Liberty’s Technology Program Honored by Local ESD

Liberty School District was honored by the Northeast Washington Educational Service District (ESD) for partnering with the community to develop a state-of-the-art technology program for students.

A technology levy run every three years provides the district with funding to keep our servers, computers, monitors, labs and instructional technology up-to-date and in good working order. The state does not provide any funding for technology, so districts must ask their local communities to help provide additional funding sources. To-date, Liberty schools have three computer labs, one laptop mobile lab, a computer assisted drafting lab, and an iPad lab in the elementary school. Late last month technology director Parrish Reedy was able to connect the schools with fiber optics through a wireless system that connects a receiver transmitter on our water tower with a Tower Mountain internet source. This new system has doubled our internet speed and widened bandwidth.

Mrs. Foster Announces Retirement

After 41 years of providing exemplary instruction to students of Eastern Washington, Judy Foster has announced her retirement effective at the end of the school year. Mrs. Foster began her career teaching in the Omak School District in 1972 and three years later transferred to Liberty where she has remained for the past 38 years. During her tenure, Judy has taught grades 2-4 and currently is responsible for the Title I reading program and the Learning Assistance Program for math in grades 5-8. Few educators can be credited with teaching 41 years, and even fewer with teaching with as much passion, drive and enthusiasm in year 41 as she did in her first year.

When asked what she will miss most about teaching she quickly stated, “Working with children and watching them grow in their reading skill.” Judy will still have contact with children after her retirement, but it will be in the context of grandma instead of Mrs. Foster. Judy has two grandchildren whom she plans to spoil at the highest level.
State Board of Education Achievement Index Gives Liberty Positive Marks

The State Board of Education recently released its controversial Achievement Index, which rates schools based on student achievement from the annual MSP and HSPE assessments. The index rates schools in four areas: low-income student achievement, non-low-income student achievement, achievement vs. peers, and improvement from the previous year.

Liberty High School is rated in tier 5 as exemplary based on the HSPE assessments of the current junior class. The elementary/junior high is rated in tier 3 as good based on MSP assessments from last year’s 3rd-8th grade students. Further information can be gathered by following the link below:

https://eds.ospi.k12.wa.us/WAII/IndeXReport

Liberty School Board Considers Sharing Superintendent

The Liberty School Board is in the process of considering sharing a superintendent with the Rosalia School District. Rosalia approached a board member recently to discuss the possibilities and has requested the services of the ESD superintendent to negotiate an agreement between the two school districts. No decision has yet been made.

Questions or concerns may be directed to Bill Motsenbocker at (509) 245-3211, ext. 2213.

Classified Employees Week, March 11-15

Governor Jay Inslee has declared March 11-15 as Classified School Employee week. Classified employees are involved in nearly every aspect of education—maintaining buildings and grounds, preparing and serving meals, keeping school facilities clean and orderly, assisting in the classrooms, safe transportation, providing a secure and healthy environment, and many other specialized services. These dedicated individuals deserve recognition and thanks for the outstanding work they do for Liberty School District. Thank you, classified employees, we appreciate your dedication to the students at Liberty.

Sheriff’s Corner

Liberty School District continues to work closely with the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office through the School Resource Deputy Program. Deputy 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 March: Distracted Driving.

Deputy Ron Nye

Distracted driving is anything a person does while driving a motor vehicle that takes their attention away from the task of driving. Did you know that in the state of Washington it is illegal to drive and talk (holding it to your ear) or text on your cell phone while driving? Did you know that you can be stopped and cited for driving and talking, sending, reading, or writing a text on your cell phone ($124)?

Distracted driving is most deadly for people age 20 and younger. Our kids think they can’t survive without their cell phones. The truth of the matter is, our kids are more likely to survive if they don’t use their cell phones while driving. Forty percent of all American teens said they have been in a car when the driver used a cell phone in a way that put people in danger. We all want our kids to be safe when we send them out into the world. Help to eliminate at least a couple of the issues facing our kids today. Talk to your child about the dangers of cell phone use while driving.
Ag Issues  Congratulations to Mr. Kimble and the Ag Issues team for their recent first place finish at the Sub District and District competitions. The Lancers have qualified for the State Convention on May 9-11 in Pullman. Team members pictured at right are: (1-r) Mikayla Cornwall, Brittaney Breidenbach, Kyle O’Malley, Ryan Thayer, Aly Tee, Blake Marsh and Macy Cornmesser. The topic for 2012-13 is Upgrading the P&L Shortline Railroad.

Liberty High School

Driver’s Education  911 Driving School will be offering a spring semester class at Liberty High School. Classes will be held in the morning prior to school starting. The spring session is set to begin April 8 and will end May 17.

For more information about this program, please contact 911 Driving School at 509-324-0911.

Read-A-Thon Kicks Off with a Gold Rush Theme

The elementary & junior high kicked off its 2013 Read-a-Thon campaign with a “Going for the Gold” theme on Friday, February 22. Students are encouraged to read outside of school and to record their reading time with parent signature each day. All students who read 600 minutes or more will earn a free pass to Silverwood Theme Park.

The Read-A-Thon will run through March 25, and students will turn in minutes to their homeroom teacher daily. Last year students broke the all-time record for most minutes read with a grand total of 417,218 minutes, or an average of about 24 hours of reading per student over the course of the Read-A-Thon.

Pictured at left: Guest gold miners Lynn Wichman, Dodie Carr and Shooter the burro lent authenticity to the “Going for the Gold” theme at the opening assembly.

Below: Mrs. Bresnahan and a group of students display the gold nugget trophy that will travel among top-reading classrooms.

Dates to Remember

MARCH
1  NO SCHOOL (unused snow day)
5  8th Grade NAEP Testing
7  Bi-County Academic Contest
10 Daylight Saving Begins
12 Pacific Science Center Exhibits
18 2-Hour Late Start
18-22 Missoula Children’s Theater
20 1st Day of Spring
22 MCT Performance, 7pm
25 Read-A-Thon Ends
Grades 5-12 Band Concert, 7pm
29 End of 3rd Quarter
31 Easter
Beginning in the 2013-14 school year, Liberty High School will offer Running Start through Eastern Washington University. Students will have an opportunity to earn college and high school credit by enrolling simultaneously in Eastern’s concurrent enrollment program. An English 101 class will be offered to our senior English students. Spanish 103 and 113 will be offered to students enrolled in Liberty’s Spanish 3 and 4 classes.

While many Running Start options require high school students to attend classes on the college campus, the Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) brings the Eastern Washington University class to the high school campus. In order to achieve this, the high school teacher is supported in teaching the EWU course, and students have access to the EWU Library and Writers’ Center while they are enrolled. Like the traditional Running Start model, students earn credit toward graduation from high school as well as credit for a college course at the same time; students do not need to take additional coursework to be awarded credit in both settings. In addition, these courses, like other Running Start courses, are available to students tuition-free. For additional information, please contact the high school office.

High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE)

All sophomores across Washington State will take part in the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) test for reading and writing in March. The writing test is a two-day test that will take place March 12 and 13. The reading test will be administered March 14. The Science and Math tests will be administered as an End of Course Exam (EOC). In August, a retake date will be set for students who were absent or need to retake the reading or writing HSPE.

Our staff at the high school continues to do an excellent job preparing our students for these exams.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Who</th>
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| HSPE Writing        | March 12 and 13 | 8:30-11:30  | All 10th grade students.  
|                     |               |              | All 11th and 12th students who have not passed writing. |
| HSPE Reading        | March 14      | 8:30-11:30  | All 10th grade students.  
|                     |               |              | All 11th and 12th students who have not passed writing. |
| Algebra I EOC       | May 21        | 8:30-11:30  | All students enrolled in Algebra I            |
| Integrated Algebra EOC | May 22      | 8:30-11:30  | All students enrolled in Integrated Algebra   |
| Biology EOC         | May 23        | 8:30-11:30  | All 10th grade students.  
|                     |               |              | All students enrolled in Biology              |
| Integrated Geometry EOC | May 29      | 8:30-11:30  | All students enrolled in Integrated Geometry  |
| Geometry EOC        | May 30        | 8:30-11:30  | All students enrolled in Geometry             |

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society has been busy this year! Under the direction of Mrs. Chambers, the group of over 30 students established three main community service goals for 2012-13 and has already achieved two of them. They recently collected clothing donations from Liberty families and friends and delivered over 20 large full bags to the Union Gospel Mission. They also held a holiday food drive, and donations were given to the Spangle Food Bank. The third goal is to give personal time and volunteer for an afternoon at a local soup kitchen or homeless shelter. It is still being planned, and the group hopes to fulfill this commitment in April.

What else is in the works? The NHS hosts a semi-annual blood drive through the Inland Northwest Blood Center, and the next scheduled date is in May. Watch the district calendar for an update! Also, please join us in honoring new inductees on March 14 at 6:30 in the High School cafeteria. You can contact Mrs. Chambers for information about any of these events.
**Academic State Champs**

Congratulations to the Lancer Winter Cheer squad who are the 2012-13 WIAA/Dairy Farmers of Washington/Les Schwab Tires Winter Team Academic State Champions for the 2B Cheer classification with a collective GPA of 3.713.

Members of this squad include Holly Cockle, Doucheka Malaval, Abby Brown, Bridgette Roll, and Shareena McGregor. Head coach for the Lancer Winter Cheer Squad is Leona Budde, and she is assisted by Suzanne Holling.

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**Lancer Wrestling**

February brought out the best in our wrestlers. Kaleb Hafner and Kain Feltwell both competed in the WIAA Mat Classic in Tacoma last month. Kaleb finished with a record of 1-2 and took 5th place. Kain made his second state appearance, finishing in 2nd place for the second-straight year. Over the last two years, Kain has lost just four matches, two of which came at the state tournament.

Congratulations to the wrestling team on a successful season!

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**Upcoming Events**

**MARCH**

1. NO SCHOOL  
   Regional Knowledge Bowl @ Whitworth  
6. FFA Sub-District @ Liberty  
8. English 101 Placement Exam  
12. HSPE Writing Exam  
13. HSPE Writing Exam  
14. HSPE Reading Exam  
   NHS Induction Ceremony, 6:30pm  
16. Prom  
18. 2-Hour Late Start  
19. 2013-14 Class Scheduling  
21. College Color Day  
   Robotics @ CWU  
22. Missoula Children’s Theatre Performance  
   Robotics @ CWU  
23. Robotics @ CWU  
25. Band Concert, 7:00pm  
27. FFA District @ Liberty  
29. End of 3rd Quarter

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**FBLA**

Ms. Whittall and the Future Business Leaders of America recently participated in their annual Regional competition. Liberty High School had an outstanding competition qualifying 16 students for the state event in Spokane, April 24-27. Here is a list of the events and students who qualified to compete at the state level:

- **Banking and Financial Systems** (2nd Place) - Gabe Saywers, Kyle O’Malley, Ryan Thayer (pictured at left, l-r)
- **Business Presentation** (2nd Place) - Harmony Duke, Emily Lehman, Kelsey Weeks
- **Future Business Leader** (4th Place) - Katie Stern
- **Help Desk** (4th Place) - Bridgette Roll
- **Introduction to Business** (2nd Place) - Bridgette Roll
- **Introduction to Parli Pro** (2nd Place) - Kaitlyn Rambo
- **Parli Pro** (3rd Place) - Brittany Breidenbach, Kaitlyn Rambo, Aly Tee, Mikalya Cornwall, Macy Cornmesser
- **Personal Finance** (3rd Place) - Shareena McGregor
- **Sports Management** (4th Place) - Katie Stern
- **Spreadsheet** (5th Place) - Jack Simmons
- **Word Processing 2** (2nd Place) - Aly Tee