

La Center High School

January 21, 2015



Curriculum - Clark Conservation District has partnered with the Water Resources Education Center to assist educators

across Clark County with implementing stormwater practices at their school. Through this program, LCHS has been awarded a grant of \$3,000 for implementation of our rain garden. The funds can be used for small equipment, materials, and plants to develop and install the rain garden. Our students have been working on creating this part of the garden behind their classroom portable. The funding will help supply the materials to make this happen. In addition, the CCD will provide technical expertise and assistance to plan and implement the rain garden. The District's Civil Engineering Technician will provide engineering, surveying and construction oversight services for our project.

This project also supports efforts to improve water quality and increase habitat in the Breeze Creek watershed. Many of you have seen the structure and know of the work our students have done at Breeze Creek. This week the salmon eggs arrive and will be placed in the fish tank in Mrs. Morris' classroom. Students will monitor the fish growth rate. This spring students will transport the salmon to Breeze Creek for release. All the work they are doing on the creek, in conjunction with the rain garden is a great opportunity for students to see the connections within their environmental studies class.

ACT Preparation Workshop - I'm excited to share with you that Aften Pankiewicz-Waldram, Career and College Support Specialist from the Student Service Center will be offering students after school workshops to prepare for the ACT test. She will begin the workshops for any student that would like to join her in the library Monday and Thursday from 2:50 – 3:20 from February to April. Students that attend these workshops each week should have a clearer understanding of what is expected on the ACT test. The closest testing location for the ACT test is April 18th in Woodland.



Athletics & Activities

Unified Basketball

Something that has been very exciting during this winter sports season is the development of the new Unified Basketball Team, which is a branch of Special Olympics. This gives students of both special needs (athletes) and regular education students (partners) a chance to have fun, be competitive, and represent their school with pride. I would like to thank both Jon Schroeder and Herm VanWeerdhuizen for collaborating with me to find gym time for the Unified team practices each week. The coaches and players are also volunteering to help run drills at practice, and they will volunteer

when we host Unified games this January 31. I would also like to thank Karla Karukes and Brian Zylstra for their efforts in making this a successful program thus far. We currently have 4 athletes and 6 partners that regularly attend practices. The team had their first competition this past Saturday, January 17. Games are 20 minutes in length, and they were able to play 3 games. Kelso, Columbia River, Skyview, Fort Vancouver and La Center are the schools that have Unified teams so far. All of those schools will be at La Center on January 31 from 9 AM to Noon for more games. I invite you to come see this amazing opportunity for our kids.

Chess Team

The chess team is in full swing with their Portland League Play. The first five games were to determine which pool they would play in for the remainder of the season. Unfortunately, they were one game short of competing in Pool A. The team competes every Wednesday against various teams from around the Portland area. A match consists of the top 5 players from each school. The winner is decided by the school that wins the most games. Their last match on January 14 was a 4-1 victory over the “Reserve Team”. The Reserve Team is made up of 1 player from 5 different schools. This brings the team’s record to 2 wins, 1 loss in their pool. There are 5 weeks left in the season. The Washington State Chess Tournament is February 27-28 in Issaquah.

Dance Team

The dance team has had one competition so far on December 6, and it was successful. The category they competed in was called “Show” which uses a prop in their routine. They took 1st place at Heritage High School and received state qualifying scores. This means that they do qualify for districts on March 14 in this routine, but the girls will need to get the state qualifying score at districts to move on to state.

Knowledge Bowl

The Knowledge Bowl Team #1 is currently ranked 2nd in their region. They have one more regular season meet on February 4, and then the district competition is in early March, which is the qualifying meet to state.

Wrestling

The wrestling team has had some success this season. The first exciting news is the creation of a rivalry competition between LC and Ridgefield. The head coach for Ridgefield (Kim Simmons) is the father of our head coach, Kyle Simmons. Together, they created the idea of an annual competition called, Battle for the SpudCat. This event took place on January 8, and I am proud to say that La Center won this match 42-34. Both wrestling programs went in together to purchase a trophy that is half Spudder and half Wildcat. Since the trophy is not completed yet, I will attach a picture of it in next month’s board report. Another piece of exciting news is that we have another Clark County Champion. This is a huge deal as we are the only 1A School in Clark County that competes at this annual event, which has taken place for nearly 40 years. Derick Tollen is a first year La Center student and comes to us from the Salem area. He was the 126 lb weight class this last Saturday. The Wildcats host Castle Rock and King’s Way this Thursday, January 22.

Boys Basketball

The boys basketball team is currently in 2nd place in the Trico League. They have one league loss coming from King’s Way. Their league record is 6 wins and 1 loss; overall record is 8 wins and 4 losses. We scheduled some difficult non-league games with Fort Vancouver, Woodland, and Morton/White Pass (2014 2B State Champions). Unfortunately, we were unable to play a scheduled game with an Australian team on December 11 due to severe winds causing the power to go out. But, it was a good experience for the boys to hang out together, exchange gifts, and talk about the differences/similarities between the schools in Australia and our school.

Girls Basketball

The girls team is doing well and is currently in 2nd place in the Trico League. Their only league loss comes from Kalama. Our league record is 5 wins and 1 loss; overall record is 13 wins and 2 losses. The other loss was given to us by Woodland on December 4 where we lost by only 3 points. The team has had some big wins against Battle Ground, Evergreen High School, and Jefferson High School (Oregon school). These schools are much larger than us which makes the victory a little sweeter. Another nice victory came on December 13 when we beat Ridgefield 67 to 18. The Lady Wildcats should go far in post season play this year. On a very positive note, the team organized a clothes drive for the homeless during the month of December that was given out over the holidays. This is a great way that our kids are giving back.

Football

I realize football season is over, but I wanted the board aware of a couple of honors that our program is being recognized for on Wednesday, January 21. The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Banquet is an event to honor outstanding players that perform well on the field and in the classroom. They must also be positive role models within their school. Max Hiller and Blake Johnston will be representing La Center High School at this event. Each school in Southwest Washington selects a running back and a lineman. Out of the approximate 20 schools, the board members of the National Football Foundation selects a running back and a lineman for a scholarship. The event also awards special honors. The Evergreen Football Officials Association is recognizing the La Center Wildcats with the Team Sportsmanship of the Year Award out of all 20 schools. Another award that will be given out tonight is the Gary Boggs Award, which honors a coach who consistently demonstrates the ability to motivate high school players to maximize their football talent and to be good teammates and positive student leaders. John Lambert will be receiving this award tonight. I think this is very fitting as we have the best football program in all of Southwest Washington. And in order to have a great program, you must have great leadership. So, I would like to thank John Lambert for his leadership with our student-athletes.

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Teachers- As part of the goals for the high school, our staff continues to collaborate on interventions that provide support for students

who are failing and/or struggling. I would like to mention in this report two committees, the Student Intervention Team (SIT) and the Building Assistance Team (BAT) that are only focused on helping students. SIT meets during the RSLSA time provided on the Wednesday mornings two times a month. Our counselor, Timm DiStefano provides a list of students who are failing in 2 or more classes. All teachers are invited to the think tank to discuss interventions that could support each child. I enjoy these meetings so very much as I have the opportunity to be part of the discussion the teachers have about each student. We are able to discuss what the concerns are that we believe is stopping the student from being a learner. Many times that student will have 3 – 6 of their teachers in the meeting. Interventions are established and the team of teachers put into place a plan that will be attempted to help that student in each one of their classes. For students that are discussed and might only have a few teachers present, they make sure to share with their colleagues those interventions. Not all teachers are able to make the SIT meeting, which is fine, as they are busy in other meetings or needing that time in their classrooms.

The BAT team consists of the special education teachers, school psychologist, counselors and me. We discuss only those students in the special education program; their needs, upcoming evaluations, IEP meetings and any concerns or changes to their schedule. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to really figure out ways in which to support students with many challenges and find ways to help them be successful. I have learned so much about accommodations and interventions from this team experience, that it has been very useful when sharing ideas with SIT. Both of these teams are designed for the teachers to collaborate and really look at the specific concerns we can address for each individual student in order to help them be a successful learner.

Welcome Kevin Kalian – WSU Student Teacher - If you happen to swing by the gym please stop in and meet our new student teacher, Kevin Kalian. Kevin is majoring in Physical Education at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. Kevin graduated from Hockinson High School and went directly to WSU. Kevin enjoys all the sports, but especially likes to participate in basketball and soccer. He will complete his degree this year. Kevin is teaming with Mr. Forbes Lapp. We are very pleased to offer a positive learning opportunity for him.

S **Students** – I would like to share with you the planning stages of the opening of a “Care Closet” as part of the additional work we are doing through the Student Services Center and through the newly (up and coming) FCRC at the high school. As our staff continues to look at ways to break down barriers in order to help students learn, we are recognizing the need for a food pantry of sorts. Candice Howell from the Lewis River Mobile Food Bank has joined Aften Pankiewicz-Waldram, Jim Neiman and I to organize the book storage room and make room for the food pantry. Mr. Neiman is the advisor for the high school Leo’s group and these students will oversee putting the shelves in place (which Mr. Neiman is donating) and being responsible for the weekly inventory. This will be an important service project for the Leos. These students will have the privilege of coming up with a name for this area. The Leos will also be responsible to decorate 2 barrels that will be used at various times of the year for donations. Aften will be the point person to help students have access to the food pantry, getting snacks throughout the day as needed or food for dinner and weekends. The pantry will be available from 7:30 – 4:00 each day the school is open. Our plan is to open the food pantry on February 12th.

Saying Goodbye to Cameron - It is with a very heavy heart I need to share with you the loss of one of seniors, Cameron Kewitz. Cameron was in a motorcycle accident during the Winter Break when he ran off the road and had such traumatic injuries that he passed on at the scene of the accident. Cameron was a very compassionate, caring and funny guy who was really coming into his own. He was actively involved in the Fire Cadet Program through the Skills Center.

I would like to thank my team of administrators, counselors and staff that quickly put together a support group the following Friday. Pete Rosenkranz and Matt Cooke opened the building and provided an opportunity for students and staff to join together. Also, the SMART team of counselors came to school our first day back. They used the conference room and the Student Service Center as places for students to gather as needed to grieve, share their great stories of Cameron and support each other. Mrs. Link’s students put together a bulletin board that is in the front hallway in remembrance of Cameron. He will be missed and always have a spot in our hearts.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Patton
Principal