# La Center High School
## February 20, 2013

**Curriculum -** It's already that time of the year for teachers to begin thinking of new course offerings, if any, that they would like to submit to teach next year. Students will begin forecasting the first part of March.

**Science Changes -** The science department has been working diligently to find a class for the freshmen that meet the needs of the new science common core standards and provide a fundamental foundation that prepares students for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Next year all freshmen will take Conceptual Physics instead of the current Inquiry Science. The textbooks are currently used as a resource in other science classes but textbooks will need to be purchased for next year.

**Accreditation Update** – Building Council has been meeting regularly to work on the accreditation process. Currently, we are almost done with the SMART goals. The first is to empower students to have a positive impact on school climate. The second SMART goal is to improve communication with all stakeholders by supporting student growth and success in academics and social skills. The third SMART goal is to improve the quality of school work through the development of the teacher and student expectations. At the upcoming staff meeting, Building Council will share our work and ask for any input on these SMART goals.

Also, as part of our data collection for the accreditation, Building Council has sent a survey out to the staff regarding their perception on these three SMART goals. Next week we will send surveys to parents, students and community members.

**Scholarship Night** – Mindy Payne, Student Services Career Specialist, hosted the Scholarship Night for all students and their parents. A representative from Clark College spoke to the students, including Liz Cerveny, representing the La Center Scholarship Foundation. Josh McNeal, LCHS Senior was asked to speak at the last minute to share what his experiences and scholarship successes are so far. I was very pleased with his presentation and professionalism. About 50 people attended the workshop, wanting information on how to apply for scholarships and where to look for the variety of scholarships that are available for their student. It was a positive and encouraging event for students and parents.

# A Athletics & Activities

**Girls Basketball:** Finished their season losing in the consolation semi-finals of the District Tournament to a strong Woodland team. This is the longest season the team has had in the last 4 years. The following students were voted to the ALL LEAGUE TEAM by the coaches: Katie Whitten-Co-MVP, Sam Wise-1st Team, Ashley Denne-Honorable Mention

**Boys Basketball:** Is still playing their basketball season. The boys will play Cedar Park Christian on 2/23 at Mt. Vernon High School. This game will be played at 4:00 PM and the winner will travel to participate in the State Tournament 2/28-3/2. This is the farthest the boys team has gone in post season in the last 10 years. The following students were voted to the ALL LEAGUE TEAM by the coaches: Wyatt Aguirre-2nd Team, Austin "AJ" Myers-2nd Team, Matt Braaten-Honorable Mention, Connor Wonderly- Honorable Mention

**Wrestling:** completed their season with a small but strong contingent. The following wrestlers qualified for state: Perry Nelson, Chana Higuera, Dustin Veysey, and Gabe Bunker. Gabe placed 4th in the 1A 160 weight class and the other wrestlers were not able to make it in to the medal rounds. However they are one of the top 16 wrestlers in the state in the respective division.

**Equestrian:** is getting excited for first meet this weekend will be held at the Clark County Fair Grounds on February 22nd-24th.

**Dance:** has performed very well so far this year. They have entered 2 routines in 3 different competitions. They have taken first in 3 of the 6 competitions and have qualified for the district competition on March 9th at Heritage HS .

**Knowledge Bowl:** The 2 Varsity teams are definitely in the running to make it to state. They finished the "regular" season in 2nd and 3rd place in the region amongst the 13 1A teams in the league. Regional is Monday, Feb 25 at Lower Columbia College. The top 3 teams qualify for state on March 23rd at Arlington HS.

Springs Sports begin their season on Feb 25th.

# T

**Teachers-** The high school and middle school Science teachers met for a full day aligning curriculum 6-12. The teachers used this time to discuss the district goals for our students in science, how the goals align to the upcoming Next Generation Standards, and did a

compare/contrast dialogue on their teaching units to determine when it is appropriate and where to teach the concepts in the curriculum. Teachers also looked for gaps and overlaps in the curriculum. Gaps were discussed and assigned while the overlaps were eliminated. This process has just begun and the Science Department will meet again April 22 to continue to work out the problems in out 6-12 science alignment.

**Race To Nowhere** – The staff had two opportunities to watch and discuss the video, "Race to Nowhere." About half the staff attended and following the video was great discussions about the purpose of homework, triggers that cause stress on students, good stress vs. bad stress and many began to acknowledge actions and assignments that might change within our practices in order to support students. It was a very good discussion and new awareness's on individual teaching practices took place.

**Peer Partners –** The LCHS staff is actively working on finding ways to help support and encourage the success of all students. Many individuals need to know they are valued and appreciated. Sometimes just a simple encouraging note from an upper classman will do just that. So the teachers are meeting with a group of upper classmen to work on writing one positive comment for each freshman. The notes will be delivered next week. This is a small part of our work on improving school climate and culture in our school. The hope is to have every student receive a positive note from their colleagues by the end of the year.

## S **Students –**

**FBLA –** Congratulations to the LCHS FBLA students for their success at the district conference in Kelso. Eleven students qualified for the state conference in Spokane, which will take place in April 25-27. Several students will fly in order to make it back in time for Prom, which is on April 27th. We wish them well!

**Neon Tolo Dance –** Leadership class did a fundraiser by putting on the Neon Tolo dance, where the girls asked the guys to the dance. Two members of the Leadership class where the DJ's and did an outstanding job! Parent volunteers helped chaperone the dance. All had a grand time.

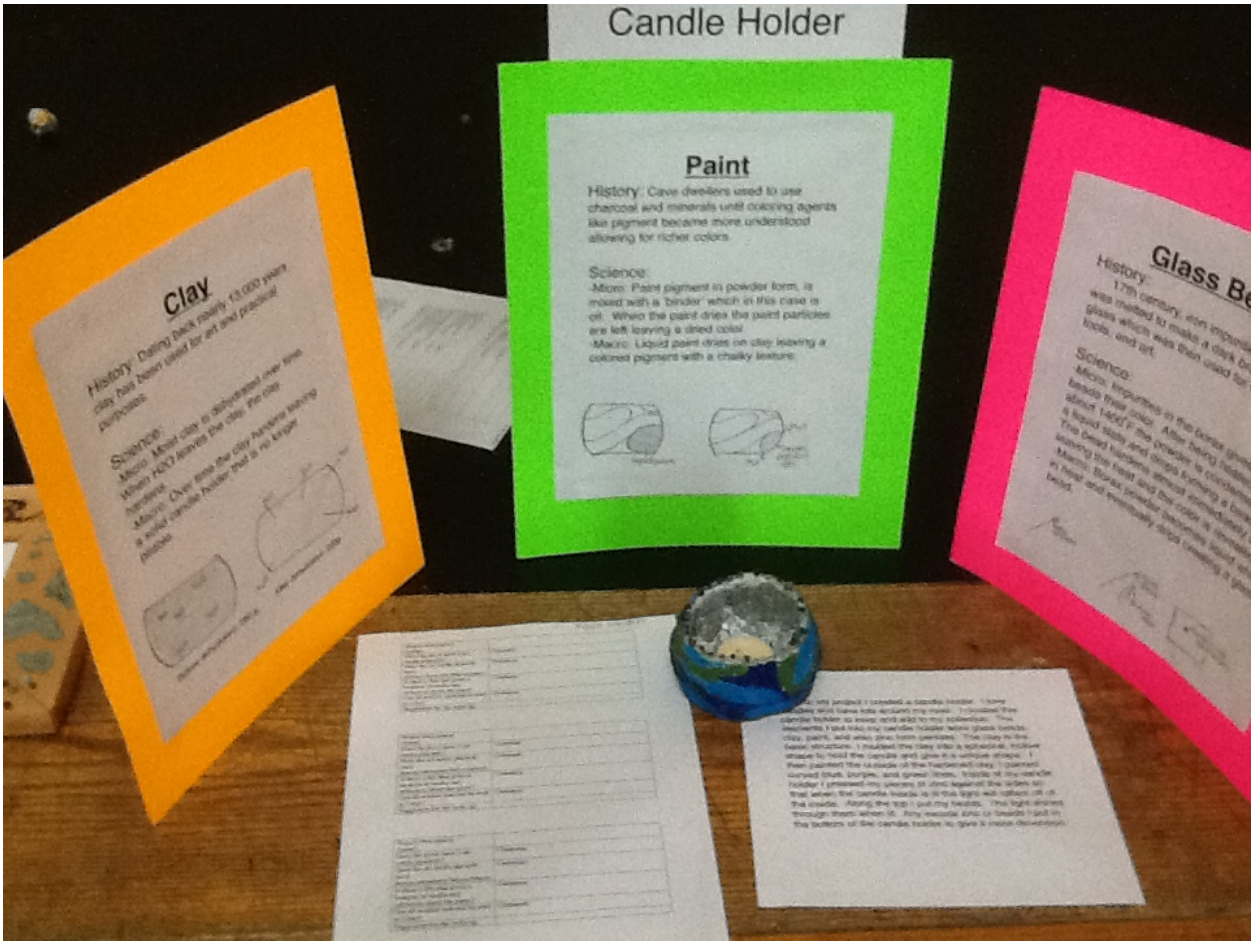
**Blood Drive –** National Honors Society hosted a blood drive for the school and community. Students 16 and 17 had permission slips in order to donate blood. We had a record number of students and adults contribute this year. The schedule was full as several people waited to sign-up. Thank you also to Danielle Rivers, the district nurse, for helping check students in and monitor them when they left the blood drive bus.

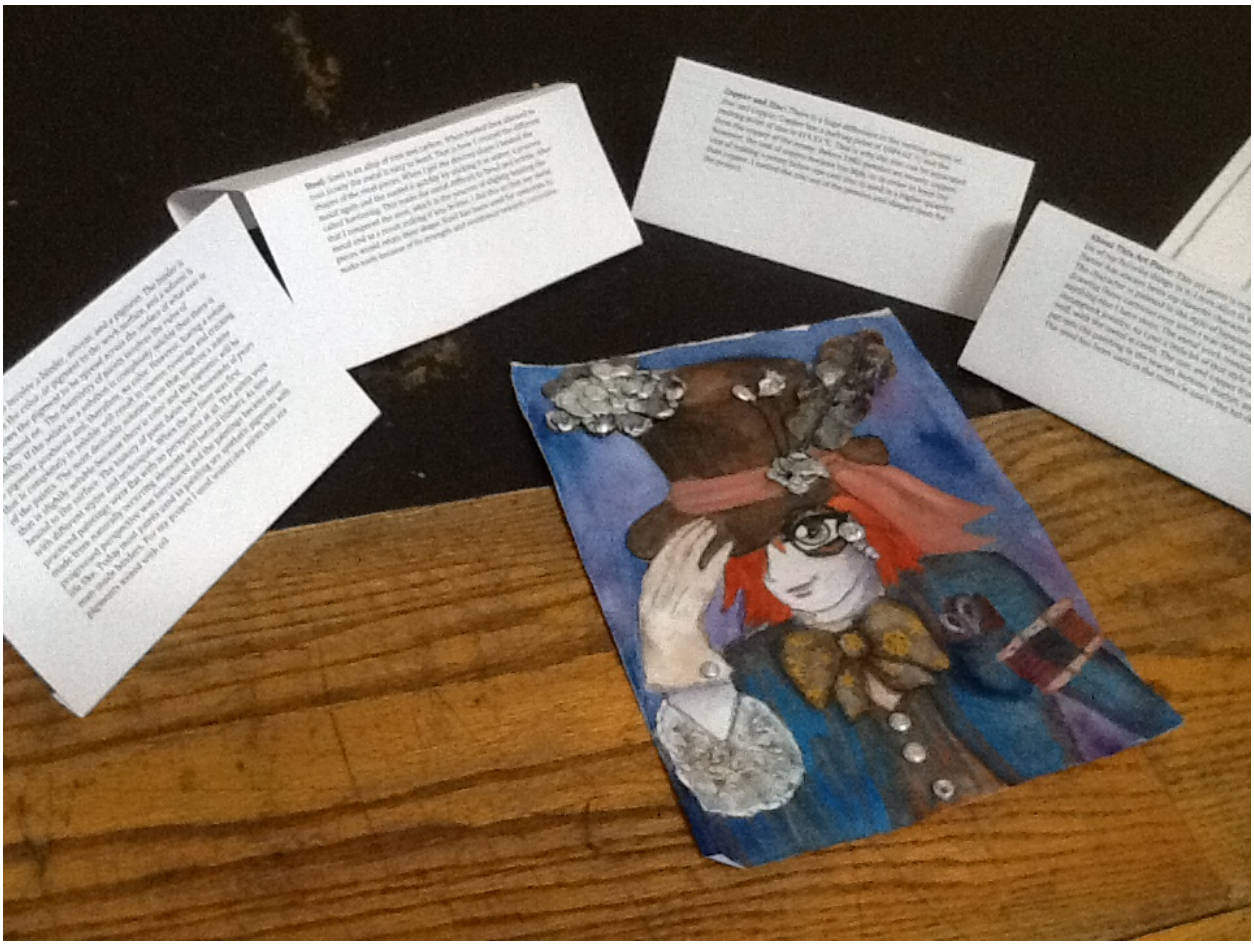
**Phoenix Think Tank –** Students, teachers, parents, administrators and a representative from Synergo met to come up with ideas of how to sustain the Phoenix program in the high school. Each time we send a group of students it costs $12,000. We have managed to get scholarships and grants from outside organizations that help support our programs. Students are currently

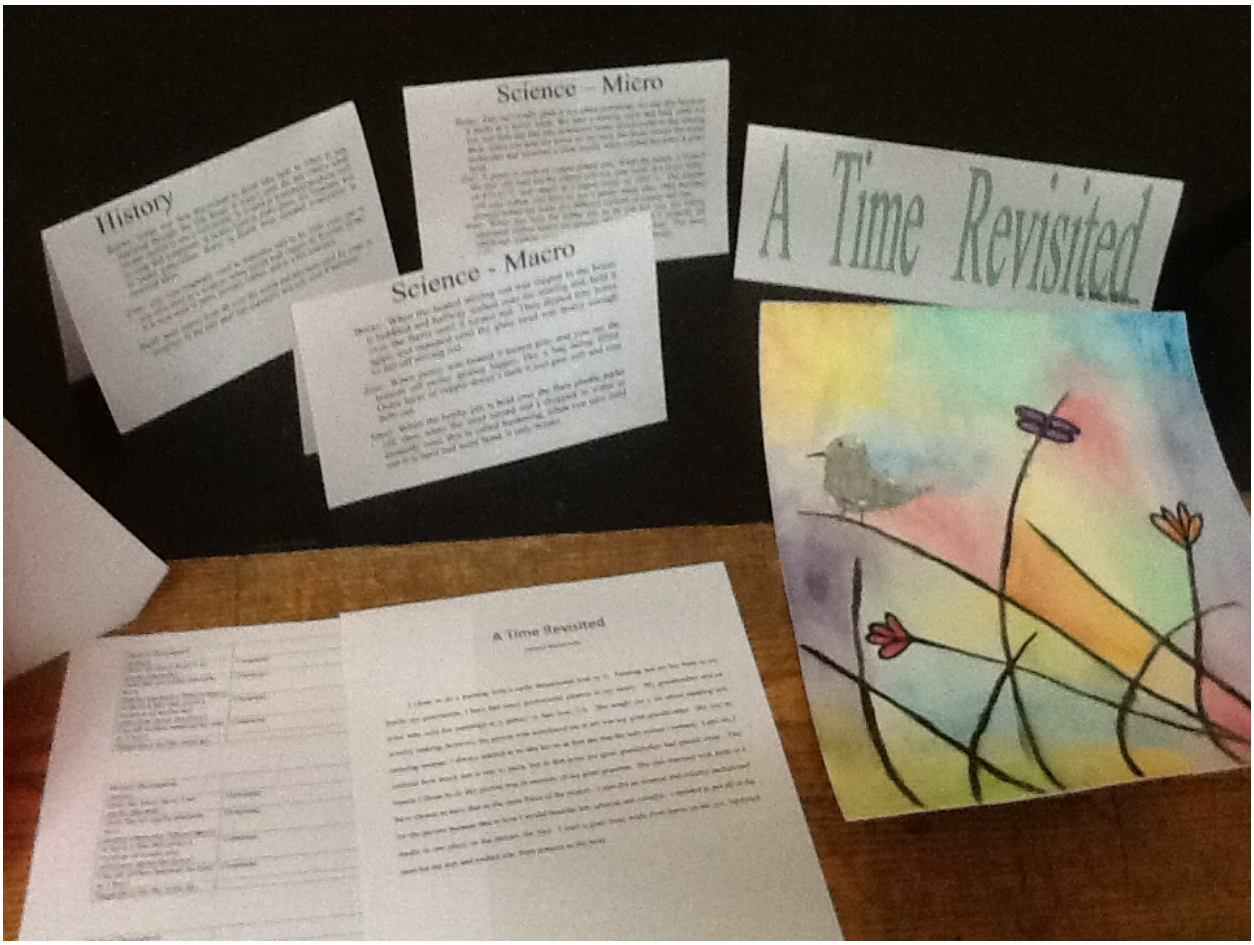
working on creating a video that would be used at any and all presentations and fundraisers. Ideas from the parents have been very helpful and gave the students a positive direction to begin the work. Our next Phoenix group is going to Camp Collins the weekend of March 15th. We are planning on sending 26 students and 4 adults.

**Art in Chemistry!**

The students in Bob Hill's Chemistry class displayed their art creations 1st period in the commons. Their art pieces showed the history of the 7 different art mediums used and practiced centuries ago. Included in the display was a short summary of the history of the materials used and the macro and micro science examples of the paint, clay and glass beads. Students also shared their personal reasons why they created what they did for the art project. Below are three samples of student's projects.








Respectfully submitted,

Carol Patton
Principal