Message from the Superintendent

Dear parents, staff and community members:

As we have gotten glimpses of some blue skies and warmer days, we start to get excited about what spring has in store, and I am reminded that “time flies when we are having fun.” This year truly is flying, and we are having fun amidst all of the successes our students, staff, and community have achieved. Listed below are just a few of those accomplishments that have been fun to be part of so far:

- Passage of the facilities bond at 61.43% (Great community support!)
- 97% HS graduation rate
- Enrollment is up by 35 students this year
- Athletic Academic State Champions (HS wrestling)
- First-ever two-time state wrestling champion (Kaleb Hafner)
- HS football team finished in the top 8 in the state

I want to thank all of the voters in Liberty School District who cast their ballots on the recent bond. Liberty's bond passed with over 61 percent yes votes, making a 13-year journey a reality. I also want to thank the many dedicated staff and community members who helped make this bond drive successful. I am proud of our community and the importance the Liberty voters place on our children’s education and the updates to our facilities. These funds will continue to provide Liberty students with a well-rounded educational program and extend the life of our facilities 30-40 more years. In the coming weeks we will be working to secure architects as well as putting some project timelines in place.

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 have any questions, please contact me.

Governor Jay Inslee has declared March 14-18 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 classroom, 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 commitment to the students at Liberty!
**Sheriff’s Corner: School Bus Safety**

Parents, does your child know how to act while riding the school bus? We all want our children to get to and from school safely, and reminding your students of a few important rules can help ensure safety for the bus driver and passengers.

The first thing you should tell your child is that the bus driver is in charge while he or she is on the bus. Students must listen and follow the driver’s directions and rules. Music devices must be used with headphones so the driver is not distracted and others are not disrupted. Talking needs to be kept to a low level as well. Do not open windows unless the driver says it’s okay. If the windows are open, do not extend any part of your body out of the window. Do not throw anything out of the bus either.

All passengers need to sit properly in their seats by facing forward and keeping their hands, feet, and belongings to themselves. The center aisle must remain clear at all times. Remember, your child’s safety depends on the driver’s ability to be able to do his or her job properly without distraction.

**XtheTXT**

Thank you to the Liberty School District Booster Club and everyone who purchased an airplane at the 2016 XtheTXT event on February 2, and congratulations to Maisie Burnham and Jonah Shrode for having their planes land closest to the target.

The Liberty Booster Club along with Hodgson & Associates sponsored the event to raise awareness about 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 100 pledges made, and the event raised over $1,400 for the Liberty School District Booster Club.

**Board Member Marci Green Submits Resignation Effective March 24**

After over nine years on the Liberty School District board, Marci has decided with mixed emotions to step down from her position on the board. She has taken on more responsibilities outside of her board duties and did not want to risk shortchanging the district, especially with all of the great work going on. We wish Marci the best in her next chapter and want to thank her for the many years of great service to our district and community.

If you have an interest in running for the open board position and live within the boundaries of director district #2, encompassing Latah, Waverly and the area north of Waverly, please seek additional information by contacting the district office.
**Bi-County Honors Band and Choir**

Outstanding music students from our league have earned top honors by being selected to participate in the Bi-County Honors band and choir concert. This group will practice at Reardan High School with all of the other participants from the Bi-County league on March 2 and 9, with their final practice and performance at the INB Performing Arts Center on Monday, March 14. Some of the honors band members from Liberty are pictured at the right: Aleah Rydell, Logan Kroll, Allysha Hubbard, Bowe Rojas, James Heer, Mackenzy Lauster, Emma Holwegner, Marybelle Buck, Kathryn Fairfield, Kristin Ince, and Ayden Eyre. Other participants include band members Josh Haas, Braden House, Faith Shinner, and choir students Aleesha Dean, Charlie Johnson, Jade Keffer, Charlie Killstrom, Heaven Schultz, Mary St. Pierre, Faith Suenkel and Sara Tarbert.

**Liberty Elementary & Junior High**

**Elementary Character Awards**

![Certificate Images]

*Congratulations to last month’s Citizens of the Month, who exemplified February’s character trait ENCOURAGEMENT:*

(Top, L-R) Tyla Tiegs, Madylin Smit, Waylon Tellessen, Steffanie Bunch, Addilee Buys, Layton Kettner, (Bottom, L-R) Zoë Omlin, Ethan Kimball, Kellen Tee, Taylor Felgenhauer, Henry Greer

**Math is Cool Competition Results**

The 6th grade Math is Cool team, led by advisors Dawn Fuchs and Tiffany Buys, represented Liberty among Division 2 teams at the regional competition at St. George’s school on February 19.

The students put forth a great effort, placing fifth in their division, and **Ben Pritchett** placed 5th overall, which qualifies him to compete at the state-level Masters event in May. The 5th and 4th grade teams will be competing on March 18 and April 15, respectively.

![Group Photo]


**Dates to Remember**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Honor Band/Choir Practice</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Read-a-Thon Dress-up Day: Sports Attire</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>No School (unused snow day)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>2-Hour Late Start</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Honor Band/Choir Practice</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Read-a-Thon Dress-up Day: Pajama Day</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Daylight Saving Time Ends</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Honor Band/Choir Practice &amp; Performance</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Classified Employee Week</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>5th Grade Math Is Cool Meet</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>1st Day of Spring</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Read-a-Thon Ends</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Board Meeting, 6:00 PM</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>3rd Quarter Ends</td>
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<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>JH Awards Assembly, 8:30AM</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Grades 5-12 Band/Choir Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>12:05 Dismissal for Conferences</td>
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Character Counts

Each month Liberty School District focuses on a character trait of the month. For the month of March students will be focusing on HONESTY. For February the student body focused on ENCOURAGEMENT.

Students and staff recognized the following students for displaying the trait of encouragement in a variety of ways (pictured at right, L-R): Madelyne Flaig, Maggie Nelson, Haley Marsh, Annie Karlis, Lillie Marsh, Owen Brenton, and Brett Watson.

FBLA

Ms. Whittall and the Future Business Leaders of America recently participated in the annual Regional competition. Liberty High School had an outstanding competition qualifying 17 students for the state event April 20-23 in Spokane.

Here is a list of students and the events they will be competing in based on their placement in the Regional competition:

- Banking & Financial, 5th Place: Willow Ashton, Jodi Carrell
- Banking & Financial, 6th Place: Madelynne Flaig, Josh Larsen
- Future Business Leader, 5th Place: Lindsay Stern
- Insurance & Risk Management, 4th Place: Keith Dumaw
- Parliamentary Procedure, 2nd Place: Nathan Burley, Lillie Marsh, Kaitlyn Rambo, Bridgette Roll
- Parliamentary Procedure, 3rd Place: Madelynne Flaig, Austin Rambo, Lindsay Stern, Michaela Tee
- Sports & Entertainment, 4th Place: Chase Burnham, Patrick Paredes, Jake Pottratz

FBLA Regional contest participants included Michaela Tee, Brandi Thieren, Kadja Rinehart, Heaven Schultz, Caroline Nelson, Lily Kay and Lindsay Stern. Seventeen LHS students qualified for the state event in April.

A reminder to all, you can access the most current information on our website www.libertysd.us. If you visit the High School page you will find an updated schedule of events along with a brief synopsis of what is taking place at the high school. This is updated weekly—usually on Friday morning. If you have questions about this link or would like something added to the schedule, please contact Mr. Fletcher.
Liberty High School recently entered the Super Bowl High School Honor Roll for contributing to Super Bowl history. As the NFL marked its 50th Super Bowl last month, they celebrated the players and coaches of the past 49 Super Bowls along with their high schools and communities that have positively impacted the NFL. Dave Browning, a 1974 graduate of LHS, was one of nearly 3,000 players and head coaches who were recognized this year. As a member of this special group, a commemorative golden football was sent to the high school of every player and head coach who was on an active roster in a Super Bowl. Mr. Browning’s golden football is located in the high school foyer trophy case. Dave began his collegiate playing career at SFCC and then went on to play at the University of Washington, where he was a Rose Bowl Champion in 1978. Dave played in the NFL for the Oakland Raiders from 1978-1982, winning the Super Bowl in 1981. He completed his NFL career in 1983 with the New England Patriots.

Super Bowl 50 Liberty High School recently entered the Super Bowl High School Honor Roll for contributing to Super Bowl history. As the NFL marked its 50th Super Bowl last month, they celebrated the players and coaches of the past 49 Super Bowls along with their high schools and communities that have positively impacted the NFL. Dave Browning, a 1974 graduate of LHS, was one of nearly 3,000 players and head coaches who were recognized this year. As a member of this special group, a commemorative golden football was sent to the high school of every player and head coach who was on an active roster in a Super Bowl. Mr. Browning’s golden football is located in the high school foyer trophy case. Dave began his collegiate playing career at SFCC and then went on to play at the University of Washington, where he was a Rose Bowl Champion in 1978. Dave played in the NFL for the Oakland Raiders from 1978-1982, winning the Super Bowl in 1981. He completed his NFL career in 1983 with the New England Patriots.

Lancer Wrestling The Lancer Boys’ Wrestling program earned the WIAA Winter Academic State Championship for 2015-16—the second straight year our program has earned this award. The team was acknowledged for the academic championship on Saturday, February 20, at the Tacoma Dome. Congratulations to Kaleb Hafner on his State Championship at the 160-pound weight class. Kaleb finished his high school wrestling career with two first-place finishes and one third. LHS had six wrestlers compete in the WIAA Mat Classic: Justin King (120), Thomas Perryman (145), Kaleb Hafner (160), Glen Johnson (170), Maxwell Johnson (195), and Jake Harrington (220). Congratulations to the wrestling program on a successful season!

Members of this squad (pictured at right, L-R, back-to-front) include: Coach Matt Hafner, Kaleb Hafner, Glen Johnson, Jake Harrington, Maxwell Johnson, Coach Braden Davis, Coach Adam Thies, Garrett Rogers, Matt DeGon, Justin King, Thomas Perryman, also Kyle DeGon.

NE 2B Basketball All-League Selections Congratulations to the following Liberty athletes on their NE 2B All-League selections. Certificates were presented February 12 at halftime of the boys’ championship game.

(Pictured at right, L-R): Christine Denny (11), girls’ 1st team, Keith Dumaw (12), boys’ 2nd team, Chase Burnham (11), boys’ MVP.