La Center High School
October 16, 2013

Curriculum - Yeah! The coffee cart is coming back to LCHS. Students in Mrs. Karukas Transitional classroom have decided they want to further their business skills by opening the coffee cart, starting October 31st. This is a large commitment for the students to dedicate their morning time learning how to prepare the station, serve customers, clean-up, including getting their food handlers license, learn about shopping, and budgets. In order to help students prepare for jobs post high school, this is a great example of that.

College Prep Class - Students enrolled in the College Prep class which meets zero period, continue to learn about scholarship opportunities. The class as a whole has applied for over 275 scholarships. Several students are beginning to hear back from the various organizations which are granting them scholarships. Students have also been doing college research and applying for a variety of colleges. This process can be rather difficult, but through this course, students are prepared with having their resume, essays, and FAFSA prepared to help make the application process less stressful.

Next point of study is to identify sleep hygiene. As we all know, especially in teens, sleep is very important. In order to give the best one can be in study skills, research, and thinking, a clear and rested mind is important. Students will learn what habits need to be developed during the day and at night in order to get the best sleep possible. Mr. DiStefano will be asking students to keep a log of how they are changing their daily routines in order to improve their sleep.

Math Adoption – The high school math teachers are beginning the year long process of research for a new math program. Teachers have been part of meetings with Mr. Holmes, parents and students to look at specific positives to the current math curriculum as well as the concerns addressed. Our staff will look a variety of math curriculums that meet the Common Core Standards and our district Expectations.

Athletics & Activities - As a focus on learning in the extra-curricular environments, all fall coaches were asked to list two to three items that they learned halfway through the fall sports season. This could be changes they administered to their program; new drills or workouts; communication improvement with athletes, parents, and the school; and any other situation where they could provide what they learned and evidence to support through written response. Below are a few examples.

Example 1: " I asked the girls to tell me what they notice a lot more. I've even done this in time out situations as well as practice situations. It has come pretty easily to me since this is also the way I teach. I often ask them what they see, how we can change what they notice and where they need my help. They are taking ownership of what they're learning and putting together on the floor."

Example 2: "I think about things I want to change and adapt. This year I decided to take a more laid-back approach. [Mainly because that is the type of team I have this year.]
There has been a big push in our program the past couple of years to make all players feel included (c, jv, v) in some way. This year we are doing something called theme cards. So each week there is a "theme" such as one word to describe you, favorite animal, place you would like to travel..... The whole program gets together once a week and we show and tell so to speak. Then, we have a board in the girls locker room that we hang them on. We have done 4 of these so far, and it is a quick and easy way to get to know a little bit about each other."

The 10th of October was designated as breast cancer awareness day for LCHS students by the ASB and the Leadership Class. As a result, the volleyball team and the fans were also in pink that evening. An announcement was made at the game to honor those that lost the battle as well as the survivors of this horrible disease.

Sports Results:
Football has 6 wins and 0 losses. If the season ends as is predicted, La Center will host the Trico League title game with Woodland on Nov 1. It will be very well attended and steps are being taken to ensure the evening goes well with crowd control along with the increase in traffic that night.

Volleyball has 8 wins and 2 losses. The team is in first place for the Trico League – South Division. This is the only sport that the Trico League is sub-divided between the north and south due to number of game restrictions in a season.

Boys Golf ended their season at the District Tournament on Tuesday, October 15. Dustin Ell qualified to the state meet in May. The team finished 2nd in the District during match play throughout the regular season with a record of 5 wins and 2 losses.

Soccer is currently tied for 6th place in the league with 9 schools participating and a record of 4 wins and 7 losses.

Cross Country has again been a powerful force in the Trico League. Both the boys and girls teams have earned first place at all the league meets. They competed well in Yakima on October 5 against some of the best schools in the state of all classifications.

Teachers – Welcome Mrs. Minna Thayer, to the LCHS staff. Mrs. Thayer teaches Math A, Math B, and the COE/Applied Math. Minna comes to us from the Evergreen School District where she worked at Legacy High School for several years and Heritage High School this past year. Mrs. Thayer is also beginning her work on her National Boards Certificate. We are very pleased to have her join our staff.

Also new to the staff is Mr. Brian Clegg. Mr. Clegg comes to us from the Gardner School where he taught 7/8 students core subjects the past 7 years. Prior to his time at the Gardner School, he taught in the Vancouver School District at VSAA and Columbia River High School. Brian received his Masters from WSU – Vancouver. His commented on how much he "loves it here!" He is happy to see the quality of work by our students and their eagerness to discuss new ideas. Brian enjoys the new challenges of teaching 10th English, Novel/Short Stories and Health. Mr. Clegg is a great new addition to our staff.

Students – Four students will be attending the 2013 STEM Institute, October 17th and 18th. Mount St. Helens Edition is a two day program designed to give students the opportunity to participate in data collection and analysis on Mount St. Helens. This program is also aimed at helping students learn about different careers and career pathways; students will learn about careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, and will get to participate in speed networking with local industry professionals.

The first day students will meet at the Three Rivers Mall in Kelso at 6:45 AM, meeting students from other schools from SW WA. Students will be bused to Mount St. Helens where they will collect samples and work on existing biology and geology projects on the Hummocks Trail and Coldwater Lake. Students will also get a chance to hear presentations from scientist working on Mount St. Helens and learn about career pathways in STEM fields.

The second day students will arrive at the Student Center on the Lower Columbia College at 7:45. The students will consist of data analysis from the work they had done the previous day and participate in an interactive GPS module followed by lunch with industry professionals.

This is a great experience for our students to support their interests and Pathway. Students attending are Cameren Kuhnhuaser, Brooke Stoddard, Ariel Deschand, and Calvin Tetzlaff.

Homecoming is this week and the students are having a blast. The theme is "Under the Big Top" or basically a circus. The dress-up days included Lazy Day (pajamas), Color War Day (each

class was given a color to wear), Whacky Day (dress crazy), Animal Day, and Blue/White Day. Friday we will also have a Pep Assembly to recognize the Fall Sport and cheer the football team to a hopeful victory that evening. Saturday is the Homecoming Dance. One of the biggest hits of the week is finding the spirit jug. And at the time this report was written, the freshmen were proving to be a formidable force.

If you are ever interested to volunteer for these activities, please feel free to contact the Advisor of the program. Remember, all volunteer packets need to be completed in a timely manner.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Patton
Principal