



Fall Surveys

We will once again open our fall parent survey to gather input from our parents about how we are doing in each of our buildings. Please take a moment to provide us with this important feedback as we focus on continual improvement.

The links to the surveys will be emailed to parents and placed on the district homepage on Friday, Nov. 6. Our computer labs will also be available for completing the surveys during conference week.

Safe Schools Alert

Liberty School District is committed to providing a positive and productive environment free from discrimination including harassment or sexual harassment, intimidation, and bullying. The district prohibits harassment of students, employees and others involved in school district activities.

Students, staff, guardians, and community members have the ability to report harassment or bullying issues via the Safe Schools reporting tool located on our homepage at www.libertysd.us. Click the Safe Schools Alert icon for a variety of reporting options.



The Liberty Lancer

Message from the Superintendent

November 2015

Dear Parents, Staff, and Community members:

October was another great month at Liberty! We experienced great fall weather for all our student activities, and it seems some much-anticipated rain is finally here. Our students and staff have experienced a smooth first quarter and are gearing up for parent-teacher conferences throughout the second week of November (no school the 11th for Veterans' Day).

Our High School fall sports programs are wrapping up their seasons. The volleyball team qualified for post-season play and finished its season at the district level, while the football team will play in a crossover game Friday, November 6, at 6:00 p.m. Junior high girls' basketball and wrestling began at the end of October and have great turnouts for their respective seasons. The High School winter sports season will kick off on November 16.

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
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krydell@libertysd.us*



Veterans' Day Breakfast and Assembly

On Tuesday, November 10, we will be hosting a free breakfast for veterans in the High School cafeteria at 9:00 a.m., followed by an all-school assembly at 9:30 in the gym.

If you have photos of family members who have served in the military, we would love to feature them in a slideshow that will be part of the assembly. Please send the pictures to either school office or email them directly to Mrs. Spears at mspears@libertysd.us by Friday, November 6.

There will be no school on Wednesday, November 11, in honor of Veterans' Day.

Got Water?

Over the past few weeks, new drinking fountains have been installed in the High School and Elementary/Junior High that include water bottle filling stations. These new fountains are part of a statewide focus on providing options for healthy choices for our students and staff.

The upgraded dispensers provide water that is chilled and filtered, and they have created a positive experience for students filling their water bottles on campus. At the last tally, the High School machine has already filled 1,874 water bottles, and the Elementary/Junior High has filled over 1,638.



Students are enjoying the chilled and filtered water bottle filling stations recently installed at both school buildings.

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 directed to the Superintendent.

November 2015

Board of Directors

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kybrowning@libertysd.us

Mark Bullock
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mbullock@libertysd.us

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Board member phone numbers are available on the district website.

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Upcoming Board Meetings

All meetings are held in the
Elementary/Junior High Library

Tuesday, November 24, 6:00pm

Tuesday, December 29, 5:00pm

Thursday, January 28, 6:00pm

Thursday, February 25, 6:00pm

Coach Mike Thacker to be Inducted into WIBCA Hall of Fame

Liberty boys' basketball head coach Mike Thacker will be inducted into the Washington Interscholastic Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in July of 2016. Coach Thacker has served over 30 years as a head coach with an overall win record of 61 percent and has led the Liberty Lancers since 2010. Over his impressive career he has led twelve teams to State and was selected as Coach of the Year in 2005 and 2014. Congratulations Coach Thacker!



Coach Thacker (far right) pictured with last year's team at the 2015 State competition. Liberty placed 2nd—its highest ranking at the State level since 1986.

Sheriff's Corner: Social Media and Teens

Almost every teen today has a cell phone. When we as parents decide to give our kids a cell phone to use, we need to make sure we set rules and discuss the importance of using them properly. For teens, having a cell phone is not a necessity, it's a privilege. Remember, you the parent own that phone—you pay the bill that shows up every month.

Now that your teen has a cell phone, he or she basically has access to anything. Today's cell phones are handheld computers; this is where "Social Media" comes into play. There are so many apps out there that teens are inundated with. These apps were supposedly created to keep family and friends in touch with one another, etc.; however, not everyone uses social media the way it was intended. In fact, this is where most bullying and harassment occurs. People say things to one another online that they wouldn't dare say face-to-face. It's easier, so impersonal, and detached. I periodically talk to the kids about the proper use and their digital footprint. Unfortunately, someone usually ends up getting into trouble over something that he or she posted. The response I get is, "I didn't think I'd get caught."

Do you as parents realize that employers and colleges or universities now look at the different social media accounts of prospective employees or students? These entities want to make sure their potential employee or student will not reflect poorly upon them because of items on their social media accounts. Once an item is sent, it's out there forever and it can be found. Even if the app says you can be anonymous, the information is stored in a server somewhere and police are able to obtain that information if necessary.

As parents, you should randomly access your teen's cell phone just to see what kind of apps and pictures he or she has. Some may surprise or even shock you, although I hope that's not the case. It's very easy this day and age for anyone to get into trouble with law enforcement over something that was sent. Please don't let your teen be one of them. Monitor what he or she is doing with social media and take appropriate action as the parent and owner of that cell phone. If you do find something inappropriate, take proper action.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding social media, please feel free to contact me at 477-3174, 245-3229, or at rgnye@spokanesherriff.org.



Liberty Elementary & Junior High

Elementary Character Awards

for October



Congratulations to last month's Citizens of the Month, who exemplified October's character trait: EMPATHY

(Top row, l-r) Ewan McFadgen, Jocelyn Thomas, Amber Embry, Parker Myers, Colin Degenhart, Jacquelyn Reedy, Lucy Jones, Brooke Redder, (bottom row, l-r) Brooklynn Shelton, Matt Heer, Justina Larsen-Nowland.



E for Excellence Award



Congratulations to Sarah Burley and Ava Budde—awarded for Excellence by their teacher for helping a friend in need.

New "Buddy Bench" Connects Students at Recess



There's a new bench on the elementary playground that helps connect kids looking for someone to hang out with during recess. Kids sometimes have days when they would like to play with someone at recess, but they don't feel like playing the game their usual crowd is playing, or their best friend is absent, or they just want a change of pace. That's what the Buddy Bench is for! If a student doesn't have a

plan for recess but would like some company, they can sit at the Buddy Bench to find another student who is also looking for a buddy for recess. Groups can also invite someone sitting on the Buddy Bench to join them.

The Buddy Bench is the end result of Liberty senior Daniel Hircock's Eagle Scout project. He worked with groundskeeper Melanie Larsen to raise funds and construct and install the bench made out of donated snowboards.

The bench has been a hit with students so far. During just one afternoon recess, nine students found buddies to connect with. Students are asking for more benches and have even made suggestions about where they should be placed.



Daniel Hircock (center, in uniform) built Liberty Elementary's new Buddy Bench for his Eagle Scout project, assisted in part by other Eagle Scouts from his troop, his younger brother, and a Liberty classmate.

Pictured above (l-r): Joshua Hircock, Josh Larsen-Nowland, John Rowley, Daniel Hircock, Noah Berndt, Josh Rowley.



NOVEMBER (THANKFULNESS)

- 2 Late Start
- 3 JH Awards Assembly
- 4 Youth Football Banquet, 6:30pm
- 5 Grades 3-4 Field Trip to SFCC Planetarium
- 6 Book Fair Previews
- 9-13 Early Release for Conferences
Liberty Spotlight Practices
- 10 Veterans' Day Assembly, 9:30 @ HS
- 11 NO SCHOOL, Veterans' Day
- 13 Liberty Spotlight Performance
- 17 JH "Twisted Tuesday" (musicians)
- 24 K-6 Awards Assembly, 2:10
- 25 Early Release for Thanksgiving
- 26 NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving
- 27 NO SCHOOL

Parent-Teacher Conferences - Nov. 9, 10, 12
Early release @ 12:05 p.m. all week!

Liberty High School

Principal's Message

It's hard to believe we have completed the first quarter for the 2015-16 school year. Report cards for high school students will be mailed home November 4 along with scholarship information from Mr. Hammond. Teachers will be available for conferences November 9-12; each of these days is scheduled as an early release day. On November 10th teachers will be available until 7:00 pm if an evening conference works better for you. If at any time you would like to meet with your student's teacher(s), please don't hesitate to contact the high school.



State Testing

State exams are still part of the graduation requirements for all Washington students. Students will participate in a variety of exams throughout the year based on their graduation year. The following is a list of exams, dates, and who will be participating. If you have further questions about state testing, please contact the high school office.

Exam	Date	Who
Math Year 2 EOC Make-up	January 28	Students who have attempted exam and not met standard
Biology EOC Make-up	January 29	Students who have attempted exam and not met standard
Math Year 1 EOC Make-up	February 5	Students who have attempted exam and not met standard
SBA ELA	May (TBA)	All Sophomores Students who have attempted exam and not met standard
SBA Math	May (TBA)	All Juniors

Financial Aid Night



Mr. Hammond would like to invite all parents and guardians to the annual financial aid night on December 10 at 7:00. Information will be available regarding how to apply for scholarships and financial aid along with college admissions information. Anyone who is thinking about attending some type of higher education after high school is encouraged to attend this event. If you would like more information please contact Mr. Hammond at (509) 245-3229, ext 1104.

Yearbooks

Now is the time to purchase your 2015-16 Lancer Yearbook. Books can be purchased for \$55 at the high school office now through November 20. *Yearbooks will not be available for purchase after November 20.* Yearbooks are also available online via the school website.

If you need more information about the yearbook, please contact the office or [Mr. Harkness](#).



Yearbook staffers Heaven Schultz, Haley LeMoine, Isaac Branon, Tate Carey, Jessica Trotter and Kassie Turner.

FFA State Soils



Congratulations to Mr. Braun and the FFA Soil Judging team who finished 15th in the State competition held in Airway Heights on

October 21. Liberty had 18 students who participated in four different events prior to State, and 12 students represented the Liberty FFA Chapter.

A graphic of a red calendar with silver rings at the top. The text 'LHS' is in large red letters, and 'Dates to Remember' is in smaller red letters below it.

NOVEMBER (THANKFULNESS)

- 2 Late Start
- 3 Knowledge Bowl @ Wilbur
- 9-13 Early Release for Conferences
- 9 Winter Sport Parent Night, 7pm
- 10 Veterans' Day Assembly, 9:30
- 11 NO SCHOOL
- 13 ASVAB
- 16 Winter Sports Begin
- 17 Knowledge Bowl @ Harrington
- 19 Senior Project Presentations
- 24 Gr. 10-11 SFCC/SCC Site Visit
- 25 Early Release for Thanksgiving
- 26 NO SCHOOL—Thanksgiving
- 27 NO SCHOOL

Homecoming

The LHS ASB put on a great homecoming week for our students. Students dressed up and participated in games throughout the week, and the festivities concluded with a dance after Friday's football game. Congratulations to Keith Dumaw and Lillie Marsh who were chosen as the King and Queen for homecoming 2015.

Knowledge Bowl Begins

Mr. VanSickle and the Knowledge Bowl team will begin their season November 3rd in Creston. The team will have contests on Tuesdays twice a month through the month of February. The season will conclude with a playoff match on February 16 and a Regional competition at Whitworth University on March 4. Best of luck to the Knowledge Bowl team!



LHS Knowledge Bowl Team

Character Counts

Each month Liberty School District focuses on a character trait of the month. For October the student body focused on EMPATHY: thinking about other people's feelings. Students and staff recognized the following students for displaying responsibility in a variety of ways:



For the month of November students will be focusing on **THANKFULNESS**: saying "thank you" when others help or encourage and appreciating the good things in life.



Homecoming royalty King Keith Dumaw and Queen Lillie Marsh

Medic One First Aid

Did you know? In the spring of 2013 the Washington State Legislature enacted HB1556, requiring the establishment of a medical emergency response and automated external defibrillator program for high schools.

What does that mean for Liberty High School? This new bill requires high schools to teach cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in at least one health class required for graduation. The class must include learning the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) through teaching that includes hands-on experience.

What will this look like at Liberty High School? Our school nurse, Sarah Beyersdorf, and health teacher, Mr. Langeman, will train all freshman students during their physical education classes in CPR and the use of an AED. In addition, the students will be instructed in basic first aid and will receive their certifications in basic first aid and AED use.



Nurse Sarah

Winter Sports The winter sports season begins November 16. Athletes must have all of the appropriate paperwork completed in order to participate the first day of practice. Parent information night will be held Monday, November 9, at 7:00 PM. Please contact Mr. Burnham with questions regarding athletics at ext. 7-1221. Coach Mike Thacker will lead the boys' basketball program. The girls' basketball program will be led by Coach Larry Hardie. The wrestling team will be led by head coach Adam Thies. Our cheer squad will be led by Coach Leona Budde.