



Sherriff's Corner



Deputy Ron Nye

Liberty School District continues to work closely with the Spokane County Sheriff's office through the school resource deputy program. Deputy Ron Nye has worked with Liberty School District for seven years, and we are excited to see this partnership continue. On a monthly basis Deputy Nye will provide safety information to our community. The topic for January—Winter Driving:



Winter driving tip...slow down! Just because the speed limit may be posted as 45, 55, or 60, does not mean the roads are safe enough to go that speed. Give yourself plenty of time to get where you need to be and keep extra space between you and the vehicle ahead of you.

The Liberty Lancer

January 2013

Message from the Superintendent

Student Safety Following Sandy Hook Incident

The terrible tragedy that left 26 people dead at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut left in its wake waves of fear and anxiety among teachers, students, and parents. We all assume the local public schools are safe places for kids and staff—especially the elementary schools. Sandy Hook's staff had done everything right. They had installed an electronic door security system requiring identification prior to entry. Well-rehearsed lockdown procedures were in place, and the school had up-to-date video security as well. So what went so terribly wrong?

The simple truth is no school, business, home or institution can be completely safe against all intruders and still carry out its mission. We can, however, be vigilant in making sure our policies and procedures are up-to-date and maintain a heightened awareness of who is entering our facilities.

At Liberty we keep all unnecessary exterior doors locked at all times when students are present. Within thirty days, Ednetics of Post Falls will finish installing two additional exterior security cameras to better help us monitor the high school and elementary/junior high. We already have entryway cameras and designated monitors in each office to maintain security as well as numerous other cameras in both buildings monitoring student and adult traffic.

Some states are discussing the placement of armed law enforcement officers in every school. In Spokane County, this practice has been in place for many years thanks to funding from the county and a federal safety grant maintained by local school districts. Liberty and Freeman share Sheriff's Deputy Ron Nye on a 50/50 basis. Deputy Nye is in our district no less than every other school day, and although his presence is not strictly for armed security, that is one of the benefits of having him as part of our staff.

Student safety and security is every school's primary responsibility ahead of everything else we do. At Liberty we take the responsibility of protecting the students we serve very seriously.

Liberty to Receive High-Speed Internet through Federal Program

Technology Director Parrish Reedy has been working overtime with federal officials to bring high-speed internet to our schools. Through a federal program, small rural communities have been gaining higher speed internet services through fiber optic cables installed along county roads and highways. You may have noticed the orange capped demarcation posts along many of the roads in Spokane County. Unfortunately the fiber optic cables were not installed along Spangle-Waverly Rd., so Mr. Reedy came up with Plan B. A company from Port Townsend will be installing a radio receiver/transmitter on the top of our water tower in January to receive the same high-speed signal from Tower Mountain in Spokane. This signal will be transmitted to a receiver on the roof of the elementary school where it will be distributed to all classrooms and offices in each building.

In the future, this high-speed service may be available to local residents as well through service providers like Cougar Wireless and Air Pipe. Many homes and businesses without an unobstructed view of Tower Mountain still rely on dial-up services, which are very slow and difficult to use in our modern day.

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 2013

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Upcoming Board Meetings

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

Thursday, January 24

Tuesday, February 26

Thursday, March 28

Thursday, April 25

Liberty Elementary & Junior High

Elementary Excellence Awards

for December



Congratulations to our citizens of the month for December: (top row, l-r) Annie Karlis, Mason Simmons, Carson Tee, Erin Kelley, (middle row, l-r) Sarah Burley, Auriana Mitchell, Jade Garcia, Kenzie Barta, (bottom row, l-r) Sylus Feltwell, Giovanni Hafner, Mya Garcia



Second Round of MAP Testing for Grades 1-8

Last fall we began using a new assessment system to monitor academic growth in reading and math. This widely used system called Measurement of Academic Progress is based in Portland, Oregon, and serves school districts around the world. The program we subscribe to measures student growth objectives based on the Washington State learning Standards but will change to the Common Core State Standards once the switch is made in three years. The primary grades (K, 1, 2) have already made the switch to the Common Core Standards.

Each family will receive a detailed report on progress made by students since September by the end of February, along with a final report for the 2012-13 school year by the end of June. The computer-based system asks students questions below their grade level and progresses through the grade level and beyond to identify their level of achievement. The student scores can then be translated to mirror the MSP or HSPE tests students in Washington are required to take annually.

Kindergarten students will also be assessed at semester, but instead of using a computer-based system we will use a school-designed assessment administered by Liberty staff members. Kindergarten parents will receive a report of their child's progress toward the end of February as well.

MAP Testing Dates

High School: January 29, 30, 31

Elementary/JH: February 4-8, 12-13

K-8 Dates to Remember

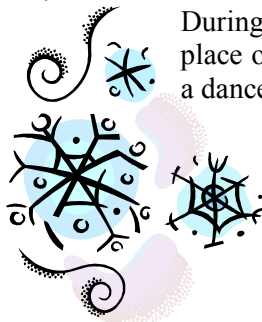
JANUARY	
8	Junior Boosters Mtg., 7pm
9	WE CARE Sports Assembly Family Fun Night, 6pm
14	2-hour late start
18	End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester JH ASB Activity—Ice Skating
21	No School—MLK Jr. Day
24	Board Meeting, 7pm

Liberty High School

Finals Week

Finals have been scheduled for the week of January 14-18. The testing schedule will be as follows:

Monday, 1/14	Period 6
Tuesday, 1/15	Periods 1 & 5
Wednesday, 1/16	Period 4
Thursday, 1/17	Periods 3 & 7
Friday, 1/18	Period 2



Winterfest

The ASB has set the dates for the 2013 Winterfest. During the week of January 23-25, activities will take place one period each day. The week will conclude with a dance after the basketball game on Friday night.

Dress-up day schedule:

Wednesday, 1/23: *Twin Day*

Thursday, 1/24: *Thrift Shop*

Friday, 1/25: *Spirit*

MAP Testing

Measures of Academic Progress™ (MAP), determine your student's instructional level and measure academic growth throughout the school year in the areas of math and reading. The second round of MAP testing will begin on January 29. MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. With MAP testing, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your student's growth. During the testing week, your student will spend a total of about two hours completing the reading and math tests.

FFA Ag Issues



Congratulations to the 2012-13 Ag Issues team. Kyle O'Malley, Blake Marsh, Ryan Thayer, Macy Cornmesser, Brittany Breidenbach, Mikayla Cornwall, and Aly Tee all represented Liberty High School at EWU last month. This year their topic of Upgrading the P&L Shortline Railroad earned the team a first place finish at sub districts. The team will compete again at the District event on January 9th in Cheney at the district FFA event.

Ag Issues team pictured at left (l-r): Mikayla Cornwall, Blake Marsh, Brittany Breidenbach, Ryan Thayer, Aly Tee, Kyle O'Malley, and Macy Cornmesser

State Testing

Liberty High School will begin the first round of State Testing with the Math and Biology End of Course Exam (EOC) retakes in February. Students graduating in 2013 and 2014 must pass the HSPE in reading, and writing, and one math EOC. Students in the class of 2015 and beyond must pass HSPE reading and writing, two math EOCs, and one biology EOC. Students have been notified as to which exam they will be taking in February. Our staff at the high school continues to do an excellent job preparing students for these exams. For testing dates and times, refer to the table below.

Test	When	Time	Who
Math I Retake	February 5	8:15	All students who have not passed a Math EOC.
Biology Retake	February 6	8:15	10th grade students who have completed Biology
Math II Retake	February 7	8:15	All students who have not passed a Math EOC.
HSPE Writing	March 12 and 13	8:30-11:30	All 10 th grade students. All 11 th and 12 th students who have not passed writing.
HSPE Reading	March 14	8:30-11:30	All 10 th grade students. All 11 th and 12 th students who have not passed reading.

Liberty High School

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 and the band and choir classes put on two great musical programs for the holidays.

Graduation?



It's not too early to begin to think about graduation for our seniors. On Monday, January 14, a representative from CE Ward will be at school. Seniors will have the opportunity to order their announcements and caps and gowns during lunch.

If you have questions, please contact senior advisor Mrs. Malone.

XtheTXT

On Tuesday, January 15, the Liberty Booster Club is sponsoring XtheTXT. This event will be held at the school. 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. There will also be an opportunity to try your luck at throwing a paper airplane into a garbage can basket game. For more information, please contact Blaze Burnham at ext. 1221.



Upcoming Events



JANUARY

- 14 2-hour late start**
Seniors order caps & gowns
Finals week begins
- 15 XtheTXT**
- 17 College Color Day**
- 18 End of first semester**
- 21 No School—Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- 22 Winterfest Week Begins**
- 26 Home wrestling meet**
- 29 Knowledge Bowl @ Wilbur**
MAP Testing
- 30 MAP Testing**
- 31 MAP Testing**

Winter Campus Cleanup

As the snowstorms of winter roll in, special thanks go out to Rick Brash, Melanie Larsen-Nowland, and our custodians Jerry Ottosen, Steve Martensen, Connie Anderson, Doug DeGon and Xay Xiong for their tremendous efforts clearing the parking lots, campus roads, sidewalks, stairs and play areas for students, staff, and visitors. Each year the district leases a loader or tractor to assist with the heavy lifting, but hours of old-fashioned shoveling, sanding and de-icing are also required to keep the district open to serve the community.



In this photo taken last year, Rick Brash uses a leased loader to move huge piles of plowed snow.