



The Liberty Lancer

Message from the Superintendent

December 2013

Common Core State Standards to Begin Fall of 2014

As of this fall all but two states in the U.S. have chosen to adopt the Common Core State Standards. These new standards evolved from the American Diploma Project with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other donors. The National Governors Association commissioned the creation of a national math and literacy curriculum, and the group came up with the Common Core State Standards. These new standards are actually a shorter list of standards that emphasize deeper instruction of key concepts.

The primary concern of Common Core critics stems from the federal government dictating what states and local school boards have deemed to be their domain of local control. The standards were approved without an appropriate public comment process. Some states like Massachusetts have determined the new standards are dumbed down compared to their already high standards. Local educators in Washington State are most concerned about the training it will take to get up to speed with the new standards in English language arts and mathematics. The math standards for teachers have changed several times over the course of five years, and now they will need to learn another variation and have kids ready to pass new assessments in the spring of 2015.

The armed forces are behind these types of standards, as military kids move from state to state generally every two years. Common standards will level the playing field for them and prevent the problem of entering a new school to find the curriculum there is exactly what they learned the year before. Learning fewer concepts deeper with much more practical application is not necessarily a bad philosophy.

There has been a great deal of misinformation circulated about the Common Core over the internet. Some state the Common Core was developed by a fascist or communist whose goal is to promote a socialist government. Others state the new standards are just another example of the federal government meddling in the business of individual states using the threat of losing federal funding should the state fail to fall in line.

Washington's 278 public school districts had no choice in the matter as to whether they would adopt the Common Core State Standards. This decision was made at the state level, and students in our state will take computer assessments from the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium a year from this spring. In the meantime, teachers and administrators at Liberty will continue to plan ahead and provide opportunities to learn the new standards and prepare lessons to teach students the skills to be college- and career-ready when they graduate from high school.

SRD Program Receives Sheriff's Unit Merit Award

Congratulations to Sheriff's Deputy Ron Nye for his involvement with the School Resource Deputy (SRD) Program. Deputy Nye and his unit recently received the Sheriff's Unit Merit Award from the Spokane County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Nye and all the SRDs from the area were honored at the annual SCOPE awards banquet held in Spokane. Liberty School District is fortunate to have Deputy Nye as a valuable resource to our students, staff, and community. Deputy Nye splits his time with Liberty and the Freeman School District. We are thankful for all he does to keep our community a safe place for our students.



Deputy Ron Nye

Holiday Concerts

Mr. Cox and the K-4 music classes, 5-12 bands, and 7-12 choir are gearing up for their winter series of concerts. On **December 4**, the band boosters will host the semi-annual Dessert First fundraiser in the high school cafeteria beginning at 6pm. The band concert will follow at 7pm in the high school gym.

The following week on **December 9**, the choir will perform beginning at 7pm in the high school band room.

The K-4 students will wrap things up with their presentation of "The Holly Jolly Pirates of Piñataville" on **December 18** at 2pm in the elementary/junior high gym.

All concerts are free, and community members are welcome and encouraged to attend.



The Liberty bands will kick off the winter concert series in the high school gym on Wednesday, December 4.

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.

December 2013

Board of Directors

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Upcoming Board Meetings

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

Monday, December 30 (5pm)

Thursday, January 30

Thursday, February 27

Thursday, March 27

Liberty Elementary & Junior High Elementary Excellence Awards

for November



Congratulations to our citizens of the month for November, who exemplified the "Character Counts" trait of the month—Citizenship: (top row, l-r) Owen Johnson, Solomon Holmberg, Riley Kelley, Zoë Omlin, Jordan Wanberg, Brooklynn Shelton (bottom) London Foland, Sarah Green, Kimber Kelton, Jacob Holling, Marissa Powers.

Mrs. Fuchs' Class Receives Signed Helmet from Fire District 3



In a gesture of appreciation for the donation raised by Mrs. Fuchs' 5th/6th grade class to support local fire stations, representatives from Fire District 3 presented the class with a signed helmet at a recent assembly.

Archery Instructor Training

On December 6 the E/JH gym will become the training facility for regional health and fitness instructors to learn the finer points of indoor archery. Several years ago Liberty began teaching archery in PE classes once again—to the delight of the students. Older equipment was pulled from storage and straw bales transported to the play fields as targets. Not only did the students become good at shooting arrows, but they had a lot of fun.

In order to promote the sport further, instructor Mike Jydstrup wanted to provide indoor archery for students as well. Newer equipment and targets will be purchased with grant money, and Mr. J hopes to have the new program up and running by the semester change.

K-8 Dates to Remember

DECEMBER

- 4 Dessert First Band Fundraiser, 6pm
- Grades 5-12 Band Concert, 7pm
- 6 Midterm Grading Day
- 9 2-Hour Late Start
- Grades 7-12 Choir Concert, 7pm
- 18 K-4 Holiday Concert, 2pm
- 19 PM Elementary Holiday Parties
- 20 12:25 Release for Winter Break
- 21 1st Day of Winter
- 23- January 3, Winter Break
- 25 Christmas
- 30 Board Meeting, 5pm

Liberty High School

Students of the Quarter

Recently teachers at the high school nominated the following students for student of the quarter: Freshmen—Thomas Canning, Tyler Haas, Braden House, Abby Karlis, and Garrett Spurrell; sophomores—Garrett Green, Meghan Grumbly, Daniel Hircock, Killian Knecht, and Kassie Turner; juniors—Tucker Carey, Eric Erickson, Kain Feltwell, Zach Parker, and Alysha Thomas; seniors—Emily Lehman, Katelyn Marcure, Jared Parkes, Gabe Saywers, Austin Sievers, Katie Stern, and Aly Tee.

Congratulations to Abby Karlis, Aly Tee, Tucker Carey, and Killian Knecht (pictured below, l-r) for being selected as Students of the Quarter for first quarter.



Jodi Carrell (left) won the Lancer Pride award for the first quarter. Congratulations Jodi!

The ASB also recognized Mr. Hardie and Ms. Link as employees of the quarter for Liberty High School.



MAP Testing

Measures of Academic Progress™ (MAP), determines your student's instructional level and measures academic growth throughout the school year in the areas of math and reading. This assessment will be administered three times throughout the year.

The second round of MAP testing will begin on December 16. During the testing week, your student will spend a total of about two hours completing the reading and math tests.

Financial Aid Night

All parents/guardians are invited to Mr. Hammond's annual financial aid night on December 12 at 7pm. Information will be available on how to apply for scholarships and financial aid along with college admissions information. If you would like more information please contact Mr. Hammond at ext 1104.

FFA Tractor Driving

Liberty's FFA sponsored three tractor driving teams who competed at the State-level event in Moses Lake. The following students participated in the contest: Derek Green, Austin Sievers, Kyle DeGon, Matt DeGon, Tyler Haas, Jake Harrington, Dyllian Flaig, and Justin Flaig. Students were split into teams of three with whom they completed a written exam, labeled parts of the tractor, and drove through an obstacle course. The team of Austin, Derek, and Dyllian finished first in State, and Dyllian had the second-fastest obstacle course time in Washington State.



Tractor driving team (l-r): Kyle DeGon, Derek Green, Tyler Haas, Dyllian Flaig, Justin Flaig, Matt DeGon, Austin Sievers, Jake Harrington

LHS

Dates to Remember

DECEMBER

- 4 Dessert First fundraiser, 6pm
Band Concert, 7pm
- 9 2-Hour Late Start
Choir Concert, 7pm
- 10 Knowledge Bowl
- 11 FFA Ag Issues
- 12 Financial Aid Night, 7pm
- 14 ACT @ Liberty
- 16 MAP Testing
- 17 MAP Testing
- 18 MAP Testing
- 19 College Color Day
- 20 Early Release for Winter Break
Office Closes @ 2pm

JANUARY

- 6 School Resumes

Holocaust Survivor Assembly

Last month the student body of Liberty High School traveled to Freeman High School to share in an emotional assembly put on by Pete Metzelaar, who is a survivor of the Holocaust. Mr. Metzelaar spoke to both student bodies for about 90 minutes sharing his experiences as a 7-year-old boy living in hiding. Mr. Metzelaar told numerous stories about his life experiences and how he survived. He referred to these events as "being hunted." KHQ news produced a video on this assembly which can be viewed by clicking this [link](http://www.khq.com/story/23963788/holocaust-survivor-speaking-to-students-i-was-being-hunted). (<http://www.khq.com/story/23963788/holocaust-survivor-speaking-to-students-i-was-being-hunted>)



Holocaust survivor Pete Metzelaar shares his story at a joint assembly with LHS and Freeman HS student bodies.



Eric Erickson

Fall Sports

Congratulations to Eric Erickson who finished 22nd at the State Cross-Country Meet on November 3rd in Pasco with a time of 17:31. This is Eric's second consecutive trip to State. Eric competes for Liberty High School while practicing with the Cheney High School program. Eric had a fantastic season and represented Liberty in a positive manner.



Lancer Basketball Schedule

Updated 11.22.2013, subject to change.

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	GAME ORDER	GAME TIMES
Tue Dec 3	WWVA	Liberty	GJV, BJV, GV, BV	5:00, 6:00(JH), 6:00, 7:30 p
Fri Dec 6	W/C	Creston	BJV, GJV, GV, BV	3:30, 5:00, 6:00, 7:30 pm
Sat Dec 7	Rosalia	Rosalia	BJV, GJV, GV, BV	3:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30 pm
Tue Dec 10	Valley Christian	Liberty (LYVB @ halftime)	BJV, GV, BV	4:30, 6:00, 7:30 pm
Fri Dec 13	*SGS	St. George's	BJV, GJV, GV, BV	4:30(HS), 4:30(Metters), 6:00, 7:30 pm
Sat Dec 14	*Reardan	Reardan	BJV, GJV, GV, BV	3:30, 5:00, 5:45, 7:30 pm
Tue Dec 17	Davenport	Liberty (LYWR @ halftime)	BJV, GJV, GV, BV	3:30, 5:00, 6:00, 7:30 pm
Fri Dec 20	St. Maries	Liberty	BJV, GJV, GV, BV	3, 4:30, 6:00, 7:30 pm
Sat Dec 21	Springdale	Springdale	BJV, GJV, GV, BV	3, 4:30, 6:00, 7:30 pm
Sat Dec 28	SJE	St. John	BJV, GJV, GV, BV	3:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30 pm
Fri Jan 3	*LRS	Liberty (LYBBB @ halftime)	BJV, GJV, GV, BV	3, 4:30, 6:00, 7:30 pm
Sat Jan 4	*NWC	NWC	BJV, GJV, GV, BV	3, 4:30, 6:00, 7:30 pm



Lancer Wrestling Schedule *(Updated 11.06.2013, subject to change.)*

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	WEIGH-IN	DEPART
Sat Dec 7	Davenport Invitational	Davenport	10:00a	8:00 a	6:40a
Sat Dec 14	Liberty Invite	Liberty	10:00a	8:00 a	-
Tue Dec 17	*League	TCP	6:00p	5:00 p	TBA
Fri Dec 20	Winter Warrior Classic	Spokane Convention Center	1:00p	1:00 p	
Sat Dec 21	Winter Warrior Classic	Spokane Convention Center	8:00a	8:00 a	TBA
Mon Dec 23	Tri-County Tournament	Central Valley	9:30a	7:00 a	6:00a
Fri Dec 27	Hanford Winter Cup	Hanford HS	9:30a	8:00 a	5:00a
Mon Dec 30	Freeman Classic	Freeman HS	9:30a	8:00 a	7:25a
Sat Jan 4	Banks Lake Brawl	ACH HS, Coulee City	10:00a	8:00 a	6:00 a