Follow up Reminders

When the school is conducting any kind of emergency drill (fire, lockdown or earthquake) a sign is posted on the doors. Please, as a reminder, DO NOT ENTER THE BUILDING under any circumstances. If we have evacuated the building do not attempt to take your child from the school until you have signed your child out with office staff at the end of the drill. We need to be able to account for all students and if you take your child without the school’s knowledge, there will be undue concern.

In addition to the traffic safety tip in last month’s bulletin, please remember to ensure that other motorists are indeed going to turn into the school’s driveway before proceeding onward on 45th. "Every signal does not equal to a turn." Thanks.

Principal’s Message

Greetings!

I hope each of you had an enjoyable Thanksgiving experience with family and friends. It seems that time is really going by quickly, thus making the saying “savor every moment,” even more important. Prior to the Thanksgiving Holiday Celebration, we enjoyed a wonderful Veterans’ Day Program here at CES. I would like to commend all 3rd grade students for their excellent performance in the program. A special thanks also goes out to the 3rd grade teachers- Mr. O’Neil, Mrs. Peterson, and Mrs. Hougan- for all of their hard work in making the program a success. I applaud Mrs. Gedde for her excellent talent and commitment to our music program. Many thanks also goes to Mrs. Stientjes for co-chairing the program along with Mrs. Peterson, and to Mrs. Wintercorn and Mrs. Sorrell, for hosting the reception in the library following the program. I also extend thanks to Mr. Philippsen for serving as the photographer for students’ and service members’ photographs. I am confident that the collective efforts of the students and staff sent a heartfelt message to our Veterans and current active duty military personnel that Centennial is grateful for all you have done and are doing as “Defenders of our Freedom.” Thank-you!

We are proud of the continued academic achievement of our kids, along with the great social skills they demonstrate on a daily basis. In general, CES continues to be a great place for teaching and learning. I trust that as parents, you are pleased with your students’ report cards that were sent home on November 16th. Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher with any questions, concerns, ideas, or suggestions you may have regarding your child’s progress.

In this newsletter you will find valuable information on a variety of topics. I invite you to take special note of page 3, which addresses “Safety and Emergency Planning.” We engage in each of our safety drills once per month. Our goal is to achieve automaticity through perfect practice, so that if a real emergency should occur, we will know exactly what to do and, therefore, are better equipped to insure the safety of all.

It is my pleasure and distinct privilege to serve as your principal. Please feel free to contact me if I may assist you in any school-related matter. I thank you for your support and involvement in your school.

Sincerely,

Alice R. Drummer

Early Release

December 7th 12:52 P.M.
No AM or PM Kindergarten
ASB ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

Please help Centennial students again this year in our fight against hunger.

Our food drive will take place from November 28 – December 5th. Any and all non-perishable food items are welcomed and needed. More information to follow.

CLOTHING NEEDS

Throughout the day, due to variety of situations, there are children who need a change of clothes. We are in need of new or clean gently used underwear, and pants in all sizes. If you have any of these items at home ready to be given away, please consider sending them to school.

BOOK FAIR

Great news from the Book Fair! Thanks to our wonderful community, we cleared over $1,000 that will go directly for the purchase of new books. The order has already been placed. Thank you, Centennial families, for your generous support.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

Every child at Centennial has outdoor recess during the day. While indoor options are available during the very wet weather or extremely cold weather, children are otherwise expected to be outside. It is distressing to see the number of children who do not dress for the weather. Children in Full Day Kindergarten - 5th grades have recesses up to 35 minutes in length. This is a long time to be outside if improperly dressed for the weather. Of equal concern is children’s preparedness for an emergency. In case of severe disaster, children may be forced to spend long periods of time outdoors. If they are underdressed, they may seriously suffer from the cold. Sometimes we are forced outside because of a faulty fire alarm system or other building problems. Of course, these are unpredictable, so it is imperative that your child dress each day for the weather. Please be mindful of proper dress for the weather conditions.

K-4th Math for Parents

Parent Education Classes

November 27, 2007

How can you help your child in math? Learn how you can support and extend your child’s mathematical thinking without a homework tug-o-war!

Knox Administrative Center

1113 Legion Way SE

6:30-8:00 pm

Free child care at Madison Gym

Call Kathie Axtell at 596-7560 or kaxtell@osd.wednet.edu to register.
SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

Please read the following and be familiar with school practices in regard to safety and emergencies. Note that it is our goal to ensure children and staff know how to keep themselves safe at all times.

There are three types of drills that are performed at school. These include drills for fire, earthquake, and any need that arises for which we would need to perform a ‘lock down’ (this might be in response to an intruder). Drills can sometimes be scary for children, but we must remember that our goal is to make everyone’s reactions in an emergency come automatically (which practice provides). Children will feel safer and more empowered if they know how to react when an emergency or unsafe act occurs (the same applies to situations such as interacting with strangers, etc.). It is not knowing what to do when an emergency occurs that can cause out-of-control fear.

Our drill practices include:

- **Fire Drill**: In a fire drill, children practice evacuating the building by the nearest exit, walking out away from the building, and going to the field. It is there that teachers will take attendance and make sure everyone is accounted for.

- **Earthquake Drill**: In an earthquake drill, children practice drop and cover techniques, staying in that safe spot until an adult gives further directions.

- **Lock Down Drill**: In a lock down drill, children will practice going to safe spots in the classroom (blind spots) and staying quiet. Teachers first account for each student, then lock doors, and pull blinds.

Talk with your child about these drills, especially focusing on your ‘home’ plans for fires and earthquakes! It is important for children to know what to do at home in an emergency as well as at school.

In addition, there are many security procedures we follow at Centennial. Please ensure you are familiar with them.

- **Locked Doors**: Please note that only our front doors and recess doors are unlocked during the school day. This allows us to monitor those individuals entering the building.

- **Adult Sign-in**: All adults must sign in and put on a volunteer badges before working or visiting the building. This helps us to ensure that everyone who is in the building should be!

- **Student Pick-up**: Students may be picked up during the day only by their parent/guardian or someone listed on the registration card or emergency slip as having permission to pick up your child. Adults unknown to the office staff will be asked to present their I.D.

- **Student Information**: Student information is confidential and will not be given to callers who present themselves as needing the information for whatever reason.

In addition, never let your child bring any item to school which could be used as a weapon. This includes items such as explosives, knives (including pocket knives and scout knives, firearms including water pistols or toy guns, etc.). These items are considered dangerous and especially so when in the hands of children.

Should you have any questions about safety procedures, please don’t hesitate to call the school.

**Make Sure your child has an emergency kit in their classroom. If you still need a kit you can assemble your own. Information is available in the school office.**
INTEL GRANT MONIES

Under the Volunteer Match Grants Program, the Intel foundation donates $200 in unrestricted funds for every 20 hours of Intel employee volunteer time at a school during an academic year. Employees may combine their hours to qualify for matching grants. Thanks to Yu Wang (Andrew Huang’s mother), the Intel Corporation donated $400 to Centennial for her volunteer time.

BUS DRIVERS WANTED

Do you like to travel? Do you like driving? How about working for the Olympia School District as a school bus driver?

Drivers make $12.97 per hour the first year, $13.91 the second and $15.90 the third year. Drivers also earn State Retirement and Teamster Retirement.

Olympia Transportation Department will train. Call 360-596-7700 for more information.

ATTENTION: VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, & Pertussis)

Varicella (Chicken Pox)

Starting July 1, 2007, the Washington State Department of Health requires all children entering sixth grade or who are 11 years old to show proof of Tdap and Varicella vaccinations.

If your child has a check up this winter, see if you need this vaccination. Call the office or send a note with the date so we can update your child’s health record.

Wanted:

Someone to work at CES from 12:05-1:40 P.M. daily. This is a paid position. If interested, please call the school for details.

Centennial’s 4th & 5th Grade Winter Band & Orchestra Concert

Tuesday, December 11th
2:30 P.M.

Shooting Stars & Sound Tracks

Winter Choir Concert

Monday, December 17th
7:00 P.M. at Olympia High School PAC

Calendar

December 5th ASB Food Drive Ends
December 6th Passport Recheck
December 7th Early Release – District Wide Dismissal 12:52 P.M.
No AM or PM Kindergarten
December 11th Centennial Band & Orchestra Concert @ 2:30 P.M.
December 14th Choir CD Recording
1:00 P.M. Shooting Stars
2:05 P.M. Sound Tracks
December 17th Choir Concert
7:00 P.M. at OHS PAC
December 18th Passport Check
Friday Sing 2:30 P.M.
December 19th – January 1st Winter Break
January 4th Passport Recheck
January 10th Lion’s Vision & Hearing Checks