Centennial Elementary

Mrs. Alice R. Drummer, Principal Vol. 6 March 2008

Principal’s Message

I am delighted to share another wonderful new program at our school with you. Centennial is now a participating member in O Ambassadors! “O Ambassadors” is an exciting new joint project of Oprah’s Angel Network and Free the Children that will inspire young people to become active, compassionate and knowledgeable global citizens.

The program connects young people in North America with people around the world to create lasting change by working toward the UN Millennium Development Goals (poverty, education, health, and sustainable development). Participants address problems such as hunger, poverty and limited access to education, raise funds for development projects overseas and increase awareness of global issues at their school and in their community.

As “O Ambassadors”, Centennial students are involved in several fund-raising projects and are especially excited about “Climbing for Kids”. On April 3rd and 4th, the students will participate in the 4th Annual Centennial Climbing Competition, a fun and friendly rock climbing completion (Climbing our traversing wall at Centennial) where they complete routes marked by colored tape to earn points.

This year, we are looking for families, friends and local businesses to pledge “a penny a point” for the students as they climb. A typical climber might score 100 points in the competition (champion climbers could score as many as 400 points and younger students considerably fewer points). A pledger can choose to sponsor an entire grade level (usually 75-85 students), or even the entire school (492 students) at a penny a point.

Centennial students would be delighted if you’d consider making a pledge! Thank you for all you do to support our school.

Sincerely,

Alice R. Drummer

Thank you to our families, Site Council, Booster Club and staff members who came to support our school at the Monday, March 10th School Board Meeting.

Our Student Council Representatives/class presenters did a wonderful job speaking in front of the School Board. Also, a big thank you to Jana Gedde, our Choir Director, and the 4th and 5th grade Sound Tracks members who sang two songs that evening: A Song of Peace and Agents of Change.

Conference Week
March 24th – 28th

Early Dismissal 12:52 P.M.

No AM or PM Kindergarten this week
### Coming Events

- **3/17** – 25th MAP Testing 4th & 5th grades
- **3/21** Battle of the Books Assemblies
  - 2:10 P.M. 3rd Grade Teams
  - 2:40 P.M. 5th Grade Teams
- **3/24-28th** Spring Conferences – Early Dismissal
  @ 12:52 P.M. No AM or PM Kindergarten
- **3/24** Parents can begin to pick up Kindergarten Registration Packets for Fall 2008-2009 School Year
- **3/31** Kindergarten Roundup 4:30-6:00 P.M.
- **4/1** 2nd Trimester – Student Recognition Assemblies
  - 5th Grade Band Concert OHS gym @ 7:30 P.M.
- **4/2** Anti-Bullying Assemblies
- **4/4** Passport Recheck
- **4/14 – 5/2** WASL Window
- **4/25** Sound Tracks Field Trip to Olympia Country Club
- **4/28** Pioneer Farm Field Trip – 1st Grade
- **4/29** Site Council Meeting
- **4/30** Passport Check
- **4/30 – 5/2** 5th graders at CISPUSS
- **5/7** Health Fair – 5th grade @ Centennial
  - 2nd Grade Program – Dress Rehearsal 2:30 P.M. and Program at 7:00 P.M.
- **5/8** Passport Recheck
- **5/9** Field Trip – Mrs. Currie
- **5/10** Carnival
- **5/12** Field Trip – Mrs. Leach
- **5/13** Field Trip – Mrs. Lee-O’Neil
- **5/14** Class Photos
- **5/16** Jr Programs Grades 1-3 James and the Giant Peach 10:00 A.M.
  - Choir Spring CD Recording – afternoon
- **5/19** Dress Rehearsals for Spring Concert
  - 1:30 & 2:15 P.M.
- **5/20** Tacoma Rainier Field Trip – 3rd & 4th graders
  - Spring Choir Concert -7:00 P.M. @ PAC
- **5/21** 5th grade Scoliosis Screening
- **5/29** Thursday Sing with Rhubarb the Reindeer at 2:30 P.M. (Tacoma Rainiers)
- **5/30** Passport Check
  - Booster Club Family Sock Hop @ 6:30 P.M.

### Centennial Cookbooks

Pick up a copy today. The cookbooks will make wonderful birthday, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, or hostess gifts. They are $10 each, payable to Centennial ASB.

### Kindergarten Registration

**Monday, March 31st**

**4:30 – 6:00 P.M.**

Registration packets can be picked up during the week of March 24-28th.
Visit the classrooms - Turn in forms - Meet Booster Club Members - Video of a Day in Kindergarten

### Wild About Reading at Centennial

**– McDonald’s Takeover**

Our reading month at Centennial, was a great success! Our students read 249,205 minutes – 49,205 over our goal. Posters were the hottest item in the store this year, but points were spent on many other fun items, too. At the used book sale, students were buying books by the armful and raised over $600 for the library. Character Day saw many of our favorite book characters walking the halls of Centennial. This was the same day we celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday and had a Friday Sing tribute to him. Classes with 100% participation in Reading Month were privileged to have Mrs. Drummer visit their classroom to read a story. All students got to see their teacher work at McDonald’s on Wednesday, March 12th. Many thanks to Reading Month Coordinators, Carol Wintercorn and Laura Currie!

Congratulations to our students! Remember to keep on reading!
Parents of 5th Graders:

There are currently two alternative middle school programs in the Olympia School District, the Marshall Alternative Program (M.A.P.) at Marshall Middle School, and the ALKI Program at Reeves Middle School. Information about both of these programs will be shared at evening meetings. Please note the times and dates if you are interested. Parents must attend one of the meetings if they want their child to attend one of the programs.

M.A.P. Thursday, March 20th 7:00 P.M. or Tuesday, March 25th 7:00 P.M.

ALKI Thursday, March 13th 7:00 P.M. or Wednesday, March 19th 7:00 P.M.

M.A.P. & ALKI provide an academic alternative in multi-age classrooms.

WASL Testing

Third, Fourth and Fifth graders will take part in the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) test April 14th - May 2nd. These tests will include assessment of a student’s progress in reading, writing, mathematics, and science. This test is not timed. Students will be given as much class time as is needed. These tests are different from the multiple-choice format, as students will now need to show their work and explain in detail how to solve problems.

Please do not schedule doctor appointments or out of town trips during this time period.

WANTED!

Water and nutritional snacks during WASL Testing. Your child’s teacher will send home more detailed information.

Outdoor School

Our fifth grade students will be attending Outdoor School at the Cispus Environmental Center in Randle, Washington for three days at the end of April. They will leave Centennial on Wednesday morning, April 30th, and will return in the afternoon on Friday, May 2nd. The Center has been developed specifically for student environmental studies and has excellent facilities for both study and research.

Information regarding Outdoor School will be distributed during conference week. The cost for a child to attend for these three days is $70. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s teacher or Roz in the office.

More 5th Grade News

WMS Counselors will be visiting the 5th grade classes at 9:30 A.M. on March 26th. Parents, please fill out and return the form your child will be bringing home. All forms will need to be back to school within two weeks. Thank you for your help.

Monday, March 31st, there will be a Parent Meeting for 5th grade parents at Washington Middle School at 7:00 P.M.

Centennial 5th graders will be going on a field trip in June to WMS to tour the school, have lunch, and attend an assembly.

Needed:

Change of clothes for students. Specifically, boys and girls’ underwear, socks, and various sizes of pants (sweats).
School Carnival
Centennial will have a western theme for the 2008 carnival. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 10th. It is going to be a night of games, food, and fun for all. The carnival committee is already starting their planning, and sign up sheets will be coming out later this month.
Please let the office or Laura Currie know if you would like to be on a committee.

From Centennial A.S.B.
Thank you for supporting our Used Book Sale on February 28th & 29th. We raised over $600 for our Library!
Thank you also to all the families that donated books to this cause, and Beverlee Boe, Lisa Sorrell, Carol Wintercorn and Laura Currie for their coordination of this event.

Kindergarten and New Student Registration
Kindergarten and new student registration for the 2008-09 school year will begin on Monday, April 31st from 4:30 – 6:00 P.M.
Kindergarten Registration packets will be available for pick up during conference week March 24th – 28th, to allow families time to collect the information (immunization records and birth certificates) and to complete the registration forms.
Please spread the word to families and neighbors within our attendance area. Early registrations make it possible for us to plan the numbers of classrooms more accurately for the following school year.
Registration will continue on Tuesday, April 1st for kindergarten and any child that is new, who will be entering Centennial in grades 1-5 in the fall.

Tests….Choose to do well
True or false: standardized tests are tough. The answer depends on how prepared your youngster is. Here are four ways to help her handle test week:

1. Explain that the tests will show how much she has learned. Encourage her to try her best, but don’t put so much emphasis on them that she feels stressed.
2. Practice the test format. For example, your child might have to read a paragraph and answer questions. Using one of her textbooks, have her look at the questions at the end of a section first and then read the passage. That will help her know what to read for and how to find the answers.
3. Limit activities the night before tests. You may want to avoid having guests for dinner or skip her brother’s baseball game if it means being out late. Be sure your child gets to bed on time and sets an alarm for the next morning.
4. On test day, give her an energy-boosting breakfast. Try to include both protein (eggs, yogurt, milk) and carbohydrates (fruits, oatmeal, toast).

Jeopardy at Centennial!
Battle of the Books had over 150 students, and several teachers, reading and competing about their knowledge of the books they have read. At our weekly meeting, groups are quizzed with an electronic version of Jeopardy. Each team had their own remote for their chance to be the first to answer. Congratulations to the students who read a number of the 15 books on the Battle of the Books book list, and attended the practice sessions before school. After all books are read, teams will battle to see who is the Battle of the Books champion at Centennial. The final battle will take place on Friday, March 21st.