La Center High School
November 17, 2010

Curriculum- Students in Profe's (aka Mrs. Heaton's) class were treated to a fun, interesting and energetic day last Monday. Mr. Blaine Ray, who developed a methodology for teaching foreign languages that mimics how language is acquired, spent the morning as a guest teacher. TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling) encourages students to learn to use the language rather than to learn about the language. Students in the classes were actors, reacted with groans of sadness or expressions of interest and answered a ton of questions. They were so interested in the stories that they didn't realize that they were also learning Spanish!

Athletics & Activities- We have wrapped up an outstanding Fall Season. Our Boys Cross Country team placed 5th at the State meet in Pasco and the Girls placed 7th. The Football team finished third in league but lost a close game to Hoquiam in the "winner to state" game. Girls Soccer made it to the District Playoffs by placing second in league, unfortunately their opponent in their "winner to state" game was one goal better…that night! We are hoping to get a Derek Rivers and Matt Hendrickson into the State Golf Tournament however we won't know how many golfers qualify until the allocations are handed out this spring. Volleyball just missed qualifying for post season placing 5th in league play.

The Winter season is starting with a bang. Our wrestling team has 22 participants, girls basketball has 29, and 43 boys turned out for basketball. Our basketball season will begin on November 30th with the girls playing at Fort Vancouver HS and the boys hosting Rochester here. Both varsity teams will begin at 7pm.

Band and Choir had their first concert at 7pm on November 9th. Mr. Cooper shared with the audience and had the choir demonstrate various vocalize. The choir performed several selections from many time periods.

Jazz Band rocked the house with swing, blues and traditional jazz tunes. "Birdland" was an audience favorite! The Concert Band was sensational with solid tunes that featured several students. The three groups were very entertaining and we had over 300 guests in attendance. Standing room only!

Teachers- I would like to recognize Karla Karukes for all the work she is doing that impacts students. Karla is our Life Skills Special Education Teacher, who works with special need students with significant limitations. Life Skills is a class that focuses on preparing students for independent living. This includes communication skills, social interactions, work experience and daily living skills. She is currently working towards a National Boards Certification. This allows her to focus on specific skills that are used within the classroom that include years of experience, trainings, mentoring and facilitating within the Special Education spectrum. Karla's accomplishments are many. She currently is a Person Centered Plan trainer for teachers across Clark County. This is a path that is created collaboratively with the student, family and staff as a plan for their future. The National Boards Certification will also allow Karla to expand her teaching skills to the national level. Her instructional wisdom and insight in helping students with all types of learning disabilities impacts the entire school and district.

Students- Fall events in the Career and Counseling Center have been great this year!

There were 47 students that went to the Portland National College Fair. The students each attended a workshop and had the chance to meet with over 100 college admissions representatives from around the US. Feedback from the students was great! Amy Fernandes had several students say that they "found the college that they really want to go to!"

Liz Cerveny and Amy Fernandes had a Scholarship Night with excellent attendance! 37 students and parents attended and learned how to prepare, find and apply for scholarships. Feedback from both parents and students was very, very positive!

Financial Aid Night had 14 students and parents in attendance. Two presenters, Abril Hunt from WSUV and Monica Santos, (LCHS Alumni, now working in the Financial Aid offices of both WSUV and Clark College), were both fantastic! It was a very informative presentation! Comments were great from parents and students, who have a much clearer idea of how to navigate the FAFSA and the financial aid process. The students loved hearing from Monica. They said she was great at communicating on their level. It is so nice to have WSUV and Clark College staff available as a resource for our families.

We've had several college representatives visit during 1st and 2nd lunch. The students have an opportunity to really learn in depth information about five colleges from WA

State. 9th – 12th grade students feel that this is a great way to begin their college search as well as get some personal support with the admissions process.

The PSAT was administered here in Oct. We tested 82 9th-12th grade students tested. It's great that so many of our students are taking steps towards preparing for college.

Upcoming events include the LCHS Career Fair on Feb 17th, and the Skills Center Tour in March.

Respectively Submitted,

Carol Patton
Principal