HAWK REPORT MARCH 2010

After such a busy month, staff and students at LCMS will enjoy their Spring Break. This will also give the teachers a week to recover from revisiting lost youth in the annual Staff vs. 8th grade boys' basketball game. We do it every year and then always tell ourselves that this will be the last time, until next year. The stretch from New Years to Spring Break isn't always the easiest but I do believe the good weather has kept everybody in good spirits.

The performing arts programs have been on display this month. LCMS hosted the Lower Columbia River Music Educator's Association choir festival this year on Wednesday March 17th of this week and will last for the entire school day. Nine schools participated in this event. The choir received the highest scores that they have ever received. Thanks to Mrs. Slinkard, Ms. Patton, the custodial team and the flexible PE teachers for making it all come together.

The LCMS Hawk band played at the LCRMEA Band festival on March 24th at Discovery Middle School and as always did a great job. Fifteen students also represented LCMS at a recent Solo Ensemble. I am always impressed by the way that our band and choir students conduct themselves in public. I am writing this as I look outside my window observing the behavior of choir students from other schools leaving our campus. Not pretty.

Our annual Doernbecher Fund drive has currently raised $4,300. I was more than happy to call it a final amount but there are still some motivated students determined to see me make a fool of myself again in some ghastly outfit. I also have to switch roles with a student as she raised the most individual money. She is in choir so that should literally be a show stopper when I sing. Spirit week was a fun week culminating in the 'Oscar' themed dance with 270 students attending. This was the biggest dance since I have been principal. Thanks to Mrs. Broten, Mrs. Austad, the leadership class, ASB and the parent volunteers for making the week so successful.

LCMS had their annual Student Led Conferences this month. These are often inspiring as you see the growth in a student over a year. I was fortunate to sit on some of these conferences as was thrilled to see not only how seriously the students took them as show in their dress and presentation skills but more importantly how they reflected on their academic growth. One area that we would like to work on with students is to reflect on how they have grown. Many students would say that their grades were going up but could not say why (eg. I can understand vocabulary better, I ask more questions.) For the students who could do that, the information was insightful. An answer that we heard a great deal was that students ask more questions and they are willing to discuss problems with their friends more. This was important to hear as we focus on a more student centered learning environment.

On March 23rd Mrs. Link brought down 25 high school students to talk to the 8th graders about high school. We appreciated this as our students have been asking about the expectations of their next step. The high school students did a whole class presentation to start off with and then broke into small groups. Many questions were answered so this will hopefully relieve some anxiety for our future freshmen over the summer.

The assessment team met with the Special Education department to discuss the large number of at-risk students who are currently struggling. Two teachers from the high school also attended the meeting. I have attached the notes from this meeting to show you what our thoughts and upcoming plans are.

The Social Studies Adoption Committee team met again late in the month. These meetings were broken down K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. We have built a lens and will be using rubrics to determine whether or not the samples that we have received so far will meet the needs of our students in a student led learning environment. This has been a great opportunity for me to collaborate with the other buildings. I have a much healthier appreciation for what the other schools do and appreciate all of their efforts.

We are all looking to Spring Break. There are ten weeks to go after that with many challenges ahead including state testing. We look forward to those challenges as well.

GO HAWKS

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