

Enhanced Learning Opportunities Report: October/ 2015

Submitted by: Peter Rosenkranz, Director of Enhanced Learning Opportunities.

One of the amazing benefits of working within the La Center School District is the amount of learning energy that is generated for students and adults. Each challenge is met with a chance to learn something new and grow from that experience. I am appreciative of the opportunity to attend the Special Education Law Conference put on by the University of Washington's School of Law. It was a tremendous chance to learn about current trends in the law and network with fellow educators from around the state. One of the important reminders from the conference is the necessity of building a strong team and strong relationships within our teams. The foundation of high quality special education service is the IEP Team. La Center's Special Education Team has been doing amazing work in connecting with families and building strong teams to support our students.

Students:

Lois Lane attends class and is working on building confidence and accessing the learning environment with her peers. This year she is taking off and trying new things on her own. Lois is learning that she can complete her work on her own, however, she doesn't have to be alone. Other students are stepping up and going out of their way to include her in group discussions and learning within the classroom. To me these students are becoming scholars within the classroom as they are increasing the collective knowledge of the class by working as a team.

Dash (Mr. Incredible's son) is a young man who transferred into LCSD and was a bit apprehensive about his first days of school even to the point of not wanting to enter the front doors of the school. In order to help Dash acclimate to his new surroundings we went on a tour of the school, met his teacher and problem solved different approaches/entrances to the school. Dash's mom was worried about the first day as well and we were able to work through and have a plan for the first day. Plans are set and the first day of school arrives and Dash decides to enter the front doors of the school and never looks back. Mrs. White has a system set up in class and Dash now loves attending LCES and is making friends.

Career and Postsecondary:

Sara Clegg and Aften Pankiewicz-Waldren have visited WSU Vancouver's Access Center. The Coordinator was gracious enough to spend time providing a tour and guidance on how we can support special education and 504/ADA students in the college application process and accessing services when in postsecondary education. Aften & Sara were able to learn about potential supports and guidance for students with differing abilities to have access to university, community college's and trade schools. This learning will guide and reinforce our actions with students in their junior and senior year of high school. Aften and Sara have plans on visiting a community college and trade school in the near future.

Professional Development:

October 7th, Sara Clegg and Lisa Bires were able to attend a suicide prevention course put on by Mary Jadwisiak from the Youth Suicide Prevention Program. All our counselors and psychologists have now been trained by Mary keeping current with their continuing education requirements. On a side note, from the training there was some collateral benefits. Lisa and Sara were able to meet with psychologists from Woodland, Hockinson and surrounding school districts. From that meeting they have scheduled to meet as a regional team following the state psychologist conference and share

information learned at the conference. I appreciate all Lisa and Sara are doing to learn and grow for the betterment of our students.