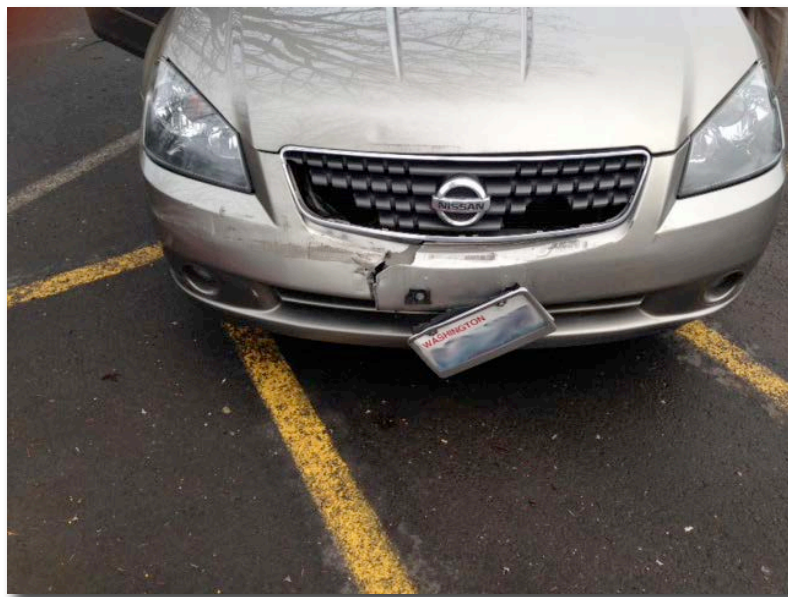


Superintendent's Report

January 22nd, 2015

BOARD UPDATE

- **Car-School Bus Accident** – Earlier in the month we had a car run into the back of one of our small school buses coming down the lower road on the K-8 campus. Thankfully everyone is okay and due to the stoutness of our buses there was only minimal damage. The bus was quickly fixed and recertified by Washington State Patrol and put back into service. The car on the other hand was in need of some more serious repairs.
- **Organizational Learning** – As you know our staff has worked very hard at staying ahead of changes that are coming our way. Whether that is with technology, high school graduation requirements, or budgetary adjustments, we have worked very hard being ahead of the curve yet doing them the La Center Way. This takes vision and advance information.



That in mind, there are many new expectations coming our way from the state and federal governments regarding data collection and making sure we are implementing research based strategies in our early grades as well as for students who struggle. Particularly, we need to work even harder to meet these pending expectations relative to early literacy. I would encourage you to check out the information on OSPI's website regarding some of these changing expectations around our use of LAP (Learning Assistance Program) funding (www.k12.wa.us/SSEO/default.aspx) and our use of Evidence-Based Practices.

To help us in this effort, we believe our organizational knowledge in what are the best Evidence-Based Practices needs to grow in preparation for what's ahead. With the strong leadership and expertise in early literacy learning from Jennifer Blechschmidt, we have decided to send three staff members (Colleen Wing, Megan Bright and Joni Hancock) from our elementary staff to an out of state conference in New Orleans this spring to receive training on these best practices from national leaders in the subject.

Last summer when we sent a team of nine staff to Harvard University to receive training on Community Engagement that resulted in supercharging our elementary team's efforts to create and implement their new building-wide student behavior support plan. I believe this effort to learn more about best practices from national experts will help us continue to stay ahead of the curve on the wave of changes coming from OSPI. More on this as we go. FYI.

- **K-8 Art is Thriving** – The middle school art class again has put up some of their wonderful art projects that they have been working on this semester. Each year their work gets more impressive. Kudos to Mr. Westerberg for his dedication to providing this opportunity for his students.



Additionally, our 5th grade students put a wonderful display of cartoon students trying to catch snowflakes that really made me smile. What a wonderful showing from our students and high-fives to all our teachers helping them share their talents.

- **Special Recognition for the La Center Football Program** – As another example of the quality of the experiences our students receive through the extra-curricular learning opportunities provided, on January 21st the La Center High School Football program received the Team Sportsmanship Award at the National Football Foundation's award banquet.



Additionally, coach John Lambert received Coach of the Year Award and Senior Max Hiller received a \$2,500 Academic Student-Athlete award. Senior Blake Johnston was also recognized for his efforts as an academic student athlete as well. These awards are a testament to their hard work. It also speaks highly of the excellent program that helps our young men become even better people for life.

I think that is all for now. Please give me a call if you have any questions. Talk with you later.

Mark