HAWK REPORT: FEBRUARY 2010

February is a time of reflection at LCMS as we end a semester and assess the accomplishments of our students. The results of our students' efforts came through recently and LCMS is very proud of their efforts. Almost two hundred students made honor roll which is higher then it has ever been. On the other end of the academic spectrum we only had 22 students under a 2.0. We will be analyzing the grades to see where the improvements came from. I have been thinking about the dramatic rise and I believe it has to do with the staff's efforts to create student centered learning environments. Students who are more responsible for their own learning and given opportunities to test and apply their learning are understanding more and the results are coming through. This is a significant accomplishment for the students and staff. Another reason for the students' success is the work ethic and determination of our students. An example of this is the last three hour study hall of the year where seventy students turned up.

February 9th was a busy day at LCMS. We started the day with an Academic Improvement Award Breakfast. We celebrated the accomplishments of 25 students who improved their grades by .6. Approximately eighty people attended this event. The school board also met with students during first period to discuss school issues. I appreciate the honest feedback and concerns that the students gave to the school board. Student voice is very important in the success of our school so we strongly encourage the kids to speak their minds. Thanks to the School Board for taking time out of their busy schedules to listen to our kids.

The LCMS staff completed two more Lab Classrooms this month. The two teachers who presented were Mrs. Broten and Mr. Westerberg. The Lab Classroom team also had an opportunity to share their success with the school board on February 23rd. The lab classroom has been an important part of our school improvement plan this year and we hope that it continues. This is what Janice Broten had to say about her experience:

"*Lab classroom has been a very rewarding experience. Not only are we learning a lot about classroom practices and instruction, but we are connecting with our colleagues/friends at a much deeper level. Although creating the sub plans and missing a day with our kiddos can leave us complaining. When the observations are over, the time away is well worth the experience.*"

The Leadership students have had a busy month. They attended the Southwest Washington Middle Level Leadership Conference at Hockinson Middle School. Students were able to present and 'steal' ideas about school events with other schools. It was a great way to connect with other leaders around the area. Mrs. Broten, Mrs. Austad also came back with some great ideas to try here. The Leadership class also held a successful clothing drive for Share house. In one week LCMS collected enough clothing to fill a van from end to end and top to bottom with only enough room for the driver, Mrs. Broten.

This month we will be holding our 4th annual penny drive for Doernbecher. We appreciate the generosity shown by the students and community for this event especially in these difficult times. I have my outfit already if the students achieve the goal of $5,000. It won't be pretty. That reminds me; I better let the bank know that I am coming to visit this time.

The 8th grade students also attend the Real Life Exhibit hosted by FEMA. Students experience real life disasters and how emergency teams support them. This led to some lively discussions, greater awareness and an appreciation for what they have.

Three choir students and 1 band student participated in the Junior All-State Band/Choir, which took place 2/13 in Yakima. This is the beginning of an exciting month in music for us as 25 choir students (6th-8th grade) are participating in the Solo/Ensemble Festival on 3/6. LCMS will also be hosting the choir festival this year on March 17th.

Mr. Westerberg took his art students to the Tacoma Museum of Art this month. The students had a great time despite the two hour delay on the train coming home.

On a final note, I would like to thank the Levy Team for all of their hard work. They have put in many hours and their efforts are truly appreciated.

Go Hawks,

David Cooke
Principal
La Center Middle School