La Center High School
January 22, 2014

Curriculum - The College Prep Class, taught by Timm DiStefano, our high school counselor, has turned out to be a huge success as a pilot this semester. We had 31 seniors attend class every morning starting at 7:00 A.M. (zero period). Throughout the semester all students researched areas of jobs/careers they were interested in and found colleges that offered degrees in those fields. As a total, the class has applied for over 700 scholarships. Everyone in class, with the help of their parents, has completed the FASFA application. In reviewing and reflecting back on the work and information the students have gained from this class, we believe it will be important to continue to run next year. I have also heard from other schools how much further we are in supporting our students to prepare for their future. Thank you to Mr. D. and the vision he has created in designing a class like this.

Athletics & Activities -

The Extra-Curricular Environments have had many opportunities for learning as well as had many successes over the last 2 months. Coaches and advisors continue to strive to create self-reliant and life-long learners.

The HS Knowledge Bowl team has had 3 meets with La Center hosting one on January 8. The meet we hosted went really well. Students from the other schools were impressed with our building and were in awe of the beauty. Rhea Heaton is doing a great job in her first year as advisor. We have two varsity teams with their current standings in Districts being 2nd and 3rd place. (Kelso's team is in first.) Our current regional standings are 3rd and 4th place.

Wrestling has had a rebuilding year so far. The team is young with only one senior. There have been some bright spots including The Wildcat Invitational. We had the most teams participate along with some of the biggest schools: Castle Rock, Forks, Hockinson, Hoquiam, Ridgefield, Tenino, Toledo, WF West (Chehalis), and Washougal. WF West ended up winning the tournament with a 0.5 point lead over Forks. It was a very competitive tournament. La Center had a Clark County Champion this year with Katlyn Bigly being the first female competitor for LC to get that honor.

Girls Basketball suffered a loss with one key senior not able to participate due to a knee injury. Sam Wise was expected to be an inside presence for the Wildcats and help the team compete for

tops in the Trico League. Never the less, the team has responded well and risen to the challenge. They are currently in 3rd place with a 12 – 3 record. There was a great non-league win over Ridgfield on January 4 with a score of 58 – 36. The only losses for the Lady Cats come at the hands of Kalama and Woodland.

Boys Basketball is having a great year, despite no real inside threat. They play a fast pace game with many shots coming from the 3-point line. The team was ranked as high as 5th place in the state a couple of weeks ago. The guys are also in 3rd place with a record of 12 – 3 in the Trico League. They had key wins at home against Woodland and Kalama (2nd and 1st place in league respectively), but loss a tough one on January 22 in Kalama. They will have to play in Woodland on January 24 for a critical game to determine seeding for the District Tournament.

T

Teachers – TPEP is alive and well at LCHS! At our last staff meeting we had the teachers break into small groups to discuss Criterion 6 of the Danielson model. It says, "Using multiple student data elements to modify instruction and improve student learning." We had four areas we asked teachers to address, discuss and then share out. 1.) What are some high quality sources of data you can use in your classroom? 2.) In what ways do we share feedback to students about their growth? 3.) What are some of the strategies used in your classroom to elicit information about student understanding? 4.) Discuss how you document individual student growth.

The discussions were cross-curricular, as teachers shared ideas. What was exciting to see was the teachers lens began to shift on how they were identifying ways of recording students thinking. The way teachers began to document student growth of how students analyze, evaluate and create (as in higher cognitive demands) included grades from the gradebook, state tests, and portfolios, but now included videos on the iPad of students working within cooperative learning groups and interactive journals. Ideas stemmed from the work we've done on Making Thinking Visible and our Learning Model. It's exciting to see teachers identify and acknowledge students growth through traditional and non-traditional ways.

S

Students - The **Chess Team** held an evening event entitled Chess Extravaganza! The fundraiser had students participate on a jumbo chess board, where they were the chess pieces. Mr. DiStefano designed a game in which the announcer had students move into their respective positions. Hats, swords and shields were made of cardboards. Throughout the evening students interacted in the giant chess game, challenged others on board games, enjoyed

refreshments and won door prizes. About 100 students attended this first time event. Money raised will go towards their trip this spring to a chess tournament.

All-State Choir - Congratulations to Jessica Olson on making the All-State Choir. She was selected out of hundreds of students that applied throughout the state. Jessica will represent LCHS this coming March in Yakima at the All State Music Convention.

North County Honor Band – Congratulations to five LCHS students who made the North County Honor Band. They are: Markayla Richmind Clarinet 1, Dallas Geil Clarinet 2, Mackenzie Haverlack Bass Clarinet, Zachary McRobert Tuba, La Center Bret Johnston Percussion

The Secret Garden – The drama department did a fantastic job presenting the Secret Garden. This was Ms. Sara Storer's first production and it went very well. Her drama class painted and designed all the scenes, created the costumes and did the make-up for each character. A big 'thank you' to Josh Soske for helping build the lights for the show and teaching two students how to design and set the lights for a show. Also, 'thanks' to Jeremy Dell and his student for running the sound for the show. The new lights and sound system worked great! The show was well received and a huge success for our students and Ms. Storer.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Patton
Principal