# La Center High School
## May 22, 2014

**Curriculum -** I would like to share a great learning opportunity that has taken place this semester between the English and Science teachers, and their students. From the work the staff has been doing during the RSLSA, the English and Science teachers discussed how to bring the writing skills into the science classroom on the Critter Integrated paper. The Critter paper is a five paragraph essay about a creature designed in science based off of the information studied all year. Students went through the writing process in their English classes, working on improving their paper, while completing the tasks for their science classes. The essay's improved immensely, providing clarity describing each student's critter.

After the project was completed the teachers shared all the benefits they believed to be true to the time they spent on this project collaborating. Also shared is what the teachers learned from this experience and what they would like to change. Below is their list, which I found thoughtful and exciting to see the work everyone did. This is one example of the importance of the RSLSA. Thank you for providing this time for our staff.

**Debrief discussion of the Critter Five Paragraph Essay**

Per our conversation today here is what we said we learned from the Critter Integrated paper...

Overall... it worked! Let's do it again.

Benefits from the teacher perspective...

- *The improvement in the quality of the student's writing in the biology content was overwhelmingly improved!
- *It was a breath of fresh air for kids to have something different to write about in English.
- *This was a good opportunity to practice the writing process and use it across the curriculum.
- *Students needed to work closely with English teachers on rewriting in order to be more descriptive and explain their thinking. They also were forced to clarify their science understanding with their biology teacher, if the English teacher required it.
- *There was increased accountability to improve their work with this higher stacks task (counted in two classes). However, coupled with increased support most students prevailed.
- *By the very nature of the project it was focused on the student with their paper and their own unique critter. This required considerable individual effort.
- *Writing for more than one teacher in more than one curricular area created a more "authentic" or at least broader audience.
- *Students spontaneously collaborated by using each other as a resource in order to successfully write their individual papers.

- *There is opportunity within the English curriculum to provide time for the writing process. Because of the content requirements in Biology there isn't enough time (nor expertise) available to thoroughly support the writing process.
- *It is beneficial for students to see their teachers choose to work together collaboratively. They can see we are working together for their benefit and that we truly care about their learning.
- *Common Core is heavy on analysis. This project was an opportunity to switch focus in English away from literature for a time in order to support more fact-based, technical-type writing.
- *The Five Paragraph structure spilled over into the next writing assignment in at least one teacher's classroom without the expectation being articulated to students. They simply chose to use it.
- *The written directions and guiding questions provided where especially helpful to students that traditionally struggled with writing.
- *Students were forced to pare down their biology knowledge and distill it down to the most important and common concepts - "forest vs. tree perspective".

What we'd like to change...

- *Students would prefer to know at the beginning of the year that this culminating project is planned.
- *Students and teachers felt that it would be more beneficial to revisit the critter more frequently. *Some English teachers want to be in on the writing from the very beginning and support students in their writing at the end of each unit of study in Biology. Others prefer to approach this collaborative paper in one big push prior to the Writing HSPE as was done this year.
- *There needs to continue to be a far amount of flexibility in approach and timing within different English classrooms in order to meet everyone's needs.

**Athletics & Activities** – As the year is about to end, spring sports and activities are winding down as well. This has been a season with much triumph along with much heartache. The last game of the year is hardest for seniors, as you all know. I think this especially true for the spring sports season since the multiple sport, senior athletes do not have the next season to focus on. However, we do have 3 seniors that have signed on to continue their athletic endeavors at the collegiate level. Alyssa Carnes will play volleyball at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, OR. Travis Dennis will run cross country and track for Western Oregon University in Monmouth, OR. And, Kyle Degraaf will run cross country and track for Idaho State University in Pocatello, ID.

As this report is being typed, the Girls Golf Team is at Capital City Golf Course competing in the SWW1A District IV Match. We have 3 freshmen ladies trying to make the cut for tomorrow's competition. They would need to have a very impressive round to be able to accomplish this. It has been a good learning year for these 3 freshmen, and they will continue to improve next year as the program grows while they take on leadership roles for the incoming freshmen.

The baseball team competed in the SWW1A District IV tournament on May 13 and 16. We were the number 4 seed coming out of the Trico League only because we lost the coin flip with Castle Rock on the number 3 seed. We finished tied with them at the end of the regular season. Our first game in the tournament made national news as it was unofficially the longest non-scoring game in a post-season game for the state of Washington. In that game with Rochester, the number 1 seed from the Evergreen League, our starting pitcher, Trevor Roberson, threw 127 pitches and 12 scoreless innings. Their pitcher threw 194 pitches and 14 scoreless innings. ESPN and CBS Sports reported the pitcher from Rochester throwing that many pitches, which is unheard of in a high school or any other level game. Rochester finally pulled off the win in the bottom of the 17th inning with a suicide squeeze play. Bases were loaded and there were 2 outs. They caught us off guard with a perfect bunt laid up the 3rd base line and they scored to end the game, 1-0. The Wildcats battled back in the second game that day while they were tired and exhausted from the length of the game and from the heat as it was a very warm day. They won 9-1 over Toledo-Winlock to keep alive in the tournament. Then, on Friday, May 16, the Wildcats lost to Tenino in a loser out and winner to state game. The team finished with a record of 9 wins and 5 losses in league with an overall record of 10 wins and 10 losses overall, including post-season games. The All-League Awards were decided on May 18. La Center had two 1st Team Players: Connor Fulton – Utility Player and Trevor Roberson – Infielder, two 2nd Team Players: Keaton Wilbanks – Designated Hitter and Matt Doiron – Infielder, and three Honorable Mentions: Isaiah Block, Trey O'Neil, and Zach Galster.

The LC Boys Soccer team had a fantastic season that did not end how we would have liked. Last season, the team finished 2nd to last in the Trico League. This year, the team won the League Title for the first time in school history. It was an incredible turn around, thanks in large part to the new head coach, Reece Scragg. Our only league loss came from Seton Catholic on April 14. Then we defeated them in the last regular season game of the year on May 8. But, on Tuesday, May 13, we had to face them again, and they came out on top, 2-1. On Saturday, May 17, the team had to play in a loser out and winner to state game against White Salmon. Interestingly enough, we had not beaten White Salmon in a regular season or post-season game in nearly 10 years. We were able to beat them twice in both regular season games this season. But in this crucial game, White Salmon defeated us. It was still an amazing run this year, but the losses in the district tournament came with some disappointment from the players and coaching staff. The team finished with a regular season record of 11 wins and 1 loss and with an overall record of 13 wins, 4 losses, and 1 tie (with Mark Morris). La Center had 9 award winners for the All-League Awards in the Trico. We had three 1st Team Award Winners: Alex Firl, Colton Arends, and Caleb VanTol; one 2nd Team Award Winner: Jordan Hunt-Vazquez; and five Honorable Mentions: Sergio Sandoval, Tony Sandoval, Connor House, Jacob VanTol, and Sean Nolan.

The Lady Wildcats of the softball team earned the title of Co-Champions of the Trico League. They tied with Woodland for the best record. We won the coin flip to decide who will be the number 1 seed going into the SWW1A District IV Tournament on Wednesday, May 21. We will face Elma (4th Seed out of the Evergreen League) at Fort Borst Park in Centralia at Noon. If we win, we will most likely play Hoquiam at 4 PM that day. The team finished the regular season with a record of 13 wins and 1 loss and with an overall record of 15 wins and 5 losses. Our last 3 games of the season were non-league games against the toughest teams in the state at the 2B

level. The idea was to help the team prepare for difficult teams in the state tournament. We played Toutle Lake (Ranked 1st in State), Napavine (Ranked 5th in State), and White Pass/Morton (Ranked 7th in State). All 3 games were close, but we did lose to all of them. The All-League Awards were decided on Sunday, May 18. Abby England, a freshman pitcher, was awarded the Trico League MVP. Randy Martinez was awarded Coach of the Year for the league. La Center had three 1st Team Award Winners: Sam Norris – Infielder, Jessi Weaver – Designated Hitter, and Emily Muffett – Utility Player. We had four 2nd Team Award Winners: Kayla Aguirre – Infielder, Alicen Smith – Outfielder, Charlotte Royal – Outfielder, and Sam Zumstein – Catcher. And we had one Honorable Mention: Amanda Moudy.

The Boys and Girls Track and Field Team finished their 10 team, sub-district meet on Friday, May 16. The girls finished 3rd behind Woodland and White Salmon. The boys finished 2nd behind Woodland. We had 1 Trico Champ from the girls team in the Discus and 7 Trico Champs on the boys team in the 200m, 400m, 800m, 1600m, 3200m, the Javelin, and the High Jump. Fourteen boys and ten girls qualified to move on to the SWW1A District IV Championships on Friday, May 23rd. The top 4 finishers in all events will continue on to the 1A State Championships the following weekend at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, WA.

The Wildcat Equestrian Team had their state competition on May 8-10. We sent four riders to Lynden to compete. Ashlyn Parriman placed 11th in Reining. Kristen Nye and Katelyn Eckert placed 7th in Working Pairs. Kristen Nye placed 7th in Pole Bending. And Kristen Nye, Kately Eckert, Ashlyn Parriman, and Missy Watkins placed 4th in Drill. The girls on the drill team were invited to compete in a first-ever Oregon vs Washington Regional Equestrian Meet. Unfortunately, due to Kristen Nye shipping out to boot camp, the team will not be able to participate in this event on June 26th. La Center was well represented at the state meet with these riders.

**Teachers** – I would like to' thank' Michelle Heckroth for her time at LCHS as one of our science teachers. Michelle is resigning at the end this year. She has done an outstanding job teaching Biology and Conceptual Physics to our students. Michelle has been a positive individual, bringing a wealth of information to our students and science department. We will miss her and wish her well on her next adventures.

Also, a big 'thank you' to Amy Neiman, who has done a fantastic job in our science department, teaching Biology and Anatomy/Physiology. We are very excited for her to move into the position of Director of Teaching and Learning for the La Center School District. She is a master teacher, fabulous instructor and will do a great job in her new role. Amy will have a great opportunity and adventure into her new position.

**Congratulations** to John Lambert, business teacher, for receiving the Discover Pathway to Financial Success Grant for $5100.00. The grant is from the Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund on behalf of the Discover Brighter Futures Fund. The purpose of the grant is to enhance financial curriculum being taught in the classroom. Mr. Lambert plans to use the funds to buy supplemental workbooks to further enhance the teaching of finance in the Introduction to Business and Personal Finance classes as well as other classroom supplies for the business program.

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**Students –** We need to brag about Rachel Lee for a minute. This week Rachel learned she was accepted into the WA Aerospace Scholars summer residency program. On the website it says that only about 160 students in the state of WA qualify to participate in the program. Here is the link:

http://www.museumofflight.org/washingtonaerospacescholars

To get accepted, she first had to get accepted into phase one which I shared with you last fall. Then she had to complete the online course series all year and perform at a high enough level to get accepted into phase 2: the summer residency. Here is a synopsis of the summer residency program:

- Phase Two is a six-day summer residency experience hosted by the Museum of Flight. To earn a space in this summer residency experience, students are expected to meet deadlines and show mastery of the Phase One curriculum; up to 160 of the top-performing students will be invited to participate in the Summer Residency based on their academic performance in Phase One. During the residency students are guided by professional engineers and educators as they design a human mission to Mars, tour engineering facilities, receive briefings from experts in the field, and compete in hands-on engineering challenges.

Activities will include:

- Mission to Mars team project
- Hands-on engineering activities involving model rockets, robotic rovers, landers and payload lofting
- Briefings by astronauts, engineers, scientists and aerospace experts
- Tours of various engineering facilities
- Enrichment activities

Rachel Lee is one amazing young woman. She's going to Mars!

**More about Scholarships!**
These students got the WA State Opportunity Scholarship ($22,500 over 5 years):

**Tony Sandoval** (he said that with this scholarship he has full-tuition + all of room/board except around $1,000 covered at UW)

**Paige Turk**
**Samantha Adams**

That puts the **grand total** for our graduating seniors currently at:
**$1,348,690**

Nice work to Timm DiStefano, Kristin Krem and the entire LCHS team!

Also, we have five students that Clark College has identified who will complete their Associate's degree and receive their high school diploma. They are:
Mariah Geiger (La Center homeschool student completing her diploma through Clark)

Our Seniors:
Emily Norris
Samantha Norris
Erin Ratliff (with honors)
Miranda Stoddard (with honors)

**LaFort! ! !**
Students from LCHS and Fort Vancouver met a couple of weeks ago at Fort Vancouver High School to continue to plan the sister school activities, building relationship and learn about the culture of the two schools. Learning about diversity and connecting our two schools has been exciting. The students came up with the name for the gatherings as the "La Fort" teams. They plan on bringing several of our sports teams, choir and band, and Leadership students together in a positive event.

Here is the link to a slideshow Ryan Lowe created on Google Drive. Enjoy.
LC Fort Slideshow.mp4

The second meeting was to bring the Fort Vancouver High School students to La Center High School and learn trust building activities with the high ropes Challenge Course. The following pictures capture just some of the fun and challenges both groups shared by working together. Thanks to Shawn Link and Brian Zylstra for taking all the students through this great experience!

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Patton
Principal