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.
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

**Board of Directors**

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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

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**Liberty Elementary & Junior High**

**Elementary Excellence Awards**

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

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**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

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**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
Finals Week

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Periods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 1/14</td>
<td>Period 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 1/15</td>
<td>Periods 1 &amp; 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 1/16</td>
<td>Period 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 1/17</td>
<td>Periods 3 &amp; 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 1/18</td>
<td>Period 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Who</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math I Retake</td>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>All students who have not passed a Math EOC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology Retake</td>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>10th grade students who have completed Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math II Retake</td>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>All students who have not passed a Math EOC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSPE Writing</td>
<td>March 12 and 13</td>
<td>8:30-11:30</td>
<td>All 10th grade students. All 11th and 12th students who have not passed writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSPE Reading</td>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>8:30-11:30</td>
<td>All 10th grade students. All 11th and 12th students who have not passed reading.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 along with Hodgson & Associates will be sponsoring XtheTXT. This event will be driving. Students, staff, parents, and others will have the opportunity to order their announcements and caps and gowns during lunch.

There will also be an opportunity to try your hand at taking a prize at halftime of the boys’ varsity basketball game. For more information, please contact Blaze Burnham at ext. 1221.

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.