Centennial Elementary School

Shannon Ritter, Principal February 2018

Hello Centennial Families ~

Construction has kicked into high gear! The "mini-building" which isn't so mini is really taking shape. We are the last of five mini-buildings being constructed around the district - they saved the best for last! I was able to tour the mini-building at Pioneer Elementary and it is a beautiful space for learning! The current best estimate for completion is around the end of May 2018. I am excited for our students to be able to have this brand new space for learning.

The modernization plans for the main building are moving along nicely as well. Most of the spaces have been finalized and I have started working on a phasing plan that will impact students and teachers as little as possible. It has been an interesting and exciting process. Stop by the office and check out the rendering book to get a feel of what our new school will look like. The timeline for this project will begin on June 20, 2018 with a wrap up date for September 2019.

If you have had a chance to check out the playground area recently you will have seen a HUGE hole in the field and tons of equipment busy at work. The kiddos (and some adults too) have really enjoyed watching this process. We are all very curious about what is happening out there. We have jokingly said they are working on putting in a pool!

And lastly, the added construction vehicles make navigating our already congested space even more tricky. Please do not block the entrance to the school campus. This corner is already tight and our buses are not able to get in. Thank you for packing extra patience in your pockets during the morning drop-off and afternoon pick- up.

Big, beautiful changes are coming our way! *Shannon Ritter*

Count Down to Kindergarten

On Saturday, February 10, the Olympia School District will hold its annual Kindergarten informational event starting at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at Capital High School. A reminder that children should be 5 years old by August 31, 2018 to be eligible to start kindergarten this fall. The event is geared for adults of incoming kindergartners in the Olympia School District. Child- care is not provided. Capital High School is located at 2707 Conger Ave. N.W. in Olympia.

Reading Month – "Gold Medal Readers"

This is a time to continue to encourage students to read at home. Students can count oral reading, silent reading and being read to. Students are to count only reading done at home, not in school. Information has been sent home. Extra forms to record reading minutes are available in the library and in the office. If students meet their reading goal school-wide, students will earn a popcorn party and bookmark. Top readers will join Mrs. Ritter for lunch. Classes with 100% participation will be eligible for a drawing to participate in styling Mrs. Nye's and Mrs. Ritter's hair at a Friday Sing.

- Reading Month: February 5-March 2
- Used Book Sale: Thursday, February 22
- Character Day: Friday, March 2

We will be celebrating the end of our Reading Month on Friday, March 2 by having a "Character Day" at school. Students may come dressed as a favorite character from a book they have read. Please be aware that the outfits must be school appropriate. Your teachers will have more information.

Attention: Vaccination Requirements for Sixth Graders

Washington State Department of Health requires all children **entering sixth grade** or who are **11 years old** to show proof of Tdap **(Tetanus, Diphtheria, & Pertussis)** and Varicella **(Chicken Pox)** vaccinations.
If your child has a check-up this spring, see if you need this vaccination. Call the office or send a note with the date so that we can update your child's health record.

Kindergarten Registration for Fall 2018-2019

- Registration Forms available starting – March 5
- Return registration forms starting – March 6
- A Taste of Kindergarten & Screening at CES – June 4
  Parent orientation & student screening

Centennial Science & Engineering Fair



- Tuesday, March 6, 2018
- 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Registration Forms due by **Friday, February 16**. All forms are available on Centennial's website.

Battle of the Books Championship

March 13, 2018, Final Battle of the Books Competition at Centennial Gym
1:30 – 2:15 P.M. - Grade 3
2:15 – 3:10 P.M. - Grades 4 & 5

Inspired by art

Art unleashes your child's imagination and lets him practice fine-motor skills. Try these tips to encourage him to experiment.

Use natural supplies

Challenge your youngster to find free art materials right in your backyard! For instance, he might use sticks or feathers as paintbrushes. Or he could draw on rocks with colored chalk.

Try new formats

Suggest that your child arrange objects (toys, fruits) on a table and sketch a *still life*. Or go outdoors where he can paint a *landscape* of natural scenery like trees or a pond. If he wants to draw a *portrait*, he could ask a family member to pose—or look in a mirror and create a self-portrait. *Home & School Connection, February 2018*

Decisions, Decisions

Learning to make smaller decisions now will prepare your youngster to make bigger ones later. Here are ways to build her decision-making skills:

● Hearing you think through your choices gives your child an example to follow. You might say, "I'd like to visit Aunt Sue tonight, but then I might not finish this proposal for work. I'll go Saturday instead."

● When possible, give your youngster two to three specific options. That way, she can make a decision without feeling overwhelmed. *Example:* "Do you want to sweep or dust?" rather than "Which chore would you prefer to do?"♥ *Home & School Connection, February 2018*

Upcoming Events

2/6 CES Science Fair Registration Forms - available online
2/7 First Grade Program at 7:00 p.m. at Centennial
2/10 OSD District-Wide Kindergarten Information Event at Capital High School 10:00-11:30 a.m.
2/12 Olympia Junior Program Field Trip grades 4 & 5 *Waters of the Earth* at 10:00 a.m. buses leave by 9:20 a.m.
2/13 Election Day – Remember to Vote
2/16 *Report Cards go home in backpacks for 1st semester*
Friday Sing at 2:45 p.m. (note this is a change in date)
Science Fair Applications due by Friday
2/19-20 Mid-Winter Break No School
2/22 ASB Used Book Sale
2/23 Olympia Junior Program Field Trip grades 1-3 *The Adventures of Bella & Harry* at 10:00 a.m. buses leave by 9:20 a.m.
3/2 Character Day
Friday Sing 2:45 p.m.
3/5 Kindergarten Registration Begins
3/6 CES Booster Club's Science Fair 5:30- 7:30 p.m.
3/7 Miller and Currie 5th grade Program – Program at 7:00 p.m.
3/12 5th Grade Parent Night at Washington Middle School – 6:00-7:00 p.m.
3/13 Battle of the Books Championship
3rd grade – 1:30 – 2:15 p.m.
4th-5th grades- 2:15-3:00 p.m.
Booster Club Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance calls for Centennial should be left on the Attendance Line voice mail phone number at 360-596-8303. This is a 24-hour voice mail number that you can call at any time of the day.

Olympic-Sized Learning

While the 2018 Winter Olympic Games are taking place thousands of miles away, your child can earn a "medal" in learning at home. Turn Olympic magic into educational gold with these suggestions.

Reading Speed skating, ski jumping, luge…which Winter Olympics sports does your youngster enjoy watching? Head to the library together to pick out books about their history, the rules, and how the athletes train. Idea: Hold a "reading Olympics." Let family members count the books they read in February. At the end of the month, everyone can award medals to their three favorites.

Math Your child will practice gathering, recording, and calculating data to find out which of his favorite countries wins the most medals. Encourage him to divide poster board into four columns: "Country," "Gold," "Silver," "Bronze." In column one, he can list teams he'd like to follow. Every day, have him check a newspaper or olympic.org and add tally marks for each country's medals. After the Olympics end, he can total them up to see who got the most in each category.

Social Studies Where in the world do the Olympic athletes come from? To explore geography, help your youngster use a map to find countries represented in the Olympics. He might put star stickers on the countries on a wall map. Or let him print out a world map and make a dot on each competing country. ♥ *Home & School Connection, February 2018*

Wanted: Gently Used Books for the Used Book Sale

Check under your beds and in your closets for gently used books for Centennial's Used Book Sale that will take place on Thursday, February 22. This is a fun event for all our children to browse and select books to purchase from 5¢ - $1.00. This is a one-day event. Students shop during their recesses.

Centennial's Character Day is March 2nd

Mark your calendar and begin to plan your child's costume for Character Day. This is an annual event that is celebrated at the end of our reading month. Students may come dressed as a favorite character from a book they have read. There are lots of wonderful books characters to choose from; let your imagination soar! Please be aware that the outfits must be school appropriate.

Highly Capable Referral Window Open January 29- February 9

The referral window is open for children in grades 2-8 for next year Hi Cap Program. Parents can go to the district webpage to locate the referral forms. The Olympia School District screens students in grades two through grade seven in the spring of each school year. The screening process is comprehensive and multi-layered, using objective criteria. See the Olympia School District website for information on the Highly Capable Program https://osd.wednet.edu/academics/highly_capable

OSD 2017-18 Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Olympia School District will provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The district will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. Auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request to individuals with disabilities.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies, reports of alleged sexual harassment, concerns about compliance, and/or grievance procedures:

- *Jeff Carpenter, Title IX Officer, jcarpenter@osd.wednet.edu, (360) 596-8544*
- *Ken Turcotte, Section 504 and ADA Coordinator, klturcotte@osd.wednet.edu, (360) 596-7542*
- *Steve Rood, Director of Career and Technical Education, srood@osd.wednet.edu, (360) 596-6109*
- *Scott Niemann, Affirmative Action Officer and Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, sniemann@osd.wednet.edu, (360) 596-6193. All four individuals may also be contacted at 1113 Legion Way S.E., Olympia, WA, 98501.*