Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents, Staff and Community members:

This past month we have seen our high school boys’ basketball team come home with a 2nd place trophy in the State 2B tournament, celebrated the successes of our 3rd-8th grade students at the Bi-County Academic Contest and enjoyed Liberty students performing at the Bi-County Honors Band. Along with these accomplishments, we had over 45 students perform in this year’s Missoula Children’s Theatre musical production of “The Little Mermaid.”

Our staff is preparing and gearing up for the last quarter of the year. We are focused on finishing strong and making each day a positive learning experience for our students.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and district. We look forward to seeing you at some of the many events featuring your Knights and Lancers.

Our students are ready and we know they will do great!

Spring Break
April 6-10

Wishing our students and staff a safe and refreshing spring break! We’ll see you Monday, April 13, which is our 2-hour late start day.

Spring Roundup is for incoming kindergartners and their parents.

Join us for some fun activities and tips for getting ready for school!

Please leave younger siblings at home, and be on time so you don't miss the bus ride! If you would like to stay for lunch, the cost is $3.75 for adults and $2.50 for children.

Kindergarten registration is now open. Children must be 5 years of age by August 31 to enroll for next year.

*Current immunization records and a copy of your child’s state-certified birth certificate are required for registration.

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**APRIL 2015 STATE ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE**

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**MAY 2015 STATE ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE**

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**Sheriff’s Corner**

**Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (e-cigarettes)**

Being a parent is the most difficult job there is. As parents, we have to be a “jack of all trades.” We worry about everything when it comes to our kids. We want the best for them and want them to make good choices. We hope they make good choices when we aren’t around.

It’s so much harder being a kid today than when we grew up. Our kids get bombarded from all directions—TV, social media, smart phones, bullying, drugs, alcohol, and peer pressure to name a few. The latest trend among middle and high school aged kids is e-cigarettes.

E-cigarettes, electronic nicotine delivery systems, or hookah pens are delivery systems designed to mimic smoking a cigarette. They produce an odorless vapor that resembles smoke. I’m concerned that e-cigarettes may encourage young people to start smoking, particularly because of their novelty value and the common assumption that they are safe.

E-cigarettes differ from regular cigarettes in several ways. They often come in flavors marketed to young people such as strawberry, watermelon, cherry, or apple, have colorful packaging, and look like a “pen.” They are sold individually at convenience stores, smoke shops and online.

E-cigarettes contain liquid nicotine and not tobacco. The issue surrounding liquid nicotine is that the FDA has not approved its use. The short- and long-term effects are not yet known. Also, e-cigarettes are not being regulated, so some of the brands have been found to contain more nicotine than advertised. Young people who start using e-cigarettes could easily and quickly become addicted to nicotine and progress to smoking cigarettes as well as—or instead of—e-cigarettes.

I want our school community to know that possessing e-cigarettes or any other smoking device or implement on campus is strictly prohibited. Please talk to your child and reinforce the dangers and potential consequences of e-cigarettes. If you are worried about your child or have additional questions or concerns about e-cigarettes or other substance-related issues, feel free to contact me at Liberty: (509) 245-3229 ext. 1.

**Staff Spotlight: Kim Burley**

Mrs. Burley joined the Liberty staff this year as a paraeducator working primarily with elementary LAP reading groups. Join us in learning more about her:

**Background:** I was born and raised in Kansas City and graduated from WSU. My husband & I have been married for 21 years and have three children—all future Liberty grads! Seven years ago, we moved from the Seattle area so that we could raise our kids in a small community environment. It was the best decision we ever made!

**Hobbies:** I enjoy anything outdoors—gardening, hiking, camping, and road trips!

**What do you like most about working at Liberty?** I’m lucky because I get to read with kids all day! It’s a joy to see that spark in their eyes when they understand something or accomplish a goal. I encourage my students to ‘read to learn.’ One of my favorite quotes about reading is by Dr. Seuss, ”The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

My coworkers are not only fun to work with (not a day goes by that I don’t laugh out loud) but also just a good group of people. We work well together which makes it a good environment for everyone. Working at Liberty is a perfect fit for me. I love kids of all ages and try to make a difference in their lives, but often they make a difference in mine.

**Favorite school lunch:** Chili and cinnamon roll day is my all-time favorite!
K-8 Dates to Remember

April (Fairness)
2 Class Picture Day
3 JH ASB activity—FAFB Fun Spot
6-10 NO SCHOOL—Spring Break
13 2-Hour Late Start
14 Grades 6-8 Title IX Survey
  Jr. Boosters Meeting, 5pm
15 Spring Sports Picture Day
16 Jr. Boosters Skate Night, 6-8pm
22 4th Grade Band Preview
24 Kindergarten Roundup 9:30am
27 K-6 Awards Assembly, 2:10
30 Science Fair, 4:30-7:30pm
  Fundraiser Dinner, 5-7pm

Liberty Elementary & Junior High

Elementary Excellence Awards

March

Dates to Remember

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Read-a-Thon 2015

Another successful Read-a-Thon is in the books! Silverwood tickets for those students who read 600+ minutes will arrive toward the end of the school year.

Congratulations to our top readers from each grade level:

K—Christiana Cervantes  7—Robyn Garcia
1—Elijah Bentley        8—Olivia Grumbly
2—Karley Tiegs         3—Viliami Finau
4—Shaley Tiegs         5—Mason Hymas
6—Tanner Schenk

Junior High Excellence Awards—Term 3

8th Grade 4.0 GPA (pictured at left, l-r): Simon Vincini, Olivia Grumbly, Aleah Rydell, (front) Isaak Ottmar

8th Grade Honor Roll (3.5-3.99 GPA): Garrett Baump, Annabelle Bennett, Logan Billington, Catherine Brown, Julia Collins, Jon Denny, Emma Holwegner, Racheal Ince, Annabelle Karlis, Lilian Kay, Levi Kettner, Justin King, Emily Lindquist, Haley Marsh, Bowe Rojas, Evan Smith, Johnathan Stitt

7th Grade 4.0 GPA (pictured at right, l-r, top to bottom): Yekaterina Pyankova, Kolbey Browning, Anabelle Redder, Makenzie DeShazer, Auriana Mitchell, Faith Shinner


Students of the Quarter

Academic

Sean Duncan-Day
Annabelle Bennett

Character Awards

Makenzie DeShazer, Maisie Burnham, Isaak Ottmar, Simon Vincini

Most Improved GPA

Setth McBride, Stacia Johnson, Ethan Trouer, Ayden Eyre, Jenna Garcia, Skylar Gemmell

Lily Kay, Annabelle Bennett and Emma Holwegner represented Liberty Jr. High School at the Bi-County Music concert last month. The girls performed at the INB Performing Arts Center with many other students from area schools.
Character Counts

Each month Liberty School District focuses on a character trait of the month. For the month of April students will be focusing on fairness. The March trait was trustworthiness. Students and staff recognized the following students for displaying the trait of trustworthiness in a variety of ways: Kristin Ince, Kathryn Fairfield, Braden House, Jacki Carrell, and Maxwell Johnson.

Also, congratulations to Ms. Whittall who was selected as Employee of the Quarter by our ASB officers.

March Character Students shown at left: (back row) Braden House, Kathryn Fairfield, Kristin Ince, (inset) Maxwell Johnson, Jacki Carrell

State 2B Tournament

The Liberty Lancers boys’ basketball team qualified for the State 2B Tournament for the second year in a row. The Lancers finished 1st in the NE 2B League and at Regionals.

The Lancers defeated Life Christian and Brewster before falling to Morton-White Pass in the championship game.

Bi-County Music

Congratulations to Mr. Cox and our students for their performance at the Bi-County Honor Band concert last month. The following students represented LHS (pictured at left, l-r): Marybelle Buck, Allysha Hubbard, Kathryn Fairfield, Kristin Ince, Braden House, and James Heer. This group performed at the Inland Northwest Performing Arts Center with other musicians from around the area.

Student Government

Associated Student Body elections will take place during the month of April. Any current ASB member that is interested in being part of the executive ASB board is encouraged to pick up a packet at the high school office beginning on April 13. Elections for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Treasurer will be held on Monday, April 27.

LHS Dates to Remember

April
6-10  Spring Break
13   Late Start
15   FBLA State
16   Spring sports photos
17   College Color Day
18   FBLA State
24   FFA @ Asotin
27   MAP testing
28   MAP testing
29   Grade 11 SBA math
30   Grade 11 SBA math

You can access the most current information on our website at www.libertysd.us. If you have questions about the website or would like something added to the schedule, please contact the office at (509) 245-3229 ext. 1 or email Mr. Fletcher at afletcher@libertysd.us.
Congratulations to our FFA teams for their performances at the Sub-District and District meets held March 11 and 25 at Liberty High School. **Jada Schulken** took 3rd place at Sub-District in public speaking. The Advanced Parliamentary Procedure team earned 1st place at Sub-District and 2nd place at District. Team members include: **Kaitlyn Rambo, Bridgette Roll, Christine Denny, Abby Karlis, Nathan Burley,** and **Lillie Marsh.** The Novice Parliamentary Procedure team earned 3rd at Sub-District and 2nd place at District. Team members include **Lindsay Stern, Alec Fletcher, Matthew Burley, Beau St. John,** and **Tyson Schenk.** Both Parliamentary Procedure teams qualified for FFA State, which will be held in Pullman on May 14-16. Good luck to Mr. Kimble and the entire FFA team!

**Liberty Robotics 2015**

The Liberty High School robotics program is in its sixth season competing in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC). “The Mechanics of Mayhem” competed at two different competitions during the month of March. Liberty had approximately 20 students work on the robot in some fashion during the build season, and seven qualified to attend the regional events.

The team competed at the Auburn Mt. View District competition on February 28, and on March 7 the team competed at the West Valley High School District event and finished 4th. The team was eliminated in the quarterfinal rounds of competition.

**Student Archers Compete for State Championship**

Archers from around Washington State converged on Ellensburg on March 27 to compete in the Washington NASP State Championship. The event was held at Central Washington University in the Nicholson Pavilion Gym. This year’s event included over 900 students representing 35 schools from across the state, including Liberty High School.

Students shot for individual awards for both boys and girls as well as for school team trophies. The high-scoring teams and individuals received trophies and awards, and one team qualified to participate in the National Championship to be held May 7-9 in Louisville, Kentucky. Team members include: **Josh Larsen-Nowland, Tyson Schenk, Alec Fletcher, Eric Erickson, Quentin Rose,** and **Marcus Hammond.** Thank you to all the groups that made archery possible for our students!

**Driver’s Education**

911 Driving School will be offering a spring semester class at Liberty High School. Classes will be held at Liberty in the mornings prior to school from April 14 through May 15. For more information about this program, please contact 911 Driving School at (509) 324-0911.