Bobcat News
June 16, 2009

What a wonderful school year this has been. When reflecting over this past year, we are filled with many positive memories, student success stories, community involvement, staff goals were accomplished and major gains in student awareness in life and learning skills. Data from a student survey shows that in all grades students feel safe at La Center Elementary. DIBLES testing shows improvement in many classrooms, the Special Education program is developing a new class for struggling primary students that could benefit from longer periods of individualized instruction, while the Bobcat Ambassadors are recognizing the importance of volunteering, leadership, responsibility and good citizenship.

Our community of teachers, parents, classified personal and volunteers are seen working with children throughout the day in all corners of the building. Classrooms are busy with a stronger sense of student to student learning taking place rather than teachers lecturing to the whole and looking for one answer. We are becoming much more aware of ways to raise the cognitive demand within the classroom through the use of facilitating questions with an awareness of our choice of words and questioning techniques. Student's interaction continually increases and class discussions are very exciting.

I would also like to give a big "Thank You" to the PTO Board and its many volunteers. They have put countless hours into the many programs and student activities throughout the school year. I have shared my concerns with the PTO of the increase of students enrolled in the Free and Reduced School Lunch program. This shows the rising concern of students need for shoes, coats, school supplies, etc. throughout the year. The PTO heard this concern and has set aside a portion of their budget for the school to use to help meet the needs of these children. Wow! Tears came to many of us when we heard what they want to do for 'our children of La Center.' They are also talking of having a Swap Meet in August, before school starts, to exchange clothes and help get 'new' clothes on children. What an amazing group of individuals! We are so blessed.

Also, I want to thank Dr. Mansell and the Elementary Staff for a wonderful five years as their Elementary Principal for K-5. As we continue to grow and our responsibilities change, it is always a privilege to be so supported and part of a wonderful educational team as this. As many of you know the elementary will divide into a Primary and Intermediate school next year. I will be turning the K-3 grades over to a wonderful administrator, Scott Lincoln as building principal. I have all the confidence that he will serve this school, community and district with the utmost professionalism and care. I look forward to working with the students and staff in 4th and 5th grade Intermediate school while learning how to support the entire district in writing and implementing the grants and helping with the Title programs K-12. This will be a wonderful experience and I thank Dr. Mansell and the Board for their continual support.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Patton
Elementary Principal

BOARD REPORT: JUNE 2009

It is eerily quiet at La Center Middle School at the moment. I miss the constant noise of students chatting in the hallways with the occasional bellow and scream from students who are not behaving themselves. However, the peace and quiet is also a good thing as it gives me a chance to recharge the batteries and reflect on a wonderful year. I can say that this was by far the best year that I have had in education. We had a sixth grade group that was ready to learn from day one, a seventh grade class full of good kids who were respectful to their teachers and worked hard and finally the outstanding eighth graders who were exemplary leaders and diligent in their studies all year. Quite the year to remember.

I pretty much lived at the middle school for the first two weeks of June. We had the choir and band concerts, the travel fair and the National Junior Honor Society presentations. All were well attended by parents. I was impressed by the large number of students who met the Honors Society qualifications. That is a good sign for LCMS.

The last couple of days were filled with assemblies and other activities. Many awards were given out but we could have handed out more as so many students achieved this year. The Moving Up Assembly was an emotional day for all as we said goodbye to the 8th graders. They will be missed.

With the students out the door, we have begun planning for next year. Twelve of the LCMS staff signed up to be a part of the district's Lab Classroom Project. This will involve team members planning lessons together and having lab classroom teachers test out the lessons and give feedback from there. We have already done something similar to this at LCMS with our lesson studies so we are excited to take it to the next level. I was thrilled to see so many of our staff members sign up for this year long commitment. They have worked hard this year and were willing to try new things in order to improve their profession and I couldn't be prouder.

I am looking forward to wrapping up the year and going on vacation. I am heading home to the Land of OZ (Australia) to see family and friends. It has been over two years so it will be a fun adventure, even in the middle of winter. I look forward to seeing you all next year.