La Center High School
April 17, 2014

Curriculum - The Biology and teachers are working together to support students in their writing of a biology essay. The topics are ecology, energy matter and organization, and homeostasis, which they call the "Critter Project." The students receive support and credit in both biology and English from their essay. English teachers are working with students on outlining, drafting and revising their writing. This has been an exciting cross-curricular endeavor done by our two departments. What we are finding out is by working together our students are transferring skills and making connections.

Athletics & Activities – We have had a fulfilling month for spring sports with some joys as well as some disappointments. The rains continue to cause rescheduling with baseball and softball. Ironically, some of the best weather we have had was during spring break when no events were scheduled with the exception of one baseball game. Being flexible with the schedule has been the most important lesson learned. Unlike the winter season where everything is indoors, the spring schedule must be done in pencil.

The Knowledge Bowl Team went to the state meet on Friday, March 21. They competed well on Saturday, March 22, but they came away a little disappointed in their placing. How the State Meet operates is there is a written round followed by one oral round. Following this, the top 9 schools enter the semi-finals. In this round, three schools compete against one another. The winning school goes to the finals against 2 other schools. Our Varsity Team 2 tied for 10th place (one place away from going to the semis). Our Varsity Team 1 qualified for the semis, and in this round they tied for the spot to go to the finals. They had to compete in two additional rounds of questions before breaking the tie, essential they lost in Double Overtime. Pretty exciting for them, but they were a little disappointed in placing 8th in the state. The team was hoping to bring home a trophy and they were one place away from doing so.

The Dance Team finished their season in exciting form. They performed very well at the state meet on March 29 in Yakima at the Sundome. This team qualified in 3 routines, which no other school at the meet could say this. There were 47 schools from the 1A – 3A classifications, and about half of the schools qualified in only 1 routine. In order to compete at the state meet, a team needs to reach a certain score at the district meet. Our girls competed against 2A schools in the Dance routine and the Kick routine since not enough schools qualified from the 1A classification. The placed 7th in Kick and 5th in Dance. Our girls had the best chance to bring

home a state title in the Pom routine since they were only competing against 1A schools and there were only 5 schools that qualified. They ended up getting 3rd in Pom and missed out on the title by only 1.6 points out of 300 total points. So, they were happy with the score they earned, but disappointed with the placing.

The Girls Golf Team continues to struggle with wins since we only have 3 girls that have continued this far into the season. The good news is that they are all freshmen and have committed to finishing all 4 years while helping build the program.

Our Track and Field Team continues to do well. The main competition is Woodland, which brings some great conversations up between the two head coaches for each program, to be sure. In case you are not aware, the head coach for Woodland is Dave Holmes' daughter. Our boys track team is one of the best we have had in years. They will be pushed on April 18 when the team travels to Columbia River to compete in the John Ingram Invitational. This is one of the biggest meets in Clark County where are kids can see how they stack up against the bigger schools.

The Baseball Team is currently tied with Kalama for 2nd place in the Trico League, with a record of 5-2. They have one loss to Woodland, which was a heartbreaker on March 24. We were down 3-1 in the 6th inning and then we were able to manufacture 2 runs and tie it. In the top of the 7th, Connor Fulton hits a solo homerun to go ahead 4-3 only to have our hearts broken when a walk-off 2 run homerun is hit in the bottom of the 7th. We will have a chance to get back at them on our field, May 2. Our other loss came from Toledo, who is 5th in the league. This loss was difficult to take.

The Softball Team is also currently tied, but with Woodland for 2nd place. Woodland, Kalama, and La Center all have an undefeated season in league so far. However, since Kalama has more wins (6) than Woodland and us (4), they are seated in first place. These 3 teams will be the powerhouses not only in our league, but also in District IV. Hoquiam is the other tough team from the Evergreen League. And with only 3 spots available to the state meet, it will be difficult to see who makes it out of these 4 teams.

The Boys Soccer Team has improved drastically from a year ago. Our new coach has got the athletes hooked into his philosophy and strategy of the game. Last year, the team finished 2nd to last out of 8 schools. This year, we are currently tied for 1st with Seton Catholic. They, unfortunately, have the tie breaker on us, since they beat us on April 14. However, we get to have a rematch on May 8 for the last league game of the year. This could be the deciding factor on who takes the League Title. Our current record is 6-1. Seton's record is also 6-1, with their only lost to Toledo by a score of 3-1, and we handled Toledo 5-1.

Teachers – Kathy Bounds has had a dream of connecting LCHS to a sister school that is from the inner city of Vancouver. As educators in a small, rural school with little diversity, we face a challenge in preparing our students for success beyond this small town. The world IS a diverse place. The goal of this project is to break down our isolation by establishing a sister school with Fort Vancouver High School, which is the most diverse high school in the Vancouver School District. A well-planned sister school program would remove stereotypes for BOTH student bodies.

I was able to meet with the Scott Parker, Principal from Fort Vancouver High School. We set up a meeting that took place at LCHS this week. He brought to the meeting Elizabeth Prager, a social studies teacher and Steven Brannon, LAP Advisor. Attending our meeting was Kathy Bounds, Shawn Link, Pete Rosenkranz, Matt Cooke and myself.

Mrs. Prager from FVHS brought a stack of student surveys to the meeting where questions were asked of them about LCHS. We found that the assumptions are pretty much what we expected. Many responses were very comical such as 'do they ride horses to school?' and 'there are some casinos out there that my parents go to.' What they know of our school, students and community is very limited. The same goes for our students at LCHS. Some of our students felt 'there are a lot of gangs that go there.' Others said 'they would be afraid to go to that school.'

The first step we are planning is to bring a group of our students from the Leadership and Beyond Phoenix class together with the Leadership students from FVHS. On April 30th, our students, Mrs. Link, Mrs. Bounds, Mrs. Stevens and I will spend the day at FVHS. Mrs. Link will have her students help with interactive icebreaker activities. The students have a goal to create a mission statement and name for the group. Lunch will be provided by FVHS.

The second meeting we plan on bringing FVHS to LCHS so all students can experience the challenge course. This will lead into other student group leaders meeting such as the captains from the various upcoming fall sports teams meeting together, bridging the gap between our two schools from multiple avenues: sports, choir, band, art, etc.

Students - The La Center High School senior class of 2014 has accomplished many incredible feats within the scholarship realm. We have between 30-40 students that have been accepted to a major university of their choice and are now trying to figure out ways to cover expenses. Between 10-15 of our seniors plan to enlist or already have enlisted into the military: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard are all represented. We have around 20

students that have committed to a community college or trade school next year. Some of the school's students are planning to attend are Clark College or Mt. Hood Community College as well as the International Air and Hospitality School right here in Vancouver, WA.

While not all of our students will receive the grant and scholarship money needed to cover the entire cost of attendance, many students have received scholarships and grants that will cover some or all for their freshman year of college. Many of us are aware of Kristen Nye acceptance into the Air Force Academy, a scholarship worth around $450,000 and an amazing career opportunity. Other students worth noting are Sean Williams receiving the WSU Regent Scholars award worth $16,000/year up to 4 years which he will use this fall at WSU Pullman. We also have several College Bound seniors attending four-year schools next fall including Omer Ahmad, Tony Sandoval, and Samantha Adams. The College Bound Scholarship covers the full cost of tuition at most two-four year colleges in the state of Washington. Omer Ahmad has received several other scholarships worth several thousands of dollars and he should be able to attend his first year of school entirely free.

Tony Sandoval was accepted to the University of Washington, Omer Ahmad will attend Washington State University in Pullman, and Samantha Adams was accepted to Western Washington University and WSU-V. Samantha is a finalist for the YWCA Young Women of Achievement Scholarship worth $2,500 and is a finalist for the Rotary Scholarship worth $4,000 Tony Sandoval is also a finalist for this award and both are interviewing today.

Of the seniors planning to attend a two or four year school, Timm DiStefano was able to have about 60% of the seniors sign up for FAFSA before February 1st. The significance of that date is that is when the Washington State Need grant closes. While many of our students did not receive funds from FAFSA, typical awards ranged from $1,000-$5,000 with the Pell Grant and an additional $2,000-$10,000 from the Washington State Need Grant. Several students received the entire $16,000/year from grants alone just for filing FAFSA before February 1st.

One major change this year from last is our seniors were strongly encouraged to apply earlier than ever before to four year schools and as early as possible to as many scholarships as possible. Offering the College Prep class in the fall as a pilot course proved to be positive for many students. This class prepared students to research a variety of colleges, apply to the college, find scholarships that were applicable to their needs, complete the application process and begin to learn about the financial needs. Mr. DiStefano recognized that we were not able to get all students the funds needed to attend the college of their choice, but his class took big steps this year in the attempt to assist as many seniors as possible. Students were taught to not only have a plan but to put their plan into action. We still are waiting to hear back from several major scholarship foundations and our La Center Community Scholarship Foundation. April and May are critical months as scholarships are awarded to students during this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Patton
Principal