La Center High School
January 16, 2013

Curriculum - As the end of the semester is quickly upon us, students are busy completing projects, reviewing for finals and getting in those last assignments. Many successes are taking place including the number of students on the F's list for 1st semester. Currently we are seeing fewer students getting F's this semester than in years past. Mrs. Krem and the Administrative teams at both the MS and HS worked closely last year with the 8th graders to help improve the transition into high school. The work we did last year seems to be paying off and we continue to look at the data to determine areas of support needed for our students.

On January 16th we began the first of many state mandated tests for students as part of their graduation requirements. The Math EOC make-up test was the first test that 58 sophomores through to seniors took. Today we only have 2 students that are taking the Biology EOC make-up test. Students are making gains on completing these tests. The remaining tests are given in March and June to the sophomore class.

An update on the Accreditation Progress: On Tuesday January 22nd, Building Council is meeting with Barbara Lomas, from ESD 112, to guide us through the accreditation process. Building Council continues to look at data, as well as writing a survey to parents and students that will be distributed in February.

Athletics & Activities

Girls Basketball: Is halfway through the first half of their season and sitting comfortably in 3rd place a single game outside of 2nd. Senior Night is on January 29th. If the girls finish 3rd or 4th, we will host a district play-in game on February 5th.

Boys Basketball: Is currently seated 5th in league, but the remainder of the schedule shows promise. The boys are 2 games out of 3rd place and the opportunity to host a district play-in game on February 4th. If they finish 3rd or 4th, we will host the game on 2/4/13. If we finish 5th or 6th, we will have to travel to a school in the Evergreen district on that same day. Senior Night will be January 29th.

Wrestling: Both the boys and girls teams are having a successful season. Unfortunately the numbers of wrestlers that have turned are not enough to win team competitions, but the individual wrestlers have been doing very well. Senior Night is February 25th and the League Tournament will be held at Castle Rock High School on February 2nd.

Equestrian: is enjoying a larger turnout this year with 10 riders. Their first meet will be held at the Clark County Fair Grounds on February 22nd-24th.

Dance: is working very hard this year. They have performed a new dance at every varsity home competition this year. Their first team competition this year will be held at Union High School on January 26th.

Knowledge Bowl: Has been having another outstanding year thus far. The varsity team has finished the best in their classification in the first two meets. Their next competition is on February 6th at Kalama High School.

ASB: Is preparing for Tolo spirit week which is January 28th-February 2nd culminating in a dance that Saturday night.

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Teachers- Kathy Bounds, Social Studies teacher, is planning on taking her AP Government students, second semester, through a new project called E-Congress. Students across America participate in an interactive online simulation of the United States Congress run by the Youth Leadership Initiative, a national civics education program based at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. The E-Congress simulation allows students to research and write their own bills, which are then exchanged online and debated by their fellow E-Legislators in classroom committees. Bills that pass the committee phase reach the virtual House Floor, where students from all areas of the country cast their final votes and find out which "laws" will be enacted this session. The simulation runs from January through April, which gives students a long-term, hand-on experience with the legislative process.

From researching and writing to debating and voting, E-Congress is designed to demonstrate first-hand how legislation is crafted at the federal level. More than 8300 students across America were involved last year, writing and reviewing bills. What a fantastic opportunity for our students to participate in this learning. It will require students to use technology for research, communication with the E-Congress and debates with other classes across America. I am proud of the work and opportunities Mrs. Bounds brings to our students.

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Students –

Alice! A Play - Don Landes-McCullough once again did a fantastic job writing and directing his play called "Alice!" This is Don's version of Alice in Wonderland. "Alice" was charming, comical and witty, as students presented a different twist of the characters within the story. I thoroughly enjoyed the way Don designed the set. He used several different colors of fabric which he sewed into one gigantic piece of cloth that covered the stage. Each color represented a different scene. Also, the costumers were delightful and creative.

All students from 6th period Drama class were in the show. From stage managers and crew to the actors, one could tell the amount of work and ownership each student contributed to the play. I'm always amazed to see some of our 'quiet' students really step out with strong voices, dramatic acting and creative ways of developing their character. This show was very creative and fun for all ages!

Rain Garden - The students from Environmental Studies and their teacher Rebecca Morris have been asked by the Watershed Stewardship Program of Vancouver to develop a rain garden as part of their fabulous work and expansions of the garden space by their classroom. This idea of a rain garden has been in the works and now has a purpose. The Watershed Stewardship Program would like to have a workshop for professional gardeners and landscapers this coming March at LCHS. The workshop would include general principles of the importance of the watershed health, how to size a rain garden and of course the hands-on training maintenance ideas that our students would show and work with professional gardeners. They plan on taking pictures of the rain garden after our students put it in to share with other watershed stewards and the community-at-large in the Vancouver metro area.

Out students are currently working on their plan, consulting with Rob Williamson and myself, and then will purchase plants at the Clark Conservation District's annual plant sale next month. This experience for our students has validated the excellent work accomplished over the past few years by outside agencies. Many students are making personal connections in the professional area that includes gardening, environmental groups, etc. Internships are also being created from the work experiences.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Patton
Principal