Hawk Report June 2011

June is an interesting month as an administrator. When you start in September you think that June is so far away. Then when it actually gets here it becomes the craziest month of the year as there is so much to accomplish in a short period of time. Then before you know it is over and you are left with an empty school. I run through the broadest range of emotions in this month. It is a roller coaster ride that we will all sign up for again next year.

June is a month to reminisce and be grateful for the past school year. First of all I would like to thank my incredible staff. We work closely together to collaborate on new ideas and find strategies to help all kids. When others might ask, "Why would we do that? This staff says "Why not?" I was impressed by the high level of enthusiasm that they still had for their work in June as this can be a time when staff and students are tired and can go through the motions of school.

I would also like to thank the classified staff from Jan and Cathy in the office who bail me out on a regular basis to our hard working custodial crew who do their job with efficiency and with little fanfare. I thank them for all the things that I know they do and for all the things that I don't. They are such an important part of the team.

There was a great deal of celebrations at the end of the year. The band and choir held two marvelous performances. Just when you think they can't get any better, they raise the level again. Thanks to Mr. Calabrese and Mrs. Slinkard for all of their hard work.

Finally I would like to thank the wonderful 8th grade class. In my opinion, the success of the school depends on the maturity and attitude of the 8th grade class and this group did not let me down. This is the third outstanding class in a row so the high school is in good shape for years to come. It was hard to let this group go.

The last two days of school was also a busy time of celebration. We had two awards assemblies and had our field day again. The end of year awards are always fun as so many students are recognized for their hard work. Even better is the

response that their peers give them. My favorite part is watching students realize that they are about to get an award or when the student is completely surprised. The emotions run from surprised, to confusion and shock to joy. It is priceless. I have included in this report the major award winners.

Perfect Attendance (including no tardies) – Jacob Latham

6th Grade Students of the Year – Matthew Lincoln and Lexi Darienzo

7th Grade Students of the Year - Charlotte Royal and Walker Wright

8th Grade Students of the Year – Alex Tetz and Onesimo Sebastian

Faculty Award (Awarded to two students who have attended LCMS all three years) – McKenzie Link and Alex Tetz

Principal Award: Kevin Mairose and Markayla Richmond

Duane Hamlin Award (Music)

Choir: Haley Wilson and Hailey Macho

Band: Blake Johnston

To receive these awards is a great honor as there were so many worthy candidates.

The last day of school was difficult. I managed to keep the tears back which naturally is part of my tough Aussie temperament. The other reason that I did not cry is that I think my tear ducts were blocked by marshmallow after being turned into a Rice Krispie Treat the day before. Not something I would recommend doing again. Many of the staff, however, could not keep back the tears which shows how much they love and appreciate the kids they work with. We do enjoy when the kids come back from the high school to visit. We were able to give the 8th graders the send off they deserve, promote our current 6th and 7th grade classes and welcome in the new 6th grade class. I am excited for the 6th grade class of

2011-12. I have met them a few times and have made a great impression. It is a symbolic moment to see the 8th grade class walk out the door and see the 5th grade class move into the bleachers. And so goes the circle of life at LCMS. I look forward to another great year in September which if you ask Mark is only 67 days away.

Have a great summer.

Go Hawks!

David Cooke

Principal

La Center Middle School