HAWK REPORT: JANUARY 2013

As we transition from the old year to the new it gives us a time to reflect on what is most important in life. The first week back at school was also a powerful reminder of that as we make the one year anniversary of Cody Sherrell's passing. It is still hard for many of us to comprehend what happened on January 4th 2012. There is not a day that goes by that I do not think about Cody. Our school paid tribute to Cody the week of January 7th with the beginning of the basketball season.. We will also be honoring Cody at our first basketball game by having a school spirit day and fundraiser. All gate proceeds will go towards the Quinn Driscoll foundation. This foundation provides students with free heart screenings for 12-14 year olds and well as buying AEDs for schools.

Katie Kipp led a book study this month on 'The Explosive Child'. This book focuses on helping students find the skills to make successful choices in their lives. Every child wakes up in the morning and want to make the right choices and be successful. Unfortunately some students have more hurdles in their goal to do this. The objective of the book is to understand these children better and find ways to become a better support system for them so that they can adapt and become more resilient in their lives. The book study was well attended by the elementary and middle school staff.

Staff, students and community members met again on January 17th to discuss met to discuss our strategies to address concerns in our community. The meeting was led by Sean Chavez who is a Prevention Specialist Coordinator with ESD 112. He showed the group a success plan to make our goals to support our community more sustainable. We will be meeting again soon to start developing a well researched and community supported plan.

The middle school hosted its second annual fall art show from January 14th to 18th. On the opening night 150-200 people attended with a mix of family, friends, and students. Artwork from all 60 students in the two sections of art classes were on display throughout the week. Works include block prints, plaster masks, collage, portraiture, ceramics, and mixed media sculpture. The exhibition also included two student run art technique demonstrations. Parents and community members provided refreshments for the opening. Supporters for the upcoming levy election were also present to answer questions and talk to parents. The spring semester exhibition is scheduled for late May.

Preparations for the event have been going on for several weeks, with the week before the show shifting into high gear. Students use an ongoing reflection process to select their work over the course of the semester. Over two days at the start of the exhibit, 6 adult volunteers and 8 students worked after school to prepare and post artwork for display. This year's show got an additional boost from Tim and Elizabeth Spannring, who recently donated $500 to the art program. Mr. Westerberg was able to buy 55 display frames to use for the show. Additional frames and display hardware now on order will be used for the spring show as well.

Art Field Trip

Coming close on the heels of the art show is the class field trip to Tacoma on January 24th.. Students from both the middle school and high school art programs will travel to Tacoma to visit the Museum of Glass and the University of Washington Tacoma campus. The art museum visit includes docent led tours of the galleries, a studio session with the museum's artist in residence, and some time in the hot shop watching interactive art glass production. The campus tour is led by UWT students working in the

admissions office. It is tailored to middle school students, showing them what an urban college campus looks like and raising awareness of programs of study available at a regional university. Travel to and from Tacoma is via the Amtrak Cascades, with offers deeply discounted tickets for students groups under it's Schools on Trains program, and free public transit in Tacoma's city center. This year's group looks to number 56 middle/high school students and 16 chaperones.

Also on January 24th, the La Center Middle School Jazz Band will be travelling to Clark College for the 51st Annual Jazz Festival. This is a full blown jazz band competition where students will be performing alongside high school and college bands As always, I expect the students will play and conduct themselves in a manner well beyond their years.

This year we had 60 boys turn out for basketball which meant that we ended up with four teams. Andrew Johnson and Josh Williamson have joined Coach Rice and Hall as the coaches this year. Thanks to Aaron McCoy for scheduling additional games for our second C Team. On another note, I believe I did not mention that the 7th grade girls team went undefeated this year. Congratulations to Coach Wise and the girls..

As January concludes, so does the first semester and it has been a good one. This has been the best behaved and hardest working combination of all three grade levels since I started here eight years ago. We are really enjoying these students and look forward to another great semester with them.

GO HAWKS

David Cooke
Principal
La Center Middle School