HAWK REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2009

In the words of our football coach, Karl Johnson, it is a great day to be a Hawk. We are off to a fantastic start to the school year. The students are making good choices and working hard. We have appreciated the efforts of our returning students to make our 6th graders feel welcome at school. The 6th graders have responded by being responsible for their actions and their learning. It has been a smooth transition for them. I enjoy watching the way that our students conduct themselves at school.

LCMS is fortunate to have a community that supports our students and teachers. Our Welcome Back BBQ was our largest ever with almost 500 people in attendance. When we got to the end of the line, I looked in the hot dog container and saw only two hot dogs left. I must admit that I did abuse my power as principal and ate an extra hot dog. This is a character flaw that I am working on. I appreciated the many positive remarks from parents about how our school has made their child's transition to middle school a success. This included the fine work done by the Leadership students who made sure that students knew where to go to class, how to read their schedule and most importantly how to open their lockers.

We are thrilled with the number of students who have enrolled for athletics this fall. We have over 60 boys and girls in football, four volleyball teams totally 50 players and 25 students in cross country. The coaches have done a great job with their players instilling the importance of character, pride in themselves, school and community, and a strong work ethic. I enjoy game day where all the players dress up in their best clothes. The football players wearing a collared shirt and a tie look fantastic. The students understand that they must balance the roles of student- athlete and the majority of students are getting good grades.

LCMS has enjoyed getting to know our new staff this year. Mr. Prewitt brings his great sense of humor and skills to the PE program. Mrs. Lock has gone back into the classroom and from my observations it looks like she never left. Ms. Haynes is a new teacher this year from Portland State University and is doing a great job with our 8th grade Special Education students.

Our staff began working on the Lab Classroom Project led by teachers Andrea Austad and Kristy Schneider. The focus in our study groups is:

- Releasing teacher control in the classroom to improve the flow of information
- Building student centered classrooms

Most of our work will be based on a lesson study format. We started with lesson studies last year and are eager to build on this. LCMS will also be having an afterschool workshop throughout the year focusing on analyzing student work. The teachers are enthusiastic after our gains last year and are looking forward to further collaboration with each other.

A reminder to all parents that we will be having our Parent Teacher Conferences from Tuesday October 13th to Thursday October 15th. We hope to see all of you there.

Go Hawks
David Cooke
Principal
La Center Middle School