La Center High School
November 22, 2013

Curriculum - This past week the Student Services Center hosted ***College Night***!

Leslie Mohlman, the College and Career Specialist, organized the event with 10 college representatives, two scholarship organizations and the WSU mascot "Butch" were in attendance. Approximately 200 students from 6-12 grade and their parents attended the evening event, and spent time talking with college reps., receiving flyers and handouts, learning of local scholarship opportunities and getting their picture with Butch. The second part of the evening was a WSU representative and two LCHS graduates attending WSU, presented a powerpoint regarding most colleges entrance requirements, shared additional information about community service within the community and how to plan now to be successful in post high school opportunities. It was a well-received event. A special 'thank you' goes to Leslie Mohlman for organizing College Night and the student volunteers that helped that evening.

Math Adoption – The high school math teachers have completed their review of several math curriculum and plan to share their finding with parents and students this next month. I want to thank the teachers for taking this time to look at each curriculum through the rubric, selecting two textbook series that they will recommend to parents and students. Also, thank you to Dave Holmes for his work on this project. The process was well organized and with the use of the rubric, specific points were observed to meet the needs of our students in the district.

Phoenix 6 Graduation - Last night the students and staff from the Phoenix 6 group celebrated their journey with the traditional 'Phoenix Graduation.' Parents, family members, friends and other staff attended and supported the great work our young students have done while going through the program. Students shared their personal goals and accomplishments. Family and friends also were quick to stand and support the positive transformations they have seen take place with our students. It was a positive experience for our students. We are currently planning on a Phoenix 7 next March.

Youth First – 10 students are continuing to make gains in learning about preparing to move into the workplace post high school. This program is proving to be very successful for students at school recognizing such items as responsibilities as a learner, turning in quality work, planning the use of their time wisely, and preparing for interviews. Today several students will be practicing interviews in Vancouver. Second semester students will be job shadowing and getting apprenticeship positions in the Portland metropolitan area. By the end of the school year several students will have jobs in place by the time they graduate. What a great opportunity for these students that were not being successful in school, but now having a purpose to graduate and find hope for their future.

Outdoor Classroom Gardens - A group of teachers and one parent volunteer joined in brainstorming possible ideas of using space below the football field on the hillside for a potential outdoor garden. Ideas were flying as to what we could put in that space, such as green houses, community garden space and fruit orchards. Teachers were sharing ideas of how to get students involved in this project from math classes measuring slope and volume of dirt to art being part of the gardens beauty. The creative juices were flowing! We appreciate this great opportunity.

A Athletics & Activities -

The fall sports season is almost to an end. Coaches and advisors are using the language that has been encouraged to promote learning in our extra-curricular environments. They are asking the student-athletes to problem solve and figure out how to improve a particular play or their performance. This has been exciting to witness. As the new sports season is starting, another opportunity for different coaches to promote this style of coaching and teaching our students begins.

It has been an exciting month to be a Wildcat. Our athletes have performed at optimal levels across the board.

Girls Soccer showed continuous improvement from the beginning of the season to the last game. It was a difficult transition with the ending of a coach the athletes loved and respected to the new coach that is young and passionate about the sport. By defeating King's Way Christian High School in the final game of the season, the team ended up tying for 4th place in the Trico League. The top 4 teams qualify for the district tournament. Unfortunately, due to the tie-breaker, La Center did not qualify.

Boys Golf had a difficult day at the district match. It was damp, cold and the wind played a role in the outcome for all participants. At the end of the match, La Center qualified 1 athlete, Dustin Ell, to the state match in May.

Volleyball had a very successful season by placing 3rd in the Trico League and 3rd in District IV, which qualified them to the state tournament in Yakima. This was the first appearance for La Center in the Sundome since 2006.

Cross Country continues to show how dominate they are, year in and year out. This was an exceptional year, however, for both the boys and the girls. Both teams won the League Championships held White Salmon. The boys have won league 6 years in a row, and the girls have won it 8 years in a row. Both teams also won the District Championships held at Lewis River Golf Course in Woodland for the 2nd year in a row. The girls finished 12th and the boys finished 2nd at the state meet held in Pasco.

Football repeated its Trico League Championship by defeating Woodland in an outstanding performance. This all happened in front of the largest crowd assembled at the Middle School field. It was estimated that 3000 people were in attendance for this game. This was a huge success for not only the athletes and coaches, but also for all those that helped organize this event. The next week, the Wildcats defeated Elma and repeated its District Title since the team already defeated Tenino, which was the Evergreen's League Champions. After defeating Blaine High School in the first round of the state playoffs, the team is prepared to travel to Bellingham and confront Mt. Baker High School on Saturday, November 23. This is the team that defeated La Center in the same round last year, which ended the 2012 season for the Wildcats.

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Teachers – I would like to share with you the many different types of meetings that are taking place each Wednesday morning. Staff has this great opportunity to meet and trust me, they are using their time wisely and effectively. Teachers in each department now have a time to collaborate, discuss common core standards, lesson plans, student work and share ideas for grading. The Student Intervention Team meets two times a month to discuss students we are concerned about, students with 3 or more F's, and students teachers need additional ideas for interventions. Teachers also have time to make phone calls to parents, collaborate with other teachers regarding specific student issues, review materials for their classes and develop specific goals for their programs.

I'm also beginning to see more teachers meet to discuss cross curricular ways of bringing together groups of students for a larger goal. For example the metals and wood shops are working with the environmental studies classes to meet the level 3 and 4 requirements for the Green Schools accreditation. Math and science classes are sharing common core standards and those skills are reflected in the lessons. Students are beginning to see that tools they are learning from one class carries with them to other classes. It is exciting to see lessons and goals purposefully focused with using a cross curricular model in place.

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Students - The Music Department performed their fall concert this past week. The Jazz Band, Choir and Concert Band did a great job for the beginning of the year concert. Mr. Dell also introduced a percussions ensemble, featuring several of our students (and himself) in five selections. Students meet with him after school. Good job!

Fundraiser – The students in the Beyond Phoenix class did a community outreach fundraiser for an active community member, bus driver and parent of one of our students, to help with a liver transplant. Gary Hollingshead is an important member in our community and helped our

students throughout the years. The students in the Beyond Phoenix class brought this to the ASB student counsel, requesting to do a three day fundraiser at lunchtime. It was a lengthy discussion and learning opportunity for the ASB student counsel, where they had to make guidelines of how to address these types of requests. The students did a great job handling this request. The LCHS student body raised $400 to help Mr. Hollingshead towards his upcoming operation.

Door Contest - The students and staff of 4th period had a door contest to support College Night. The goal was to come up with the best college door. Winners were selected by community volunteers. Mrs. Croskrey's class won and received pizza and soda for lunch. Good school spirit!

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Patton
Principal