Message from the Superintendent
February 2016

Dear Parents, Staff and Community members

This past month has been filled with a great deal of hard work by our staff and students focusing on transitioning into the new year along with completing the first semester. The students are focused toward their goals and gearing up for a new semester. Our students continue to show great progress with local assessment data along with performing above state averages in the high school PSAT.

The district bond committee has worked diligently to re-run the facilities bond with reductions, while maintaining the central focus of renovating the 1960 portion of the high school and addressing safety as a top priority. Please visit our website for additional information, and remember to vote on or before February 9.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and district. Your partnership and dedication to our students is vital to the success of our community.

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Notice of LCEF Annual Meeting
The Liberty Community Education Foundation’s annual meeting will be Monday, February 22, at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting will take place at the Harvester Restaurant in Spangle and include no-host dinner.

This is a public meeting and all are welcome.

Community Corner
North Palouse Community Food Bank is now on FB! "LIKE" us to have updates on fun events to attend. The Food Bank is centrally located in Fairfield, enabling us to provide for those in the zip codes of 99030, 99039, 99012, and 99018. Please help spread the word the Food Bank is here for those who need it every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 9-11:00am.

Anyone interested in being a volunteer, please contact Sheila Dyer at 283-4250.

XtheTxt
On Tuesday, February 2, the Liberty Booster Club along with Hodgson & Associates will sponsor XtheTXT during halftime of the girls’ varsity basketball game, which starts at 7:30pm. This event raises awareness of the dangers of texting while driving. Students, staff, parents, and community members are encouraged to visit the booth and take the XtheTXT pledge; those who make the pledge will receive a thumb band.

Last year there were over 200 pledges, and the event raised over $2,000 for the Liberty School District Booster Club.
Sheriff’s Corner: Truancy, Skipping or Failing

Parents, does your child seem to be out of control and not wanting to do the things he or she is supposed to do? Does your child have difficulty getting out of bed to go to school? Do you find that once your child does go to school, he or she doesn’t try to do their best or even try at all? Do you feel like you don’t know what to do?

As a parent, I’ve asked myself a couple of these questions before. Sometimes we don’t know what to do. We do know, however, that it’s important for our kids to graduate and get their diplomas, especially in today’s world.

Did you know that under Title 28A of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) there is a law stating your child must attend school and that they must do their best at their studies? Look through Title 28A. You’ll be surprised at some of the laws that exist just for schools.

School attendance is a key factor in your child’s success. Did you know that missing 18 or more school days in a year is considered to be “chronic absenteeism”? This could be an early warning sign that a student may be at risk of dropping out.

Did you know that missing 18 or more school days in a year is considered to be “chronic absenteeism”? There could be many reasons a child misses lots of school. For example, the child may have challenges in or out of school he or she is dealing with. There may be a problem with transportation, health, stable housing, mental health, drug abuse, bullying, or academic challenges. As a parent, this must all be taken into account.

For those parents that have tried everything they can think of to get their child to school and to get them to do their work, there is help. You can petition the courts for help. There are “At Risk Youth” petitions or a “Child In Need of Services” petition (CHINS). There are many other resources for parents dealing with these types of issues with their child.

I recently learned that help may be just a phone call away. Ms. Tracey Crook is the Becca Court Facilitator for the Juvenile Courts. She has access to numerous resources for parents seeking help. Her phone number is (509) 477-2459. She can give direction to resources that may apply to your specific situation.

Remember, we as parents along with Liberty School District want our children to graduate and become successful responsible adults. If you need help, just ask!

STEM Grant Awarded to Liberty School District

The Washington State Library wanted to help school libraries update their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) collections. An advisory committee of teacher-librarians put together 230 STEM book collections from lists of award-winning books. Libraries of all public and non-profit elementary and secondary schools in Washington were eligible. Fifty pre-selected, award-winning STEM booklists were awarded to 120 elementary schools, 55 middle schools and 55 high schools. Liberty School District was awarded books in all three divisions!

Thank you to our great library staff of Mrs. Candy Tusler and Mrs. Barb Cressey for their hard work to win the grant opportunity.
Elementary Character Awards

for January

Congratulations to last month’s Citizens of the Month, who exemplified January’s character trail RESPECT:

(L-R) Tim Vlasov, Chance DeGon, Paige Bethel, Linus Bair, Daniel Nollmeyer, Karlee Swan, Sawyer Olson, Grace Grumbly, Jade Garcia, Erin Cooper, Mekenzie Pestana

New K-6 ELA Curriculum

We have begun our transition into our newly adopted K-6 English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum Wonders. Wonders is a comprehensive K-6 ELA/ELD program designed to meet the challenges of today’s classroom and reach all learners. A wealth of research-based print and digital resources provide unmatched support for building strong literacy foundations, accessing complex texts, engaging in collaborative conversations, and writing to sources. Our 3rd and 4th grade students have been accessing the curriculum since the beginning of the year and other grades are now able to start transitioning within the next few months. Our K-6 staff will attend a training on February 12th to continue to learn more about all of the resources and how the curriculum fits within each grade level.

JH Excellence Awards—Term 2

Honor Roll

8th Grade 4.0 GPA (pictured at right, top to bottom, L-R): Kellan Watson, Sam Nelson, Anabelle Redder, Sara Tarbert, Charlie Johnson, Maisie Burnham, Makenzie DeShazer, Auriana Mitchell, Faith Shinner, Kendyl Fletcher, Not pictured: Yekaterina Pyankova

8th Grade Honor Roll (3.5-3.99 GPA): Aleena Cook, Sean Duncan-Day, Robyn Garcia, Charles Harrington, Jacob Holling, Cory Perryman, Marissa Powers, Taylor Smith

7th Grade 4.0 GPA (pictured above, L-R): Logan Kroll, Carson Tee, Sara Hartman, Olivia Morgan

7th Grade Honor Roll (3.5-3.99 GPA): Jacob Biegert, Hadlee Brown, Maizy Feltwell, Carson Fisk, Kalem Gardiner, Madison Greer, Austen Hubbard, Mackenzie Lauster, Kyle Johnson, Jared Kimball, Dylan Nemeth, Cole Ottmar, Jonah Shrode, Logan Smith, Jesse Turner

Academic Awards

Character Awards

Anabelle Redder, Sean Duncan-Day and Taylor Smith were recognized for displaying the character trait RESPECT.

Sam Nelson, Sara Tarbert, Kyle Johnson and Maizy Feltwell were selected by their teachers as academic students of the quarter.

FEBRUARY (ENCOURAGEMENT)

1  2-Hour Late Start
5  8th Grade Ski Trip
9  JH Field Trip, INB/Roller Valley
11 K-6 Valentine Parties
12 NO SCHOOL
15 NO SCHOOL, Presidents’ Day
18 College Color Day
19 Read-A-Thon Begins
   Midterm Ends
24 Dad’s Donut Day
25 K-6 Awards Assembly, 2:10
25 Board Meeting, 6pm
Each month Liberty School District focuses on a character trait of the month. For the month of February students will be focusing on ENCOURAGEMENT.

During January the student body focused on respect. Students and staff recognized the following students for displaying respect in a variety of ways (pictured at left, L-R): Thomas Redder, Haley Marsh, Thomas Perryman, Makayla Kent, Allysh Hatchard, and Killian Knecht.

The ASB also recognized Mrs. Carr as Employee of the Quarter.

State Testing Requirements

Students graduating in the class of 2016 must pass the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts exam or the reading and writing HSPE, and one math EOC. Students graduating in the class of 2017 and 2018 must meet the graduation cut score on the Smarter Balanced ELA exam, pass a math EOC, and the biology EOC. Students will be notified as to which exam they will be taking. Our staff at the high school continues to do an excellent job preparing our students for these exams. The Smarter Balanced and End of Course Exams will be administered in May. A more specific testing schedule will be released at a later date.

First Semester Honor Roll

We have concluded our first semester for the 2015-16 school year. All students at Liberty have done an outstanding job of learning throughout the first two quarters. Any student who is looking to make a class change should contact Mr. Hammond. Below is the Honor Roll for the first semester.

4.0
Nathan Burley, Meghan Grumbly, Daniel Hircock, Killian Knecht, Marin Ottmar, Devin Billington, Matthew Burley, Katelyn Dillon, Austin Rambo, Thomas Redder, Ashlyn Bartels, Kolbey Browning, Isaak Ottmar, Sam Pritchett

3.50-3.99
Justice Schuman, Maxwell Johnson, Keith Dumaw, Jessica Trotter, Sarah Dillon, Margaret Nelson, Spencer Fox, Kaitlyn Rambo, Kassandra Turner, Bridgete Roll, Willow Ashton, Lillian Marsh, Franklin James, Jacob Potratz, Patrick Paredes, Kristin Ince, Abigail Karlis, Kathryn Fairfield, Haly Lemoine, Chase Burnham, Kyle DeGon, Justin Flaig, Madelynne Flaig, Tyler Haas, Jade Keffler, Christine Denny, Matthew DeGon, Garrett Spurrell, Glen Johnson, Tyson Schenk, Brett Watson, Alec Fletcher, Lindsay Stern, James Heer, Michalea Tee, Jada Schulken, Beau St. John, Aleah Rydell, Annabelle Karlis, Olivia Grumbly, Haley Marsh, Lilian Kay, Justin King, Julia Collins, Garrett Baump, Logan Billington, Ashley Anderson

3.00-3.49
Kaleb Hafner, Jodi Carrell, Allysha Hubbard, Jacob Harrington, Joshua Larsen-Nowland, McKenna Jones, Kayla Massengale, Quentin Rose, Carson Holwegner, Blake Cooper, Morgan Kelly, Trinity Papini, Marybelle Buck, Brandon Holling, Tate Carey, Isaac Branon, Kadia Rinehart, Brandi Thieren, Brianna Wheeler, Heaven Schultz, Jon Denny, Racheal Ince, Bowe Rojas, Makayla Kent, Evan Smith, Emma Holwegner, Emily Lindquist, Tristan Foster, Annabelle Bennett, Andrew Harvey, Ethan Curtis, Levi Kettner
Congratulations to Mr. Braun and the FFA Ag Issues teams. Two teams represented LHS at the annual District Ag Issues event. The team of Isaak Ottmar, Lindsay Stern, and Annie Karlis earned a second place finish presenting on the topic of "Is Irrigating Farmland an Efficient Procedure for Crop Production or a Waste of Water?" This team has qualified for the State event to be held at WSU in May.

The team of Ashlyn Bartles, Garrett Baump, Alec Fletcher, Dustin Dumaw, and Brandi Thieren presented on Farm Subsidies, earning a fourth place finish. They may have a chance to participate at the State level as well.

Best of luck to our FFA members as they begin their run of Career Development events this spring.

Robotics

The Liberty Robotics team #3220 kicked off its season at Eastern Washington University where the students discovered what this year’s game will be. The game is called “Stronghold,” and teams score points by shooting balls at a tower and trying to capture the opponent’s flag. Team #3220 has six weeks to build a robot that will compete at two district contests.

Liberty will compete at West Valley High School March 4-5 and at Central Washington University March 18-19 for a chance to qualify for the district championships.

Approximately fifteen students will work on the robot to get it competition-ready.

Lancer Wrestling

February brings out the best for our wrestlers. The Lancer Wrestling team is led by Head Coach Adam Thies and assistants Braden Davis and Matt Hafner. All of our wrestlers are looking to make the trip to the Mat Classic state meet again this year which takes place February 19 and 20 at the Tacoma Dome.

The District wrestling tournament will be held at Liberty High School on February 6 beginning at 11:00am. The regional wrestling tournament will be held February 13 at Reardan High School.

We wish the best of luck to our wrestlers!

All-State Honors

HS Football

The Associated Press’ 2015 all-state high school football teams:

- **Thomas Canning** (11) 1st Team Defensive Line
- **Chase Burnham** (11) Honorable Mention Defensive Back

HS GBB

Basketball Top Scoring Averages (Jan. 3):

- **Christine Denny** (11) #4

Driver’s Education

911 Driving School will be offering a spring semester class at Liberty High School. Classes are held at Liberty in the morning prior to school starting. This is set to begin April 12 and will end May 13.

For more information about this program please contact 911 Driving School at 324-0911.

FFA Success