La Center Middle School Hawks Report

October 2013

Mike Holland was able to take his first period math class up onto the challenge course at the high school for a full day of trust and confidence building activities, both individually and collectively. Their greatest challenge of the day was the 'Leap of Faith' pole, and all students were able to go up the pole as far as they could, out of their comfort zone, and some were even able to climb to the top and leap out to the trapeze bar high in the air. Overall it was a huge success for each of these students that will carry over into many aspects of their lives, beyond math class.

Pete Rosenkranz gave a power point presentation to each of our grade levels on anti-harassment and cyber bullying awareness. Full of powerful messages about "Is it possible for all of us to get along and respect each other for this school year", his presentation focused on the positive behavior that we all want and can achieve to create our environment where everyone belongs and can safely "grow brain cells" every day. As he stated, nothing is impossible for a Hawk!

Katie Kipp has her PE classes going full speed ahead with an ultimate Frisbee unit. Taking advantage of the good weather days when possible, these students are loving this unit. It is impressive to see how fast their skills have improved in such a short period of time. The pre test scores for knowledge of rules were not strong, but the follow up scores were significantly higher, showing that a lot of learning is taking place for our students in PE.

We successfully held our first pep assembly at the end of "sports day" at the end of September. All fall athletes were introduced, skits were performed and scooter races took place among loud cheering. The students loved the musical chairs by our teachers, which determined our "super teams" for advisory. Super teams consist of a class of 6th, 7th & 8th grade students who team together for spirit assemblies and competitions. These super teams will be in place for the rest of the school year.

Our 6th grade class held their elections for executive council and the elected students are Hunter Ecklund, Sean Fox and Ashlynn Macho. They join the other council members from 7th grade Lauren Puyleart and Laynie Erickson, and from 8th grade Kaitlyn Stabell, Jack Ossenkop and Chelsea Williams. These students are co-advised by Katie Kipp and Janice Broten.

Our fall sports teams are winding down their seasons. Our three volleyball teams have finished their season and have shown tremendous growth and improvement from beginning to end. Our varsity football team has had a very strong season, with one game left they have won all but one game and our JV team continues to gain more skills throughout the season. Our cross country team has been very successful as well, with two meets left the girls are undefeated and the boys have lost one meet by one point. Both boys and girls teams have had a first place finisher in every event.

A big thank you to our staff members Joyce Mosby, Andrea Austad and Mike Holland, who each taught a segment of our inservice day on October 11th. Our guest speaker Mark Church, specializes in making thinking visible in the classroom and these three teachers participated in a series of workshops with Mark last spring. The combination of Mark's presentation and the follow up sessions taught by our district teachers made for a very positive, practical and thought provoking inservice. It was time well spent.

Lauri Landerholm