coach was hired midway through the season. However, Tiffany Tangen has taken over the team seamlessly and improved the learning environment for the girls. She communicates very well and is a positive role-model for our students. During their last competition at Skyview HS, the team won 2nd Place in Show with a score of 236, 1st Place in Kick with a score of 226, and 1st Place in Pom with a score of 222. These scores come against the 4A and 3A schools, which is not who they will compete against at Districts or State. They have 2 more competitions before Districts on March 14 and then State on March 28.

Knowledge Bowl

The season is coming to an end for Knowledge Bowl. Both of our varsity teams will be traveling to Lower Columbia College in Longview to compete at Districts on Monday, February 23. There will be 10, 1A schools competing at Districts for a spot to the state meet. Top 3 teams will advance to the State Championships on Saturday, March 21. Currently, our Varsity 1 team is ranked 3rd and Varsity 2 team is ranked 6th out of the 10 schools competing at Districts.

Wrestling

The sub-District Wrestling Tournament took place on Feb 7 with the boys competing at Castle Rock HS and the girls competing at Washougal HS. In all, we had 11 wrestlers compete and qualified 9 on to Regionals, which took place Saturday, February 14. Hazen Kapp placed 4th, Jeffery Mayolo placed 3rd, and Derick Tollen was a Regional Champion. These are the 3 wrestlers that will represent La Center High School at Mat Classic XXVIII in the Tacoma Dome on February 20-21.

Boys Basketball

The Boys team has done well this year and finished 2nd in the Trico League. They had league record of 10 Wins – 2 Losses, with both losses coming at the hands of King’s Way Christian High School. Their overall record was 12 – 6. The team had a difficult non-league season, which helped them prepare for the District Tournament. The team will play Castle Rock on Friday, Feb 20 for the District Championship. It has been 14 years since we have competed for a District Title and 17 years since we have won it. Whether we win or lose, the team will compete in Regionals, which if they win this game, they will continue on to the State Tournament on March 5-7 in Yakima.

Girls Basketball

This has been an exciting season for the Girls Basketball Team. They finished the regular season with a record of 17 Wins and 3 Losses (Woodland twice and Kalama once). The last game of the regular season finished with a 64 – 49 win over Kalama, which meant that we were named Co-Champs of the Trico League. This title was shared with Kalama. We are currently in the District Tournament, and the team had a first round win against Eatonville by a score of 58 – 26 on Friday, February 13. The second round game occurred on Tuesday, February 17, which was a semi-final game. We defeated Elma by a score of 65-46. This means we will play Montesano for the District Championship on Saturday, February 21 at 8 PM. Pretty awesome to have both the Boys and Girls programs playing for a District Title. The girls team will compete at Regionals on February 27. If they are successful at this game, the team will travel to Yakima to compete for a State Championship on March 5-7. Although it was already mentioned above, the Girls team showed up for the Unified Basketball games in full force. Nearly all the Varsity and JV girls were in attendance to volunteer in any way they could. After the games, the Girls BB team invited all LC Unified Team members to a pizza party paid for by the Girls BB team.

T

Teachers- A big ‘Thank You’ goes to Joyce Vierck, our new science teacher, who offered 4 study sessions after school in preparing

students for the EOC Biology Makeup test. Mrs. Vierck offered classes to the 22 students needing to pass the EOC Biology test. These classes were 1 ½ hour long after school and proved to be a positive review for those in attendance. Several students were please for the opportunity to review the materials. We will know the results this coming spring.

Currently in Mrs. Vierck’s biology classes, students are working on interactions of organisms and how cycles and energy flows through an ecosystem matter. This was a follow-up with the photosynthesis and cellular respiration processes that ties everything together within the ecosystem. Students did experiments with the photosynthesis that were engaging and eye-opening. They designed experiments to see how different colored light affected the rate of the photosynthesis. Students also took a variety of food samples into the lab and burned the food to determine its caloric value. The calories showed how much energy is available for the cellular respiration. Mrs. Vierck continues to find positive and engaging ways for students to learn through table talks, labs and presentations. It’s a wonderful learning environment.

S **Students** – As part of our building goals, removing barriers to learning, staff and students are working to insure that hunger is no longer

a barrier for our students. One of those barriers is that fact that if someone is hungry, it's hard to sit in class and be a learner. Aften Pankiewicz-Waldram and I have been working with Sheri BerginSmith (who is substituting for Mindy Payne) from the FCRC and in partnership with the Lewis River Mobile Food Bank to open the **Wildcat Care Closet**. We officially opened this past Thursday, February 12th. The Lewis River Mobile Food Bank helped fill our closet with 653 pounds of food and personal care items. This wonderful resource is available to all La Center High School students and their families.

The way it works is if a student misses breakfast, forgets their lunch, needs a snack to get through the day, or does not have enough food at home for dinner, we can provide the necessary items to bridge the gap. In the first 2 days we helped 12 students with access to the Wildcat Care Closet.

The Leo student volunteers and their Advisors are helping stock and inventory the Wildcat Care Closet. We are very thankful that they have made this part of their service project for their organization.

In conjunction with the Wildcat Care Closet we have initiated a “No, Thank You” table in the commons during lunch. Federal guidelines often require students to take items they do not plan on eating. Instead of throwing the item in the garbage students can place it in the basket making it available for other students that don't have enough or for those that want to use it later in the day. This aims to reduce waste, as well as provide more opportunities for students to access snacks throughout the day. Custodial staff has already reported less waste on the commons floor following lunches. We have yet to have any items left in the basket by the end of the day.

Blood Drive - The Honor Society held the Red Cross Blood Drive this Tuesday, Feb. 17th. They ended the day with 25 pints of blood. Thank you to Hailey Macho and student volunteers for helping run the blood drive all day. Also, ‘thank you’ to our school nurse, Danielle Rivers for her assistance in helping check students in to the Red Cross bus and afterwards monitoring the students to get them back to class. Many donuts were enjoyed after giving blood!

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Patton
Principal