



LC Achieves! Newsletter November 2021 Edition

Happy Thanksgiving!

I'm writing you to give an update as to what is happening around the La Center School District. These articles are published for our School Board Meetings each month. We pull information and send it your way to help keep you informed about the learning and activities around the district.

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoy your time with family!

Sincerely,

Peter Rosenkranz, La Center Superintendent

Elementary School Science Collaboration - One of our 4th grade teachers, Mrs. Tappan, is working on a fellowship with Rebecca Morris and Kristy Schneider to develop a cohesive science curriculum within the district and get the Green Shed up at the high school up and running. The science teachers from the elementary, middle and high schools have brought their students together in collaboration and inquiry to work toward the common goal of improving our local environment. Recently, the entire fourth grade joined Rebecca Morris' environmental studies class to go on a walking field trip down to the La Center wetlands as part of an ongoing local water monitoring project. Mrs. Tappan said the goal of the walking field trip experience is to, "Build mentor/mentee relationships between the high schoolers and elementary students, as well as prepare for some students to help implement the Green Shed up at the high school by the end of the school year."

Stuff the Bus Food Drive – Our schools once again this year collected food for the “Stuff the Bus” food drive. These food donations go to our local food banks. The district partnered with KWRL to see which school could load the most food onto a school bus. Donations were brought in the week of November 15-19. District wide we brought in over 7,000 pounds of food to help our local community.

High School Mental Health Concerns - With the holiday seasons quickly approaching, this is the time of year we typically see students start acting out and/or show signs of mental health concerns. The counselors reached out to Susan Peng-Cowan, Behavioral Health Navigator for Prevention & Youth Services from ESD 112. She did a wonderful job presenting a mini workshop on QPR for our staff at this month's staff meeting. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, Refer and is a method developed specifically to detect and respond to anyone emitting suicide warning signs and can be useful in far broader applications of awareness of mental health disorders.

QPR is applied as a universal intervention for anyone experiencing emotional distress. A youth experiencing a personal crisis may very well send interpersonal distress signals/warning signs and would benefit from help of some kind, but may not be considering suicide as a solution. If we can begin to spot signs and signals, then staff have a process to communicate with the counselors and administrators, so we can put into action appropriate support systems and communicate with parents/guardians.

Teachers were taught how QPR works from a foundation of knowledge, compassion, and understanding. When properly used, we hope to help students before they go down the path of thinking they 'don't matter', or that 'the world would be a better place if they weren't there', or 'things are so bad they don't see any other way out' of a difficult situation. Early intervention could prevent the development of suicidal thoughts and feelings down the road from a current crisis they are dealing with.

Just as in CPR training, QPR helps all citizens who have gone through this training respond to life threatening situations. The program teaches us to lean into the other person's pain, not lean away from it. So using QPR is an act of courage, not avoidance of the topic of suicide. We hope to continue to support students and recognize the warning signs.

Carnegie Math Curriculum and MATHia - This past week, Mrs. Landerholm and I (Carol Patton) met with Mark Christiano, the representative of Carnegie Math and MATHia, for a couple of hours to discuss the new math curriculum and look at what MATHia provides. MATHia is an online program that acts almost like an artificial intelligence for the students practicing their math skills. It will interact with a student's response, and if need be, will guide or redirect the path the student is taking, with suggestions, options, and finally a clear path to solving the problem. Then another math problem like it will be presented to solve in order to reinforce the learning objective. This repeats in a variety of ways until the student can demonstrate they understand the concept.

I appreciate that we will be able to collect the data from this program by subject areas. When reviewing the high school's data with Mark, he stated that currently we are doing exceptionally well, far above what he has seen schools do at the launch of the program. Currently, 99% of the students enrolled in a math class and on MATHia are actively participating and 63% of the

students are staying on track with independent learning. I hope this continues to improve and students find this to be a helpful tool in their learning.

Careers in Science - This pilot program has been very exciting for our students. They have just completed careers in the environmental unit and have moved to a veterinary science unit. This week the students are learning the responsibilities and opportunities within a veterinarian's job description. Students met with Dr. Vance, a veterinarian, over Zoom for this flipped internship. Students were taught how to create medical files for pet patients and then divided into small groups to discuss and handle a pet with a medical scenario. Dr. Vance met with each group and discussed their progress on the treatment plan they wanted to use. The flipped classroom is providing students with direct learning experiences with a local vet as these real life experiences are exciting for our students.



Veterans Day Celebration - I love how La Center High School recognizes our veterans. Once again, at our last football game, both teams marched in with flags, music playing, and we gave a moment to honor those that served our country. One gentleman, a grandpa, there to watch his grandson from Montesano, was in tears before he walked out with the teams. He shared with me that he was a Vietnam veteran. When he arrived back on our shores, people were less than kind to him. This moment meant so much to him, he couldn't hold back the tears of joy. I appreciate all that our students, teachers, and community members do to recognize our veterans each year. It really was heartwarming.



Mr. James Cameron, our MS/HS Band Director, is 2nd veteran in on the left. Thank you all for your time in our military branches.

Report from the Athletics and Activities Department

Boys Golf

We had four students represent the Wildcats at the 1A District 4 Championship on Thursday and Friday, October 21 & 22. Congrats to Adam Denney, Nick Ehrich, Blaine Joner, and Logan Smith for qualifying to Districts. In order to compete on Friday, golfers need to score in the top half of the field. Blaine Joner was able to accomplish that feat.



Football

Unfortunately, the team fell to Montesano in the District Crossover game on Friday. They had a great season winning the Trico League Title for the 3rd year in a row. We had a wonderful ceremony that honored Veterans prior to the game.



Girls Soccer

The Wildcats are the 1A District 4 Champions! They defeated Montesano by a score of 2-1 on Saturday.



Volleyball

The Wildcats placed 3rd in the 1A District 4 Championships. (Team photo attached) They had to win 2 matches on Saturday and they did! They defeated White Salmon by a score of 3-0, and then they defeated Montesano for the 3rd place match and a trip to state by a score of 3-0. The team will compete in the 1A State Championships on Friday, November 12 at the Yakima Sundome. Their first match will be against Zillah.



Girls Swim



Cross Country

The Girls team placed 3rd at the 1A State Championships on Saturday, November 6. (Podium photo attached) The Boys placed 12th. Joe Blanshan was an individual medalist, and he placed 12th.

Congrats to the team and for bringing home some state hardware!

