Message from the Superintendent

Dear parents, staff and community members:

This past month has been filled with a great deal of hard work by our staff and students as we transitioned into the new year. Our classrooms remain safe places for our students to experience successes and challenges. The students have been focused on the goal of wrapping up the first semester and are geared up for the second half of the school year. We continue to strive to offer programming for our high school students that is rigorous and prepares them for college and career skills.

In January, informational flyers about the upcoming levy were mailed to our surrounding communities. The information is also available on our home page at www.LibertySD.us. Please VOTE by Tuesday, February 10!

Once again, 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. If you should have any questions, please contact me.

Kyle Rydell
Superintendent/K-8 Principal
(509) 245-3211 x2213
Mobile: (509) 370-4079
krydell@libertysd.us

Sheriff’s Corner
Crime Reporting

Most criminals look for easy targets. Unlocked cars, garage doors left open, open windows to a house, or even just an unlocked front door. Almost all the crime around the Spokane area is drug-driven. We all want to live in safe neighborhoods or in a rural setting where little-to-no criminal activity occurs. Did you know that most burglaries happen during daytime hours when people are at work? Criminals know that most people work during the day and that in most households both parents work.

Crime knows no address. Criminal activity happens everywhere in today’s society. Around Spokane County, rural burglaries and thefts have increased. Criminals will drive up to a house and actually knock to see if someone is home. If the homeowner answers, the criminal will make up some story as to why he or she is there and then leave. If no one answers, the criminal will go around the house trying to see inside to make sure no one is home. If no one is home, the criminal will break into the house.

There are many ways to deter burglars and thieves including having an alarm system, surveillance cameras, game cameras, big dogs, and gated driveways to name a few. You, the citizens of Spokane County, help the police do our jobs. If you see something that doesn’t seem right, it probably isn’t. Call the police. People’s first instincts are often right.

People are sometimes reluctant to call police. They tend to talk themselves out of calling. We really don’t mind the calls. You’re not bothering us. That’s our job. We love catching the bad guy. We’d rather someone call us and the situation turn out to be nothing than for us not to get a call only to find out later a crime was committed.

A good rule of thumb to use is this: if an incident is happening now, regardless of what it may be, call 911; if it’s after-the-fact, call Crime Check at (509) 456-2233. Together we can make a difference in Spokane County.

LCEF Annual Meeting Notice

The Liberty Community Education Foundation’s annual meeting will be Monday, February 23, at 5:30 p.m. at the Harvester Restaurant in Spangle (no-host dinner).

This is a public meeting, and all are welcome.

Levy Information

Liberty School District is running a replacement 3-year maintenance and operations levy on the February 10 ballot for the 2016-18 school years. The current levy approved by voters in 2012 will expire at the end of this year. The levy rate is an estimated $3.05 per $1,000 of assessed property value.

Local levy dollars support the areas that are not funded by the state such as maintenance of buildings and grounds, operations (supplies and equipment), some transportation costs, athletics and activities, and student enrichment.

Mail-in ballots are due February 10

If you have any questions, please call the district office at 509-624-4415.

Please VOTE

Liberty School District - 29818 S. North Pine Creek Road, Spangle, WA 99031 - www.LibertySD.us
Staff Spotlight: Barb Cressey

Although Mrs. Cressey has been a familiar name and face to Liberty students for many years as a parent and substitute, she officially joined the Liberty staff as a paraeducator working primarily in the elementary library this year. Join us in getting to know more about her with her responses below:

Background: I was born and raised in Spokane and have now lived in the Spangle area for 23 years. I have been married to my high school sweetie for 35 blissful years, and we have three children—all of whom graduated from Liberty. We also have one grandson we are crazy about!

Hobbies: I enjoy family gatherings, camping, gardening, junking, crafting, my church, and traveling.

What do you like most about working at Liberty? The staff here at Liberty are not only caring and encouraging, helpful and genuine, they are truly fun to be around! It’s such a blessing to be a part of this amazing group of people. It’s also so rewarding to be in the library with all of our students. They always come eager to listen, learn, and explore. It’s an honor to spend that time with them. I’ve always held the quote by Charles Dickens close to my heart, "I love these little people; and it is not a slight thing when they, who are fresh from God, love us." Of course this is not to say that another famous quote of his..."It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," can’t apply from time to time as well!

Favorite school lunch: My all-time favorite school lunch forever and always is...chili and cinnamon rolls—hands down!

Liberty Elementary & Junior High

Read-A-Thon 2015

The annual Read-A-Thon is rapidly approaching! Are you ready to take a ride on the read-a-coaster and earn a free ticket to Silverwood for logging 10 hours of reading? This year’s theme is: The Thrilling Adventures of Reading!

The kick-off assembly will be Friday, February 20, starting at 2:10 in the gym.

Some things to look forward to during this year’s Read-A-Thon: fun dress-up days, exciting assemblies, and class team competitions. Join us for the assembly and watch the elementary/junior high website for more information about The Thrilling Adventures of Reading!

Dad’s Donut Day

Liberty dads (and substitute dads) are invited to join us for free breakfast with their children on Wednesday, February 25, starting at 8:05 in the elementary/junior high cafeteria. We look forward to seeing you there!
Elementary Excellence Awards

January


Junior High Excellence Awards—Term 2

Honor Roll

8th Grade 4.0 GPA (pictured at left, l-r): Aleah Rydell, Simon Vincini, Lilian Kay

8th Grade Honor Roll (3.5-3.99 GPA): Garrett Baump, Annabelle Bennett, Logan Billington, Catherine Brown, Julia Collins, Jon Denny, Olivia Grumbly, Emma Holwegner, Racheal Ince, Annabelle Karlis, Levi Kettner, Justin King, Haley Marsh, Isaac Ottmar, Bowe Rojas, Evan Smith, Johnathan Stitt

7th Grade 4.0 GPA (pictured at right, l-r, top to bottom): Katerina Pyankova, Anabelle Redder, Maisie Burnham, Kolbey Browning, Makenzie DeShazer, Auriana Mitchell, Charlie Johnson, Faith Shinner.

7th Grade Honor Roll (3.5-3.99 GPA): Aleena Cook, Sean Duncan-Day, Finehika Finau, Kendyl Fletcher, Robyn Garcia, Charles Harrington, Jacob Holling, Samuel Nelson, Marissa Powers, Sara Tarbert, Kellan Watson

VFW Essay Contest Winners

Congratulations to Aleah Rydell (inset), Sophia Pyankova, Ally Karlis, Colton Marsh and Logan Kroll (far right, l-r) for placing in the top three for their respective grade levels in the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ annual essay contest. Colton and Ally’s essays will now move on to the regional competition.

Character Awards

Katerina Pyankova, Anabelle Redder, Marissa Powers and Faith Shinner were selected to receive the Character award by their teachers for exhibiting one or more of the character traits for the quarter: citizenship, caring and respect.

Academic Awards

Simon Vincini and Sara Tarbert were chosen as Academic Students of the Quarter for their commitment to academic excellence.

Most Improved GPA

Austin Killstrom, Kellan Watson, Tyler Troughton, and Julia Collins (not pictured) showed the most improvement in GPA over last term.
Character Counts

Each month Liberty schools focus on a different character trait. For the month of February, students will be focusing on ENCOURAGEMENT. January’s trait was RESPECT. Students and staff recognized the following students (pictured at right, l-r) for displaying respect in a variety of ways: Glen Johnson, Garrett Spurrell, Alec Fletcher, Brandon Holling, Thomas Redder, Kaitlyn Rambo, Jess Trotter, Marcus Hammond, Trishia McTaggart, and Kathryn Fairfield (not pictured).

Mrs. Krissy Hardie (at right) was recognized by the ASB as the employee of the quarter.

XtheTXT

Thank you to the Liberty School District Booster Club, Hodgson & Associates, and everyone who purchased an airplane at the January 13 XtheTXT event. The event raised awareness of the dangers of texting while driving. Students, staff, parents, and community members visited the booth and took the XtheTXT pledge; those who made the pledge received a thumb band. There were over 200 pledges made, and the event raised over $2,000 for the Liberty School District Booster Club.

Congratulations to Tyson Kimble, Chad Denney, and Jani Miller for landing their planes closest to the target!

Driver’s Education

911 Driving School will be offering a spring semester class at Liberty High School. Classes will be held at Liberty in the mornings prior to school from April 14 through May 15. For more information about this program, please contact 911 Driving School at (509) 324-0911.

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL, SEMESTER 1, 2015

We have concluded our first semester for the 2014-15 school year. All students have done an outstanding job of learning throughout the first two quarters. Below you will find the first semester honor roll. Congratulations to all!

4.0 GPA
11th grade: Daniel Hircock, 9th grade: Austin Rambo, Thomas Redder, Tyson Schenk

3.5 – 3.99 GPA
12th grade: Meagan Bennett, Match Burnham, Kain Feltwell, Vincent Fowler, Kyle King, Trishia McTaggart, Alyssa Rhoads, Jack Simmons, Alysha Thomas, 11th grade: Nathan Burley, Jodi Carrell, Keith Dumaw, Maxwell Johnson, Margaret Nelson, Kaitlyn Rambo, Bridgette Roll, 10th grade: Devin Billington, Elizabeth Brown, Chase Burnham, Kyle DeCon, Matthew DeCon, Christine Denny, Kathryn Fairfield, Justin Flaig, Madelyne Flaig, Tyler Haas, Jacob Harrington, Braden House, Kristin Ince, Abigail Karlis, Patrick Paredes, 9th grade: Matthew Burley, Alec Fletcher, James Heer, Brandon Holling, Glen Johnson, Jada Schuiken, Beau St. John, Lindsay Stern, Michaela Tee, Brett Watson

3.0 - 3.49 GPA
12th grade: Eric Erickson, Clay Fleming 11th grade: Spencer Fox, Kaleb Hafrner, Marcus Hammond, Jacob Pottratz, Justice Schuman, Jessica Trotter, 10th grade: Thomas Canning, Allysha Hubbard, Joshua Larsen-Nowland, Kayla Massengale, Autumn Morse, Quentin Rose, Garrett Spurrell, 9th grade: Marybelle Buck, Emilee Crump, Heaven Schultz
Robotics
The Liberty Robotics team #3220 kicked off the season at Eastern Washington University where they discovered what this year’s game would be. The game is called “Recycle Rush!” and teams score points by creating stacks of totes and garbage cans and placing pool noodles into the garbage cans. Team #3220 has six weeks to build a robot that will compete at two district contests. Liberty will compete at Auburn Mt. View High School in late February and West Valley High School in early March for a chance to attend the district championships at EWU. Approximately 35 students will work on the robot to get it competition-ready. Team #3220 has also received $10,000 in grant money from NASA and OSPI to aid in completing this project and traveling to competitions.

Lancer Wrestling
February brings out the best for our high school wrestlers. Kain Feltwell, Kyle DeGon, Matt DeGon, Jake Harrington, Kaleb Hafner, Garrett Spurrell, Maxwell Johnson, Glen Johnson and manager Kassie Turner make up the Lancer wrestling team led by head coach Adam Thies and assistants Rick Mumby and Matt Hafner. All of our wrestlers are working to make the trip to the Mat Classic again this year, which takes place February 20 and 21 at the Tacoma Dome. The regional wrestling tournament will be held February 14 at Northwest Christian. We wish the best of luck to our wrestlers.

Lancer Basketball
The boys and girls basketball teams have been doing very well this season. The varsity boys are currently in 1st place in the league and the varsity girls are in 4th place. Both teams are looking forward to post-season play in February.

For the most up-to-date athletics schedules, visit the athletics webpage at www.libertysd.us/athletics.
It’s hard to believe the school year is half over. It seems like last week we were working to set up bus routes for the new school year. At the start of the school year we were faced with approximately $100,000 dollars in funding cuts from the state. We had no choice but to combine some routes, which led to increased loads on our buses. Thank you for your patience through this process. Everything seems to be working out very well.

We are awaiting the arrival of a new 2015 International school bus. I’ve been asked in the past how we pay for new buses. When school districts buy a new bus, the state is obligated to reimburse the state bid cost of that bus to the district. This is a 13-year depreciation process. We have 16 buses, and 15 of them generate depreciation dollars from the state that go into our Transportation Vehicle Fund. These dollars can only be used for the purchase of yellow school buses. We try to purchase one new bus every year, so we have a relatively modern and up-to-date fleet of buses. Our top priority is the safe transportation of your children.

We are currently looking for substitute and possibly regular route drivers. It is a great part-time job! Pay starts at $15.38 per hour with holidays and summers off. If you think this could be an opportunity you’d enjoy, please call the transportation department at (509) 245-3217 or visit www.libertysd.us/transportation.