



School Leadership Award Recipients



Ione and Karl Felgenhauer

The Washington Association of School Administrators will be honoring Karl and Ione Felgenhauer at a special recognition ceremony on April 19 at West Valley High School. Local school districts nominate community leaders for their contributions to schools, students and their communities. The Felgenhauers were instrumental in establishing the Liberty Community Education Foundation in 2007. The Foundation provides scholarships for graduating seniors and teacher grants for innovative projects.

To-date, the Foundation has raised over \$250,000 for endowments and scholarships. The organization has provided innovative grants to fund the development of visual and performing arts at Liberty as well as instructional technology, health and fitness programs, and equipment.

The Liberty Lancer

April 2013

Message from the Superintendent

State School Performance Ranking Gives Liberty Positive Marks

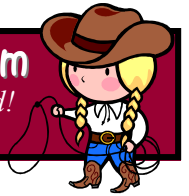
The State Board of Education is now using a new controversial method of grading school performance. This new method is called the Achievement Index and has some school district officials concerned about its ability to realistically rate actual school performance, although Liberty's ranking has been well received.

The Achievement Index uses four identifiers to rate performance: 1) achievement of non-low income students, 2) achievement of low-income students, 3) achievement vs. peers in other similar schools, and 4) improvement from previous year.

The index uses a five-tier rating including exemplary, very good, good, fair, and struggling to rate individual schools. Liberty High was rated "Exemplary" in 2012 measured by sophomore class High School Proficiency Exams. Liberty Elementary/Junior High was rated "Good" through the 2012 Measurement of Student Progress for grades 3-8. Although the high school scored very highly in most areas, last year's sophomores scored extremely well in both reading and writing. The elementary/junior high showed strength in the areas of science and math.

Kindergarten Roundup - Friday, April 26, 9:30am

*All 2013-14 kindergarteners and their parents are encouraged to attend!
Please call 509-245-3211 ext. 2 for more information.*



Ms. Neihart to Retire After 23 Years

Ms. Linda Neihart will retire effective at the end of the school year following 23 years in public education. Ms. Neihart began her professional life in the financial industry and later became a human resources manager in the manufacturing and retail realm. In 1990 she received a Master's in Education from Whitworth College and substituted in the greater Spokane area for two years while owning and operating a restaurant.



Ms. Neihart's decision to retire follows earlier announcements by both Ed and Judy Foster, who have served Liberty students for 36 and 38 years, respectively.

In 1992 Ms. Neihart began teaching at Liberty and has taught grades 3, 4, 5, 3/4 combination, and 4/5 combination classrooms. Her straightforward, no-nonsense approach to teaching has become a hallmark at Liberty Elementary. Linda's students consistently do very well on the state's Measurement of Student Progress assessments and consistently surpass the state average in both reading and math for grade 3.

When asked what she will miss most about teaching, her immediate response was, "The kids." She shared how much fun it has been watching them grow academically and how her classes surprise her in some new way each and every year.

Ms. Neihart's new chapter of life will bring some travel to visit family and friends and full-time responsibilities as daughter, mother, and grandmother. Best wishes, Ms. Neihart. Your Liberty family will miss you dearly!

Liberty Lancer

The Liberty Lancer is published during the academic year by Liberty School District. The Lancer is published to provide current information about school district sponsored and co-sponsored events, student and educator recognition, as well as other news of interest to our school community.

Comments, questions or suggestions should be sent to the Superintendent.

April 2013

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Upcoming Board Meetings

All meetings are held at 7:00 PM
in the Elementary/Junior High Library

Thursday, April 25

Thursday, May 23

Thursday, June 27

Thursday, July 25

Certified and Classified Employee Weeks

Liberty School District is rich with excellent employees! Across Washington State during the week of March 11-15, school districts celebrated Classified Employee Week. The week of May 6-10, districts will recognize certificated employees during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Without our valuable employees, Liberty School District would not be where it is today. If you have a moment, take time to say thanks to one of our staff members for what they do help all of our students be successful.



Thanks to our great team of bus drivers for providing personalized service to the families of Liberty!

Bi-County Music

Congratulations to Mr. Cox and a select group of band and choir students for their performance at the Bi-County Honor Band and Choir concert last month. The following students represented the junior high and high school (pictured at left, l-r, top to bottom): Braden House, Ryan Thayer, Gabe Saywers, Allysha Hubbard, Kathryn Fairfield, Meghan Grumbly, Cassandra Sperlich, Cassie Fairfield, Kaitlyn Marcure, Kayla Massengale, Savannah Mather, Kristin Ince, Stephanie Schilling, Lillie Marsh, Mary St. Pierre. Not pictured: Shareena McGregor. Stephanie Schilling also represented Liberty High School at the All-State Choir concert in Portland last month.



Honor Band & Choir Participants

Liberty Elementary & Junior High

Read-A-Thon Nets over 300,000 Minutes in Annual Event

Liberty Elementary and Junior High turned in over 300,000 minutes read in the annual read-a-thon using a gold rush theme to promote reading. Students kicked off the event with an all-school assembly with a visit from a gold miner and his burro Shooter and featuring staff members performing a dance routine with hardhats and headlamps.



This year's motto: "Go for the Gold!"

Guest celebrity readers included local artist and author Nona Hengen and Otto, the Spokane Indians mascot.

All students who read over 600 minutes during the read-a-thon will earn a free pass to Silverwood Theme Park.



Spokane Indians mascot Otto acts out a scene from a book read by Mr. Day.

Elementary Excellence Awards *for March*



Congratulations to our citizens of the month for March (l-r): Bobby Rogers, Marie Eden, Marlon Powers, Eli Gilkey, Kiana Johnson, Sara Hartman, Kendyl Fletcher, Brandon Holling, McKenna Hodgson. Not pictured: Autumn Flippo

Liberty Jr. Boosters Sponsors Missoula Children's Theatre

Two Missoula Children's Theatre professionals and 65 Liberty actors presented *Beauty Lou and the Country Beast* to students and community members through two performances on Friday, March 22. This annual favorite provides an opportunity for small rural schools to experience the performing arts of drama and music in ways that would be otherwise impossible.

Students in grades K-12 are welcome to audition and are selected and cast in their roles just four days prior to the performance. Parts range from lead roles that require memorizing lines and solos to group roles for younger students that involve stage presence, singing and dancing. Opportunities are also available for assistant directors and costume/make-up positions.



Beauty Lou and the Country Beast provided a fun and humorous storyline loosely based on the well-known Disney favorite *Beauty and the Beast*.

Sixty-five students in grades K-9 participated in this year's play.

K-8

Dates to Remember

APRIL	
1-5	Spring Break
8	4th quarter begins
11	Class picture day Jr. Boosters Skate Night @ Roller Valley, 6-8pm
15	2-hour late start
16-17	Parent-teacher conferences after school
25	Board meeting, 7pm
26	Kindergarten Roundup, 9:30am (no kindergarten for current students today)

Liberty High School



LHS Future Farmers of America

FFA

Congratulations to our FFA teams for their performances at the Sub-District meet held March 6 at Liberty High School. The following teams qualified for the District event:

Parliamentary Procedure, 1st place—Brittany Breidenbach, Mikayla Cornwall, Aly Tee, Kaitlyn Rambo, Holly Cockle and Macy Cornmesser.

Rituals, 1st place—Kaitlyn Rambo, Bridgette Roll, Nathan Burley, Garrett Green, Marin Ottmar and Meghan Grumbly

Public Speaking, 1st place—Shareena McGregor

Creed, 3rd place—Marin Ottmar

Creed, 4th place—Meghan Grumbly

The District event was held at Liberty on March 27. The following teams and individuals qualified at the District competition and will move to the State level held in Pullman on May 9-12:

Parliamentary Procedure team—1st place; Rituals team—1st place; Marin Ottmar, Creed—1st place; Shareena McGregor, Public Speaking—1st place.

National Honor Society

Congratulations to our newest members of the National Honor Society. Students were honored at an induction ceremony that took place March 14.



This year's inductees for NHS (pictured above, l-r) are: Alaina Curl, Breanna Thieren, Match Burnham, Abby Brown, Alaina Hammond, Shareena McGregor. Not pictured: Bronwyn Doubet, Jake Kasinger and Keith Raab.

Liberty Robotics—"Ultimate Ascent"



The Mechanics of Mayhem had six weeks to design, build and practice with their robot.

The Mechanics of Mayhem was given the rules of the new game and their kit of parts on January 4. They then had six weeks to design, build and practice with their robot. This year's game is called "Ultimate Ascent." The students must shoot or dump Frisbees into scoring goals on the end of the tennis-court-sized playing field. Their robot must also climb a pyramid-shaped tower in the middle of the playing field to score additional points. This year's game presented many challenges in design and troubleshooting, but the students built a working robot that accomplishes all of the tasks set forth in the game.

Over the past four years, this program has generated \$51,000 in grant money and donations, and over 100 students have participated. This year's team is sponsored by the Liberty Community Education Foundation, Liberty School District Boosters, OSPI and Boeing. The Mechanics of Mayhem would like to thank everyone who helped make this season possible.

Upcoming Events

APRIL

- 1-5** Spring Break
- 8** School resumes
- Driver's Education begins**
- 10** Grades 10-11 at Rosalia for Career Fair
- 15** 2-hour late start
- 18** College Color Day
- 24-27** FBLA State



[http://](http://www.LibertySD.us)

www.LibertySD.us



Check out the Liberty website for up-to-date information on school events, athletic schedules & more!

The Liberty High School robotics program is in its fourth season competing in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC). "The Mechanics of Mayhem" team headed off to the Ellensburg Regional on March 20 through 23, where they competed against over 50 other teams from all over the Inland Northwest. Liberty had approximately 35 students work on the robot in some fashion during the build season, and seven qualified to attend the regional event in Ellensburg on the campus of Central Washington University.



Update: The "Mechanics of Mayhem" robotics team returned from the state competition at CWU with a 23rd place finish in a field of about 50 teams. Liberty's robot performed well overall and excelled in its automated or programmed functions. The robotics program is a major placeholder in the high school's career and technical education program.