La Center High School
October 17, 2012

C Curriculum-

Youth Suicide Prevention Program - Monday's RSLSA meeting, the high school staff heard a wonderful presentation from Mary Jadwisiak, a field coordinator from the Youth Suicide Prevention Program in Battle Ground. Mary used a power point presentation to share examples of warning signs staff should be aware of with students contemplating suicide. It is critical to immediately inform a school counselor of any concerns the educator feels are those red flags, so the counselor can begin to work with the student. The counselors will determine whether the student is suicidal, contact parents and provide information about local agencies to help the student and families. The counselors will also determine if we need to implement a safety plan for the student at the school. A district prodigal is available for use to help those students with mental health issues.

Mary Jadwisiak also presented to the Leadership class the Youth Suicide Prevention Program which teaches students what to do and where to go for help when a friend is at risk of suicide. The program teaches students to recognize when a friend is in trouble, know what you can do as a friend and know where to find help. The goal is to have our Leadership students and counselors share this program with each class to help with the suicide awareness issues in our society.

Some important facts are: 1) Youth suicide is a problem in Washington State. 2) Bringing up suicide will not put the idea in their head and 3) by talking about suicide you may help save a life. The awareness of teaching our staff and students the signs could save a life. Show you care, ask the question and get help!

The goal is to implement this program in grades 6-12.

Accreditation Renewal Process – This year the high school is to start the Accreditation Renewal Process. I will be working with Barbara Lomas, from ESD 112 to guide us through the process. This is an important project that will take all year to complete in order to maintain the accreditation status with the state of Washington so our students are prepared for college. I will share our findings with the board as we continue our journey through this process.

City Council – This past week I had the privilege of presenting to the La Center City Council information about the Phoenix program. Two students, Olivia Loreth and Tony Sandoval, shared their experiences of the Phoenix retreat, follow up meetings and the graduation. The students presented their views on how the program has helped impact individuals and how the results have helped to positively change our school climate and culture. DeAnna Pickett, a counselor

and representative from Synergo, also shared her thoughts about the need of support from our City Council. I followed up with the request of asking the City Council members to please consider helping us with a donation to the LCHS Phoenix Program and possibly as an ongoing financial support for the program. John Parsons, La Center School Board member, also shared his thoughts to the City Council, supporting this program and the positive impact it has on our students. We are eagerly awaiting the City Council's decision!

A **Athletics & Activities-**

Football: The team is still undefeated and beginning their playoff run. This week, October 19th, is our Senior Night. The final game of the regular season will be against Woodland on October 26th and appears that it will be for the TRICO League title.

Volleyball: This year's record is currently 7 and 4. The team is holding firm on second place as they enter the final week of their regular season. The senior night match is Tuesday, October 23rd. The volleyball team has qualified for the TRICO League tournament on October 27th in Woodland.

Soccer: The varsity program remains undefeated and has its sights on finishing in first place. Senior Night for this program is also October 23rd at the football stadium. If the team finishes in first place, Districts Championships will be November 1st in Kalama. If they finish second, they will host a district play-in game on October 30th in Kalama.

Golf: Golf finished 3rd place in TRICO League and 3rd place in the District 4 Championships. Below are the golfers that qualified for the state tournament with the following district places: Derick Rivers 7th, Zach Brown 10th, Keaton Wilbanks 12th, Andrew Doiron 15th, Dustin Ell as an alternate. The state tournament is held in the spring.

Cross Country: Both boys and girls teams have captured another TRICO League title lead by 1st place finishes from Katie Whitten and Jason Dorsey.

Cheer: Cheer has done a fabulous job under the direction of their new coach, Sung Ja Albright. The homecoming dance and little kids cheer camp were a huge success. This week, October 15th-19th, they are supporting the breast cancer awareness month by students wear pink to the game on Friday.

T **Teachers-** We are pleased to introduce Mindy Payne, a new member to the Student Services Center who is replacing Amy Fernandes' position. In the short time that Mindy

has been in our school she has organized the SSC, created a calendar of scheduled college visits and military visits for our students, helped with the PSAT and has arranged for a bus load of students to attend a College Fair in Portland. Mindy brings a positive energy to the building. Students enjoy working with her on scholarship materials, college information and career planning. The SSC as a whole is an exciting place for students to go to find out information about their Pathway!

Social Studies Department - Three of our social studies teachers, Kathy Bounds, Kate Stevens and Rebecca Morris, including Kathy's student teacher, Ben Simpson, began their process of planning the Civics curriculum that will be implemented into this year's ninth graders Global Study. In order to meet the new state graduation requirements of a .5 Civics class for the class of 2016, the teachers are reviewing the new edition of "We the People" which is the textbook of choice. I am providing time for the teachers to prepare for this new class that will begin second semester.

English Department - One of the many advantages coming from the RSLSA are the benefits teachers have to collaborate. The English department is compiling a list of common language terms for use in reading and writing instruction throughout all classrooms within the high school. This list is being shared with the staff to improve literacy across the curriculum.

S **Students-**

Phoenix Program -Since my last board report we have sent another 26 students and 4 teachers to Phoenix #4! Students and staff had the opportunity to experience the retreat the last weekend in September. They are following up with meetings after school that connects what students have learned about themselves to their involvement of leadership within the school. The Phoenix graduation will take place October 25th at 6:00 in the high school commons. I would like to invite you to this graduation to see how our students have grown. It's a wonderful experience!

School Spirit - If you have had an opportunity to stop by the high school during Spirit Week, be part of a school assembly or attend a sporting event, you will see lots of BLUE! One of the ways our students have enjoyed supporting the school spirit this year is with the blue and white Wildcat attire. I hope each of you will have an opportunity to purchase Wildcat wear from either the high school, the Boosters and/or the Senior Parents. This town is showing their support for the excellent work our students are doing academically, athletically and throughout the activities. Thank you for your support in your leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Patton
Principal