



The Liberty Lancer

January 2012

Message from the Superintendent

Liberty Maintenance & Operations and Technology Levies on February Ballot

Lancer Robotics Wins Grant

The Liberty Community Education Foundation awarded the Lancer Robotics Team a \$2,000 grant to help fund their upcoming building season and competitions locally and in the Seattle area. The robotics program under the direction of Kyle Kimble is in its third season and utilizes parent engineers and electricians to help build the robots each year and to program their functions. Students do all the work including learning to drive and operate the machine in competitions. Mr. Kimble also directs a Lego league robotics group made up of elementary-age students.



Robotics team members pictured above (l-r): Mikayla Wilson, Reese Anderson, Nathan Goulding, Jesse Baird and Sierra Willms.

The Liberty School District will be seeking to pass a three-year replacement M&O levy on the February ballot. This critical measure for the district provides 28 percent of the operating capital in the general fund and comes directly from taxpayers within our district boundaries. Without local levy support, many of our programs would be eliminated, and class sizes would increase significantly.

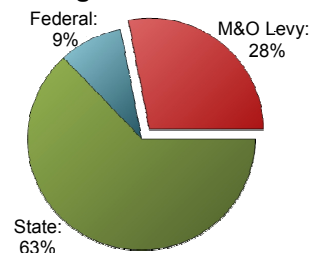


Funding from voter-approved technology levies has allowed Liberty to build & maintain state-of-the-art computer labs.

The M&O levy helps provide funding for hiring additional teachers not otherwise provided by the state. This allows our small rural district to offer courses like music, art and Spanish. The levy also supports the kindergarten program by providing one additional day per week that is not funded by the state. All of our extra-curricular programs including National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, Future Farmers of America, Computer Club, Lancer Robotics, athletic teams and activity buses are supported by funding from the M&O levy.

Routine maintenance for our facilities and grounds is supported by levy dollars as well. Painting, repair of the HVAC systems, electrical and lighting work, irrigation maintenance, plumbing needs, asphalt and hardwood floor sealing, and utility costs are all covered by local levy funding. We also use levy funding to offset food service costs and to provide additional instructional assistants for students with special needs.

Funding Sources for 2013



A replacement three-year technology levy will also be on the February ballot. Funding from this levy keeps our servers and computers up-to-date along with the software programs they run. It provides dollars for infrastructure maintenance, software licenses, training, computer labs, classroom instructional technology upgrades, and maintenance of our wired and wireless networks. This levy has allowed our schools to build state-of-the-art computer labs to train students to use modern technology for learning, research, communication, and solving problems like they will do in modern-day employment situations.

Households within the Liberty boundaries will be receiving an informational levy flier in the mail the week of January 16. If you have any questions regarding these levies, please call Superintendent/K-8 Principal Bill Motsenbocker at 245-3211 ext. 2213.

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.

January 2012

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Upcoming Board Meetings

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

Monday, January 30, 2012

Thursday, February 23, 2012

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Thursday, May 24, 2012

Liberty Elementary & Junior High

Elementary Excellence Awards

for December



Congratulations to our Citizens of the Month for December: (top row, l-r) Samantha Holling, Brady Mitchell, Brooklynn Shelton, Josh Stern, Logan Grumbly, Carson Tee; (bottom row, l-r) Sadie Mather, Erin Kelley, Hayden Anderson, Andrew Harvey and Brandon Holling.

Elementary Holiday Musical a Huge Hit

Students in grades K-4 presented "The Reindeer Whisperer" to a full house of students, staff, parents and guests on December 14 in the auditorium. The well-written comedy provided lively tunes and drama to a theme of Santa's reindeer being unable to fly and in the need of a reindeer whisperer. The whisperer was able to convince the reindeer to pull Santa's sleigh, and the Christmas holiday was saved.

A special thank you to all community members who attended the performance.



Auriana Mitchell delivers her lines to a full audience while students in the K-4 choir look on.

Santa Makes His Annual Appearance

Santa Claus made his annual visit to Liberty Elementary and Junior High on the morning of December 20. The weather was perfect for a landing on the football field, and Santa, assisted by two helper elves, delivered fresh apples and candy canes to everyone in grades K-8. Santa's visit was sponsored by the Spangle Service Club.



Liberty Band Wins a Junior Lilac Parade Honor

Under the direction of Lee Cox, the Liberty 5th and 6th grade marching band won second place in the Junior Lilac Parade last May.

Pictured to the right is Drum Major Lyndzi Rich accepting the trophy from a Lilac Rotary official.



Liberty High School

FFA: Ag Issues and Tractor Driving

Congratulations to the 2011-12 Ag Issues team! Aly Tee, Macy Cornmesser, Danielle Crosby, Ashley King, and Mikayla Cornwall all represented Liberty High School at EWU last month. This year their topic of agro terrorism earned the team a first place finish at sub districts. The team will compete again at the district event on February 8th in Cheney.

Liberty's FFA also sponsored a tractor driving team, which competed at a recent event. The team members included Dyllian Flaig, Austin Sievers, Derek Green, Derek Smith and TJ Weeks. This group will compete again at the Asotin County Fair next April.



Liberty's Ag Issues team earned a 1st place finish at sub districts.

Winter Activities

The band, Knowledge Bowl, wrestlers, cheerleaders and basketball teams have been very busy this winter. The winter schedule is in full swing. Please check our website for the most current schedules for each particular activity.



In December Mr. Cox directed the band and choir in two great musical programs for the holidays.

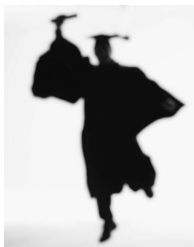
Liberty High School FBLA

Thirty-one FBLA students attended the fall conference in Spokane on October 19. The keynote speaker was Representative Kevin Parker. Kevin Parker is a survivor of the 1999 shooting at Columbine High School and has traveled throughout the United States sharing his lessons of leadership learned in the tragedy.

The FBLA holds weekly meetings at lunch to learn about fundraising, future competitions and school. Thirty-nine students plan to attend the FBLA Winter conference in February. Students will compete in various competitions to qualify for the State Business Leadership Conference in April.



Thirty-one FBLA students attended the fall conference in Spokane.



Graduation?

It's not too early for our seniors to begin to thinking about graduation. On Monday, January 9, a representative from CE Ward will be at school. At this time students will have the opportunity to order graduation announcements, along with their caps and gowns.

If you have questions, please contact senior advisor Mrs. Retta Malone at ext. 1301.

Finals Week and Spirit Day

Finals are set for the week of January 17-20. Testing will follow the schedule below:

Tuesday - Periods 4 & 6 **Thursday** - Periods 1 & 2
Wednesday - Period 7 **Friday** - Periods 3 & 5

The ASB has also set a date for the 2012 Winter Spirit Day. On Friday, February 3, activities will take place during periods 5-7. The dress-up day will be a spirit day with each class wearing the following colors:

FRESHMEN = WHITE
SOPHOMORES = RED
JUNIORS = BLACK
SENIORS = ALL THREE

At the home basketball game that evening the Booster Club will be sponsoring an "X the Text" program.

Liberty School District #362
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Yoda Robotics

The Liberty High School Robotics team will be back in action this coming April at Eastern Washington University to compete in the FIRST Robotics state competition. Liberty has been awarded numerous grants from various businesses to help fund this program. Thank you to those businesses and organizations that have graciously donated to the program. A special thank you to: Liberty Education Community Foundation, Spangle Service Club and the Liberty Booster Club for their donations. Information about the competition this year will be available the first part of January.



Robotics members shown l-r: Tyler Schuman, Justin Turnbough, Derek Green, Austin Sievers, Dyllian Flaig and Jake Cockle.

Spokane Area Children's Chorus Features Lancer

For the past nine years Liberty High School senior Keegan Sugimura has performed with the Spokane Area Children's Chorus. Three days a week Keegan rehearses and spends time mentoring young choir students. The group performs a concert about once a month, according to Keegan.



Senior Keegan Sugimura has performed with the Spokane Area Children's Chorus for nine years.

Recently an article was published in *The Spokesman-Review* celebrating the group's twenty-fifth anniversary. The group also tours internationally; Keegan took part in a tour that traveled to Costa Rica in the summer of 2010. During this tour she sang for an orphanage, spent time learning about the culture, and took some time to participate in local activities. Keegan has also traveled to Canada for the group's annual choir festival. She hopes to continue developing her singing talents at the collegiate level.