La Center High School
February 21, 2012

Curriculum - These past few weeks the staff and I have been preparing next year's new Curriculum Guide for 2012-2013. Each department has met to determine the following within their departments: 1) what classes are critical for graduation requirements 2) what classes within each department provide a wide variety of options for students to explore areas within their Pathway 3) what classes should we discontinue at this time. The departments have done an excellent job discussing and creating a wide variety of options for students. The counselors have also worked diligently to add a section to the front of the Curriculum Guide that explain the Pathways, graduation requirements, and 5th year planning tools including information about scholarships, and college placement exams. Students and parents will be able to use the Pathway information and four year planning worksheets to help each student map out how they want to accomplish their goals and class selections. The Curriculum Guide will be available to all parents and students in paper form and on the district's website. I invite you to check out all new class in the Curriculum Guide which will be found on the high school website. Some of the new listings are Food Science, in the CTE offerings we are adding three new classes: Automotive Technology, Biodiesel and Alternative Fuels Technology, and Power, Energy and Transportation.

LCHS Career Fair is here! We have 30 presenters from 30 different occupations presenting to our students. All students were able to choose 4 workshops from the presenter's list which they will attend Thursday afternoon, February 23, 2012. Each presenter will share their story of the Pathway they took to get to the position they currently hold. Students will have time at the end of the workshops to ask questions. Thank you to everyone for contributing their time and energy in making this a successful event. And a special 'thank you' to Amy Fernandes for her organizational works on the Career Fair.

Athletics & Activities-

Girls Basketball:

- The girls had a tough lost to Ridgefield during the last few games of the season and then a win over Columbia on our Senior Night. With no rest, we had to travel to Ilwaco on Friday to make up a game postponed by snow. That lost dropped our standing to 3rd in the league and forces us to host a District Play-in game on 2/6.
- The girls completed their season with a tough loss to Montesano in the District Play-in game. This is a very young team that shows great promise!
- We had 3 ladies earn All League awards this week. Sam Wise and Katie Whitten were named to the First Team and Annie Baker was an Honorable Mention.

Boys Basketball:

- The extra rest gave the boys the energy needed to beat both Kalama and Ilwaco.
- The following week was tough for boys basketball losing a by 1 point to Castle Rock and by 10 on Senior Night to Toledo. At this point were positioned to qualify for districts with one game left.
- The boys split their games this week also, losing to Ridgefield but beating Columbia. Our record this week put us in a dead tie with Castle Rock for 4th place. The 4th place team gets to host a district game and the 5th place team has to travel. We played the tie-breaker game in Woodland and won. This win allows us to host a District Play-in game on 2/7.
- The boys finished their season with a loss to Tenino in the District Play-in game. This was the boys' first playoff game in almost 7 years. We are expecting big things from these young men in the near future.
- Our boys had 2 people earn All League awards this week. Matt Braaten was voted on to the Second Team and Dylan King was voted on to the Honorable Mention.

Wrestling:

- Weather in the Gorge canceled the week's dual meet but our team participated in Kalama's Rubber Chicken Tournament where the following wrestlers took first place: 138 Patrick Mayolo, 160 Gabe Bunker, 195 Josh McNeal. **Patrick Mayolo received the Outstanding wrestler of the tournament award. Winning all 4 of his matches by a fall. Wrestling a total of 8:55 in those four matches.**
- The team performed well the following week beating Woodland and Columbia head-to-head. Unfortunately we did not have enough wrestlers to fill all the weight classes against Castle Rock and Ilwaco so we lost those. If we could eliminate the forfeits, we would have won those also!
- Sub-Regionals were hosted this weekend at Kalama and Heritage high schools. After the dust settled, we have 4 wrestlers continuing on to represent La Center HS in next weekend's Regional competition: 1st Patrick Mayolo, 1st Josh McNeal, 2nd Dustin Veysey, 2nd Nicole Sharp.
- Our wrestlers performed very well at Regionals. We entered 4 and 3 will participate in the WIAA State Championships: Nicole Sharp came up just short of qualifying, 1st Patrick Mayolo, 2nd Josh McNeal, 3rd Dustin Veysey.
- The wrestlers finished their season on a positive note. Patrick Mayolo finished second in the State. Josh McNeal and Dustin Veysey just missed placing by one match.

Dance:

- Dance competed in their first competition and this young team of ladies learned a lot.
- The team showed great improvement at their second competition. They placed 3rd in Pom Pom (with scores high enough to qualify them for the district competition) and 1st in Dance (missing a qualifying score by 6 points)
- The Dance Team placed second at their third competition and earned enough points to qualify for the State Tournament. Now they have to get those same marks at the district tournament to be able to compete in State.

Equestrian:

- Equestrian is preparing for their first meet which is February 24th and 25th at the Clark County Fairgrounds.

FBLA:

- Attended the Winter Conference at Mark Morris on 2/10. The following students qualified for the State Tournament in Spokane:

  Hannah McNeal – 1st place in Public Speaking and 4th in Client Services
  Wyatt Tetz – 2nd place in Introduction to Business
  Josh McNeal – 2nd place in Future Business Leader
  Scott Barger – 4th place in Economics
  Madison Johnson – 4th place in Business Communications

  Team Events (top 5):

  2nd place in Business Ethics: Justin Kempt and JC Mendez
  4th place in Marketing: JC, Justin and Scott Barger
  4th place in Emerging Business Issues: Tetz, Blane Blakeslee, Blake Johnston
  2nd place in Entrepreneurship: Tetz, Blakeslee, Johnston

- On 2/14 members of FBLA attended the Blazer Business Days where they spent the day learning about marketing and running the Blazers and then attended the Blazer game that night.

Knowledge Bowl

- Is currently ranked 1st in our district
- Will attend the District Meet on 2/27 at Lower Columbia College with the top 3 going to State

Music

- Blake Johnson represented La Center High School last weekend in the All State Honor Choir Performance. He was one of 175 students selected from across the state to participate in this event.

Teachers – This past week I had invited Principals from the Trico League to visit our school to share our Learning Model and go on learning walks. Principals from Woodlands, Kalama, Castle Rock, Ridgefield and even up from Tenino joined Dave Holmes and myself in this morning workshop. We had a successful time in discussion while spending the morning learning. The workshop proved to be so positive that John Shoup, Principal from Woodland, has asked to bring seven teachers next week for the same workshop. We'll modify it slightly and extend the learning walks to the middle school. A big thank you to our staff for opening their doors and sharing their ideas and learning ah ha's with others. Learning doesn't have borders!

I'd like to share a proud moment Matt Cooke shared with the teachers about a student's choice he made during a wrestling match. These are the kinds of stories that happen daily, but this was worded so well by Matt, I wanted to share it. Enjoy.
Robbie Hoover: "Coach, it was the right thing to do."

And in the wise words of Paul Harvey, "And this is the rest of the story..."

We were at the Battleground JV tournament on Saturday where most kids there are wrestling their last matches of the season because post season starts this week. Schools are only allowed to enter 2 guys at each weight class for post season. Robbie is wrestling a special needs kid from Prairie in his last match of the day. I asked him to role around with him and go all 3 rounds to give the kid as much time on the mat as possible. Robbie did a great job in not making it look too obvious that he was letting the kid take him down, getting escapes, etc. At the end of the 3 rounds, the score is tied...15-15. The kid's parents are screaming and are so excited for their boy that usually gets pinned within 20 seconds. The first OT is decided when the first points are scored. Robbie let the kid take him down about 15 seconds into OT. The kid did not realize he had won until the ref raised his hand. At that point, the kid raised his other hand and started jumping up and down and screaming for joy. He ran over to his coaches (who had a few tears in their eyes) to give them a hug. Then he ran over to me and Jef and shook our hand and gave us a hug. His dad is yelling..."That's MY boy! That's MY boy!"

I asked Robbie, "Why did you let him take you down in OT?"

I couldn't have been more proud to be called COACH then I was at that moment. And yes...those that know me...I did have a few tears as well.

Happy Monday and be proud of these students. There are quite a few that do get it and do know what is right in this world.

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Students- I was very pleased with the thoughtful responses our students expressed to the Board at the Student Linkage. I had a chance prior to the Student Linkage to share with the Leadership student's the End's Policies and discussed why it was important for each of them to know the district goals and what opportunities the district provides for an excellent education. During our discussion, I could tell by the questions the student's asked that they were thoughtful and passionate, not only about their own education, but those students coming through the system. As I left the classroom discussion I had confidence that they would think about the End's Policies and discuss amongst themselves what they wanted to share with the Board. These bright minds came through with a wonderful discussion, sharing their views and ideas for improve, such as Navigation 101. Through this process we have begun to look at the Navigation program differently and are moving in the direction of including student's in the planning for next year. Thank you for providing all of us with this opportunity.

Many of our senior's are getting word of scholarships and college acceptance letters. Two students that recently stand out in my mind are Annie Baker, who is the recipient of

the Comcast Scholarship and Jocelyn Burgess, the first student to receive a full year NCAA scholarship for soccer to the University of Idaho.

Scholarship night was a huge success this year. About 90 parents and students attended this workshop in the library. The response was positive and people felt well informed about the scholarship process available.

Lastly, I invite you to check out our Twitter page at @LCHSWildcats1
As we expand our different ways of communicating information, this is one way to share successes and announcement to our students and parents. Hope to see you as a follower!

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Patton
LCHS Principal