

## Hawks Report

La Center Middle School

October 2015

Extended Learning Bus: We are excited to offer the extended learning bus from LCMS. This bus runs Monday through Thursday at 4:00 pm from the middle school, dropping off student riders near their homes. Extensive communications with families, KWRL and office staff have assured student accounting and clear expectations for ridership. Any student staying after school to participate in study hall or yearbook meetings can take advantage of the extended learning bus after completing a registration form.

Cispus: At the end of September we sent over 140 sixth grade students to Randall Washington for their week of Cispus outdoor experiential learning, hiking, singing and growing more comfortable with their peers and middle school teachers. The weather was beautiful and a great time was had by all participants. We had 5 teachers, 17 adult chaperones and 27 high school student counselors volunteer their week to make this event a special occasion for our sixth grade students. Compliments were given to the high school students in particular this year as they were a very positive, energetic influence on the week. Once again, we are grateful for the ongoing support from the La Center Casinos Charitable Fund, who granted \$10,000 towards Cispus for the thirteenth consecutive year. We also had \$900 between community members (\$400) and the LCEA (\$500) donated to pay for 9 student scholarships.

New 6<sup>th</sup> grade class: This year we've added a sixth grade 'Academic Prep' class to assist students with their study and organizational skills. Although this class parallels the 7 & 8 grade Academic Class, it is targeted at the transitional needs of our incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Although early in the year still, this class is valued by the students enrolled and seems to be helping tremendously.

Honors Geometry Class: We have 7 students enrolled in honors geometry class, 3 boys and 4 girls. Mr. Shucka is the instructor for these students and is working closely with Mr. Helm at the high school, who teaches the honors geometry class for the high school students.

Inservice Training: On October 9<sup>th</sup>, all of our teachers, all of our para-educators and both of our secretaries and administrators participated in the MindUp Curriculum training provided by the Hawn Foundation. The goal of this training is to build another layer of adult support around our students using simple strategies and skills to assist them with:

- expanding their understanding of how their brain works,
- focusing their attention,
- improving their self-awareness,
- practicing self-regulation skills,
- building resilience to stress. and
- developing a positive mind-set for school and life.

We are grateful for the funding provided from La Center United, who covered the expense of this training for our staff, as well as the generosity of our district to include our classified staff in this day. The middle school plan at this point is to pilot MindUp in our sixth grade homeroom classes this year.

#### Fall Sports:

Football had 15 players on the 7<sup>th</sup> grade team and 15 players on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team for a total of 30 boys.

Cross Country had 17 runners total.

Volleyball had 11 players on the 7<sup>th</sup> grade team, 12 players on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team and 14 players on the blended team for a total of 37 girls.