

GEAR UP FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

We have established a GEAR UP Parent Committee who successfully organized our back to school kick off dinner and planning event. The students came up with some great ideas about what they would like to do this year and enjoyed a meal together with their families. Everyone received a GEAR UP t-shirt and great information packets about how to be a successful student.

GEAR UP has sponsored four trips so far this year.

- Construction Career Day in Spokane where they had a chance to see what kinds of opportunities are available in this field and even test out some of the heavy equipment.
- The Phantom of the Opera. Students gained social skills, had a chance to visit with the cast and crew about how they prepared for their career, and enjoy a major Broadway production.
- The sophomore Honors English class topped off the completion of the novel "The Secret Life of Bees" by going into Spokane to watch the movie based on the book.
- 9 sophomore students were selected through an application process to attend Hutch High at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. The students spent a day with scientists and the cutting edge research they perform at the Center. GEAR UP will be purchasing the equipment necessary for the Hutch High students to lead other GCDSD students through sample research activities.

Late Night Friday is Back!

Bored? Nothing to do on Friday night?

Join us at the Nespelem School for tons of fun:

Climbing Wall Movies Board Games
Arts & Crafts Food

November 21, December 5 & 12, 6:00-9:00 pm

STUDENT CONFERENCES

It's that time of year and SHARP Kids thought we should extend our connection to the school day by showing our support of Parent Teacher Conferences. Students involved in SHARP Kids programs at the high school and middle school participated in a phone calling campaign to boost attendance at this important event. The phone call served as a personal invitation, from a LR student, to be involved in the educational process. This proved to be particularly in tandem with the extra efforts that they high school staff put forth.

SHARP Kids and Navigation 101 staff were on hand in the high school library to greet families and share information on available programs. SHARP Kids records documented 52 students and 42 adult family members in attendance!

Great job LR staff, families, and students!

GINGERBREAD HOUSE NIGHT

The sixth annual Gingerbread House Night will be at Center School on December 10th, 6:00-7:30 pm. Families of GCDSD students are all encouraged to join in the fun, this event is for all ages. The PTA will be providing hot dogs, salads, beverages and chips.



We are excited to be offering a Gingerbread Night in Nespelem as well. The event will be incorporated into the ever-popular Late Night Friday on Dec 12th, 6:00-9:00 pm at the Nespelem School.

*Director: Mary Schilling Family Advocate: Linda Roberts Student Advocate: Jeannette Hopkins
LRHS: Cathy Krohn & Misty Krohn GCDMS: Rich Black, Steve McMannis, Amanda Poch, & Zach Braun
Center: Christel Pitner & Alisa Lind Nespelem: Theresa Wilder & Jama VanBrunt*

CENTER ELEMENTARY

SHARP Kids had a productive meeting with elementary school staff to discuss ideas for program direction and growth. Both State and Federal program regulators are focusing their attention and money on the middle school age group. This is requiring us to shift money from the elementary school to the middle school for after school programs.

Teachers discussed ways to get more teachers involved in after school leadership, a proven sign of success, yet still adjust to a smaller budget. Their conclusion was that the program should

only be two days per week and it should serve a more focused group of students. Fourth graders are partnering with fifth grade students two days per week at the middle school, focusing on the transition to middle school and organization. Teachers feel that kindergarten and 1st grade students are really tired at the end of the school day and that the programming was basically child care. To be fiscally responsible, we must ensure that our programs are meeting program goals and not just serving as child care.

This leaves us with a manageable, focused group of 2nd and 3rd grade students. Position openings were posted and two leaders were hired. Alisa Lind, a newcomer to the community and certificated elementary teacher, will lead the 2nd graders. Christel Pitner, a 3rd grade teacher at Center, will lead the 3rd grade program. The leaders will work closely with classroom teachers to identify and invite target students. We plan on serving twenty students beginning Dec. 2nd.

GCDMS

With State grants focusing in on the middle school age, our Pirate students are really benefiting. SHARP Kids has a two-day per week program for 4th & 5th grade students and a two-day per week program for 6th grade students. Both of these programs are led by Amanda Poch. Students in these two programs will be focusing on the transition to middle school, getting organized, and getting academic assistance.

7th and 8th grade students are meeting four days per week with leaders Rich Black, a returning leader, and Steve McMannis, our new 5th grade teacher. Students in this program are working on their math skills with one of the leading math curricula, Carnegie Math. Other activities include homework assistance, planning for high school and beyond, and a Lego Engineering lab.

All students are meeting with our Student Advocate to discuss their

strengths and challenges and to set a personal goal. Our Family Advocate is meeting with each family to discuss the specific needs of each student and to set their own goal for their student. With permission, the Advocates will share these goals with the leaders and school day teachers, so that all parties can work together towards student success.

SHARP Kids is currently serving 30 students in the middle school program.

LRHS

After school at the high school continues to be a popular place for students to get caught up on work and work with a tutor. On average, 20 students are served regularly; however, we have seen more than 83 students at some point this year.

Our focus this year will be to expand our programs to include more structured club activities. The knitting club has been running for two weeks as well as a mariachi club and science club.

Additional clubs on the horizon include a journalism, digital photography, and web design.

Our highly successful Student Support Council has been hard at work identifying ways to address student needs. Their hard work last year resulted in their idea of a Reward Day being written into the high school discipline policy. The criteria to be eligible for participation in Reward Day is to have less than 6 demerits. 192 out of the roughly 260 students at the

high school were eligible for the first Reward Day this fall. Several staff members contributed to the celebration by donating coupons for various things such as lunch or cookies. The next focus for the Council is to pursue options for student study groups. These students are also branching out in their involvement through activities such as mentoring to younger students, participation in the Horizon program, and partnering with WSU for a young women's group.