Bobcat News
May 18, 2009

Greetings,

Spring is here and we are busy as bees! The 'hummmm' of the school is going great, as we look at the successes of the school year and putting plans in place for next year. Kim Hollopeter will be moving to 3rd grade and Colleen Johnson will take Kim's place for one section of Kindergarten and the roll of Effective Learning Coach. Congratulations to them!

Our Math Leadership Team has completed the adoption process and will recommend to the IMC committee their findings this coming week. It will then go to the board for approval. I want to thank the Math Leadership Team of teachers, parent and administration for their commitment to the process and we value their recommendation.

During our early release last Friday, the elementary staff had an opportunity to complete the SLIC plan. We are focusing on three areas of improvement over the next couple of years. These areas are: 1) Increase collaboration focused on improving instruction, 2) Students show growth in Math on state and district assessments and 3) Increase student learning. These target goals involve many strategies (activities) and the need for supporting evidence (assessments) to make sure we are successful in these three areas. The SLIC plan is being finalized and will be submitted to the board next month.

The Spring Celebration was a hit! Approximately 700 parents, students and patrons visited the elementary campus to greet our staff, visit community organizations and enjoy a free hot dog dinner! A thank you to the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, La Center Community Library, PTO, Kidz Art, Dream Team Dental, and the 6th grade event that takes place at Cispus for setting up their displays for the community. Also, thank you to Winnie for helping set everything up and Steve Frucci, Linda Tuttle and Denise Yurecko, for helping grill the hot dogs and organize the food line. The Bobcat Ambassadors and staff also helped hand out food, wipe down table and greet people at the front door. Pictures of the event were posted on our district web-site. Lots of happy faces!

Kindy Orientation took place Thursday, May 14th. It was well attended and our Kindy teachers did a great job of sharing the important items their child would benefit from if they have mastered specific skills, such as able to zip backpacks, open milk cartons and go to the bathroom without an adult, prior to the start of next year. They also included the items that the Kindy teachers will assess each entering Kindy child, such as counting to 30, identifying various shapes, letters and their sounds, holding a pencil and writing their name. This assessment will take place June 4th and 5th. Parents will get information on what areas their child needs to work on over the summer including a packet of information, work samples and ideas to help them at home.

A super 'Thank You' to the PTO volunteers for making Teacher Appreciation Week so special. They were so thoughtful and gracious to the staff, that everyone felt special.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Patton
Principal

HAWK REPORT: MAY 2009

Are we there yet?

It is hard to believe that we are only days away from the end of year. What a wonderful time it has been for staff and students. I will remember this year fondly. Life is not slowing down in May at La Center Middle School and we have a lot to celebrate.

This month La Center Middle School has been featured in the press. On this occasion it did not require a foolish man running around in a Batman suit. Our honor society was featured in the YWCA Clark County newsletter for our food drive for the Safe Choice Domestic Violence Shelter. We raised 2,350 food items last year. Thanks again to Lynn Cooke and Todd Brothers for coordinating the drive. Kristy Schneider was also featured on the OSPI website as she attended a reception at the Governor's mansion honoring her nomination as one of the three science nominees for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching (PAEMST). The winner had not been announced at the publication of this report. Also, the GEMS (Space Science curriculum) guide that Mrs. Schneider and Mrs. Austad field tested a few years ago has been published.

The leadership class has been busy again. They have made a real emphasis on community service this year and the students have enjoyed the opportunity to serve. They also went to the OSHU Pyjama Jam where they were part of the OHSU Candlelight Vigil. They also went to the Share House to pack back packs for homeless children so that they would have food and supplies for the weekend. The most exciting thing about these activities was that these opportunities were found and coordinated by our students.

This month Mrs. Den Doer and the STARS students coordinated the Health Fair in our gym. Students were exposed to opportunities to improve their health and fitness and be educated on the affects of alcohol and tobacco. Twenty vendors set up booths at the fair. LCMS would also like to thank the Lions Club for donating $500 to the fair.

We are in full swing to welcome our incoming 6th graders. I have spent time in the classrooms and lunchtime getting to know our new students. The leadership students have also been doing activities with the kids to help them in their adjustment. We also had our parent orientation on May 26th. The incoming class has many, many questions about school. The number one concern as always is lockers. The students will also get to meet their teachers and have a lesson when we have our Moving Up Day on June 8th.

Mr. Holmes will be very pleased with the success of our middle school athletes. Seventy seven students committed to track for the entire season. We won one meet and have been right there in the others. I am thrilled to see so many kids coming out to work on their fitness, have fun and wear the blue and white proudly. We are also having our first school wide PACER championship. The PACER is a PE activity which requires the students to run the width of the basketball court as many times as they can. The longer the student runs, the less time they have to get across the court. There are many kids who have gone over 100 in the PACER so we

thought it would be good to see who can run the longest. Having run the PACER I know that it won't be me.

Mrs. Slinkard did another great job coordinating the annual Talent Show. Twenty two 'artists' performed. I am always impressed by how the quietest kids around school can perform in front of the whole school and pull it off. Our kids never seem to amaze me.

On May 29th, LCMS students will be presenting posters and activities highlighting work with GK-12 Fellows, Dan Crowther and Jen Blane, who have been working in our classrooms. Students will display posters at WSU Vancouver and be able to tour the environmental education department on campus. Students in Mrs. Schneider's and Mr. Ecklund's science classes have been involved in this project all year.

Mrs. Austad and Mr. Shucka were chosen to do Item Writing for the upcoming Measurements of Student Progress. They will meet with other teachers statewide in June. Congratulations to both for their selection.

This month our teachers completed their third peer observation. This time they picked any teacher that they wanted to visit. This time some teachers chose a peer from another school. Thanks to Greg Cooper and Rob Bucklin for allowing some of our staff members to visit their classrooms. This has been an effective tool to increase communication and collaboration among staff and to glean new ideas to implement in their own classrooms. The math department also completed their third lesson study with Mr. Shucka as the guest teacher. Our team included Mrs. Austad, Mr. Holland, Mrs. Cooke, two principals from nearby schools, Matt Karlsen from ESD 112 and I. Everybody gave Mr. Shucka great feedback and changes were made for the second lesson. It was amazing to see how some minor changes in a lesson can have such a dramatic result on student learning. The lesson study will be the major focus of professional development next year as it provides teachers with feedback and practical solutions to improve instructional practice.

May is always field trip time. The Honors Society went to Astoria to visit the Maritime Museum. Mr. Westerberg's class took the train to Tacoma to go to the Museum of Glass and the University of Washington- Tacoma Campus.

We are looking forward to a smooth landing in June after a fun ride in the 2008-09 school year. We have many activities planned to say goodbye to a spectacular year. Look forward to telling you about it in my next letter.

Go Hawks,

David Cooke
Principal
La Center Middle School

La Center High School May board report 2009

Curriculum- The high school PLC (professional learning community) has determined that we will be looking at assessment as next year's focus for improvement. We will begin with a book study early in the summer facilitated by a community forum on Moodle. Currently a book entitled "How to give effective feedback to your students" by Susan Brookhart looks to be the chosen work. We have requested instructional materials for German I and Mr. Zylstra is gathering parents and students to help review these materials for a summer adoption.

Project Study completed their proposal and design plans for an interpretive sign focusing upon beneficial plant life in the Southview Heights Wetlands. After completing their design, including content and specs. it was given to Jeff Sarvis with the City of La Center. He will deliver this to a sign company of the City's choosing to begin construction of a large scale interpretive sign.

Congratulations to our WASL math students and Mr. Cooke. We have our results back from the state on the student COE's (collection of evidence). This is an alternative pathway to show mastery of the math standards outside of the WASL test. 16 of 17 students met standard and now can graduate with a certificate of academic achievement.

Athletics- Spring sports are in the championship stretch for most teams. The baseball team finished with their first district playoff appearance in many years.

Softball is competing currently in the district playoffs.

Girls golf finished 2nd in the district tournament, the highest finish ever for that sport and they qualified one individual, Melanie Hodge, for the state tournament.

Boys soccer made it to the first round of the state playoffs but lost 3-1 to a private school, Charles Wright, from the Seattle area.

Boys track finished fourth in the league championships, up two spots from last year, and are competing this Friday in the district championships.

Girls track won the Trico league championships for the second year in a row and are likewise competing at districts this Friday and should place in the top two. Both teams should qualify individuals for the state tournament next weekend in Spokane.

Finally, the equestrian team completed another very successful season sending multiple riders to the state championships. I might add that this team was also voted the sportsmanship award by their district peers!

Teachers- Mrs. Grotte's 1st period Women's Studies class completed a "survival item" drive for the YWCA's battered women's shelter over the last couple of weeks. The class personally delivered all of the items to the shelter last week and this was a very rewarding experience for our students!

Project Study's permit for a 10,000 RSI (Remote Site Incubator) for coho eggs was approved via the WA State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. This allows us to move forward with Fish First to construct our first site in our endeavor to restore a salmon run in Brezee Creek.

The annual Life Skills Plant Sale was a huge success. We had more community members attend this year than in the past, as well as school staff. The process of growing the plants at the greenhouse work experience and selling them to customers, allowed the students to continue to gain self-confidence and employment skills to prepare them with valuable independent living skills.

Students- The Life Skill students incorporated video clips of them working in their work experiences into their student led conferences. This was a positive experience for both students and their parents. Special thanks to Greg Cooper for videotaping the students.

FCCLA collected 34 pints of blood on May 5th. 41 donors presented, 7 were deferred and 16 donated for the first time. Becca Andre, Noel Kruse, Megan Dunn and Emily Rengo did an especially good job organizing and running the drive.

The senior class has selected Tanner Roggenkamp to be a speaker at graduation. The class listened to three seniors auditions and voted Tanner as their choice. The staff will now select another senior to be their choice to speak along with Tanner.

Clark County Skills Center honored senior Brittney Teel as the April 2009 Skills Center Student of the Month. She is enrolled in the Skills Center Restaurant Management/Culinary Arts program.