



SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

The Observer

January 2013

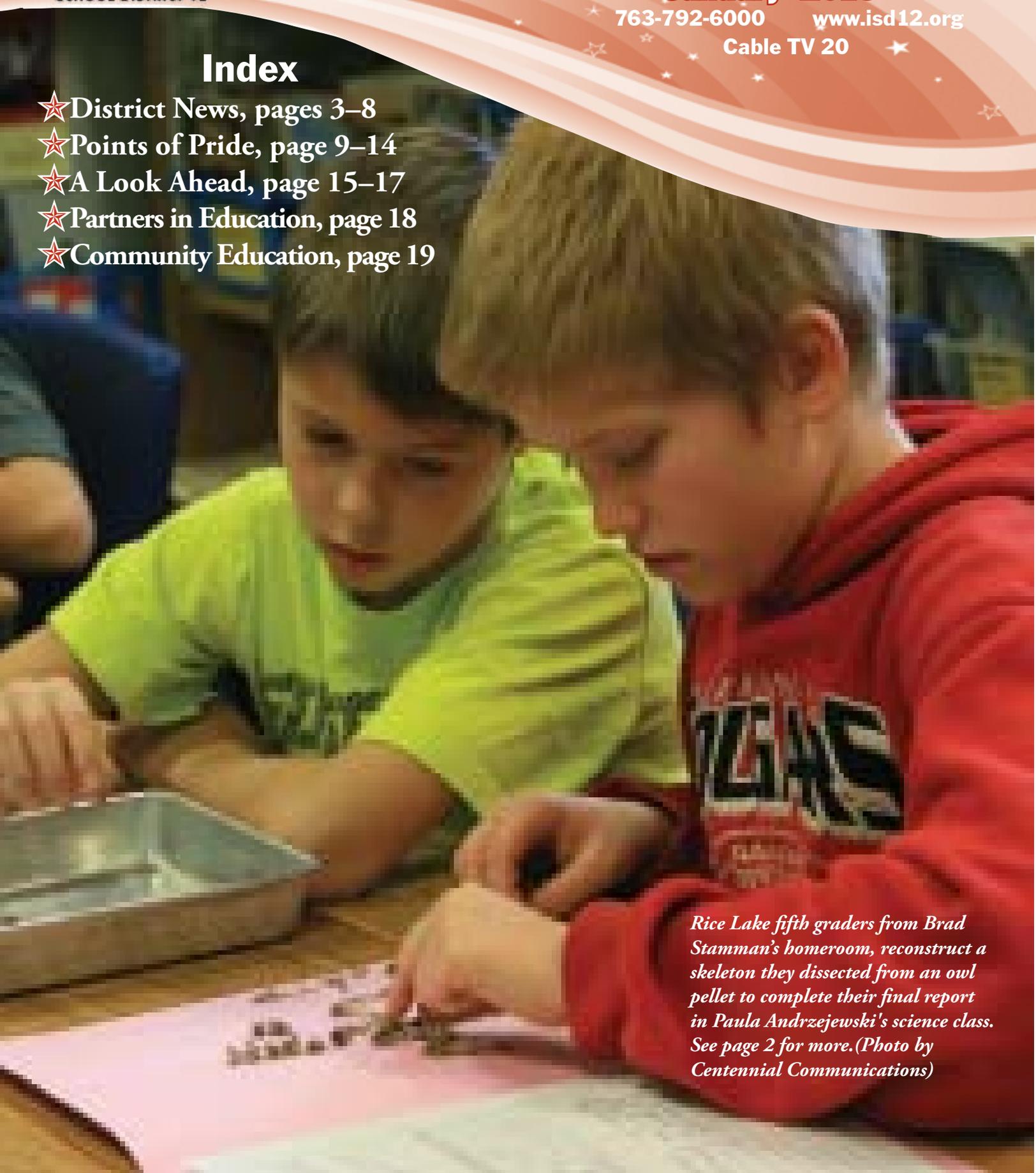
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Rice Lake fifth graders from Brad Stamman's homeroom, reconstruct a skeleton they dissected from an owl pellet to complete their final report in Paula Andrzejewski's science class. See page 2 for more. (Photo by Centennial Communications)

The Observer is published six times a year for residents of Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Lexington, Lino Lakes, and the 6,421 students in the Centennial School District. All residents receive this publication because they support the district through tax payments. Residents within ZIP code 55014 and 55038 receive The Observer via postal carrier route sort. If you aren't receiving it regularly, contact your post office. Published by Centennial Community Education—Jan Johnson and Cathy Wyland and can be reached at 763-792-6108.

Photo policy—There are occasions when representatives of District 12 and/or the media photograph or videotape students while in school or attending/participating in school sponsored functions. Parents/guardians not wanting their child to be identified in photographs or on videotape, should notify, in writing, the principal's office of the school their child attends.

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★ Rice Lake fifth grader analyzes a skull she extracted from an owl pellet in Paula Andrzejewski's science class. Students were assigned to investigate the energy flow in a food chain using the scientific method, hypothesize what the owl ate, then find evidence to prove what it ate and how many meals it consumed.

School board election results

Residents elected the following three 4-year term Centennial School Board members in the Nov. 6 General Election:



Incumbant **Christina Wilson**
8,860 (32.57%)



Incumbant **Karen Lodico**
7,350 (27.02%)



Ray Culp
6,652 (24.45%)

They begin serving their new term Jan. 1, 2013, joining board members Suzy Guthmueller, Barb Regnier and John Burns. Election of Officers for 2013–14 will take place at the Jan. 14 organizational meeting.

Meanwhile, member Cindy Norton is leaving the school board, finishing her first term. We thank her for her four years of service.

The search is underway

The search for a new superintendent of schools is underway in the Centennial School District.

Search Consultant Kenneth LaCroix has been hired to recruit potential candidates and facilitate the selection process. Invitation to Apply brochures have been mailed to the 500 plus members of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) in addition to state associations in Wisconsin, Iowa and the Dakotas. The brochure has also been posted on the district website at www.isd12.org.

Applications are due Jan. 25, 2013 with the first round of interviews scheduled for mid-February. First round candidates will interview with school board members and an advisory committee comprised of parents, staff and community members. Finalists selected will be interviewed by school board members the last week of February. The contract for the new superintendent is expected to be approved at the March 18 board meeting.

The new superintendent will lead the district as it carries out its newly approved strategic plan (see page 4).

Centennial's current superintendent, Dr. Keith M. Dixon, will retire June 30, 2013 after completing his second year of service to the district.

Upcoming school board meetings

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the district office (unless otherwise indicated) and cablecast on cable channel 20 on:

Monday, Jan. 14

School board minutes are published in the Quad Community Press and on the Centennial website at wwisd12.org.

strategy

Board approves Strategic Plan

A Strategic Plan for the next life-cycle of Centennial Schools was approved by the Centennial School Board Nov. 19.

The plan and associated Advancement Goals, both posted on the district website at www.isd12.org, builds tomorrow's school district taking into account changing demographics, state funding and building uses that challenge the longevity of great schools.

Centennial will continue to emphasize its strengths:

- Achieve great results—students annually outperform state averages in reading and math, and the district graduation rate is 98 percent.
- Collaboration—students with students; teachers with parents; community members with administrators, etc.
- Innovation—by building off what works well.
- Spark interest—by keeping students engaged in the classroom and drawing interest from outside the district in terms of open enrollment.

While emphasizing these strengths, Centennial will put more energy into improving in key areas, in keeping schools safe and in making sure that every student succeeds.

Work has begun on plan implementation with administrators identifying 28 initiatives. They include:

- Stronger connections to the community.
- Completing the wireless expansion to include all parts of district buildings.
- Creating common assessment practices across the curriculum.
- Engaging parent/teacher organizations in implementing the plan.
- Completing a demographics study and analysis of long-term facility's needs.

The input and plan are also being used to inform the process for finding the district's next superintendent.

Stay connected to the Strategic Plan via the district website and future communications. Ask questions and share your thoughts via email at info@isd12.org or mail a letter to 4707 North Road, Circle Pines, MN 55014.

Positive audit report noted

The Centennial School Board received a positive audit report for the 2011–12 school year. The audit is available on the district website under Business Office.

Highlights include the following:

- Revenue was over budget by 5 percent and totaled \$64,191,047.
- Expenditures were over budget by 1.3 percent and totaled \$62,623,539.
- The General Fund fund balance at June 30, 2012 was \$8,084,711 or 12.9 percent of expenditures. Board policy sets the fund balance target at one month's expenditures or 8.33 percent.
- The district borrowed \$15,674,104.
- The fund balance and borrowing help cash flow the district and handle the metering or delay in state funding. Last fiscal year, the district received 70 percent of its funding during the school year and 30 percent in the following year. This year the delay will shift to 64.3 percent received in the current fiscal year and 35.7 percent in the following year.
- About \$750,000 of the increase in revenue came from special education adjustments made in 2010–11.
- About \$825,000 of the increase in revenue came from General State Aid. While the budget was built on a decline in students, Centennial actually gained students during the school year.
- About \$400,000 of the increase in revenue was additional special education revenue for 2012–13.
- Salary and benefits account for 77 percent of General Fund expenditures. This declined by 1.1 percent.
- The state still owes the district 40 percent of its state aid, which was withheld as a state budget savings, and required district borrowing.
- The basic general education formula increased by \$50 per student to \$5,174. Another \$50 per student will be added to the formula for 2012–13.
- Food Service increased its fund balance by \$53,900, which is 6.5 percent of its expenditures. After several years of declining fund balances, this self-sustaining operation had an increase.
- Community Education increased its fund balance by \$355,320, which is 16.5 percent of its expenditures. After several years of declining fund balances, this self-sustaining operation had an increase.

Refinancing saves taxpayers

A bond refinancing will save Centennial taxpayers an estimated \$1.2 million over the next four years.

The \$15.1 million refinance was approved by the Centennial School Board in October. The savings come from an interest rate reduction of over 3 percentage points from 4 percent down to .64 percent.

The refinance will reduce tax payments needed to pay off the bonds, which were used to pay for school construction.

STRIVE launches second year

A partnership with the Chain of Lakes Rotary Club will bring the STRIVE program to Centennial High School again this year.

STRIVE (Students Taking Renewed Interest in the Value of Education) focuses on providing support and incentives for students helping them improve their academic achievement.

Last year, 22 students completed the program and four received scholarships. Most of these students are expected to attend a two or four-year college, notes Angie Law, high school counselor.

To qualify for STRIVE, students must be in the lower third of the senior class. The program has been developed and expanded by Rotarians with the hope of inspiring students and building their confidence, courage and competencies.

Rotary members provide support and incentives in monthly meetings. Topics include resume writing, post-secondary options and work place field trips. Along with these topics, guest speakers cover financial management, workforce center services, community service and more.

The Rotary work is coordinated through the high school counseling office.

Student artwork featured

Congratulations to secondary art teachers and middle and high school students and staff who participated in the first Quad Community Press tabloid showcasing student work. The 24-page special section featured student artwork (including the ads), articles and photos. Special thanks to the community advertisers who supported the tabloid, which was shared with students and staff. Art teachers at Centennial High School and Centennial Middle School include Stephen Brink, Mary Ann Carlson, Kevin Gilbertson, Gina May, Britta Quick and David Wolf.

More than a nurse, more than missed

A kind and loving presence will be missed at Centennial High School.

Betty Halland, nurse in the west building, passed away Dec. 4 surrounded by loved ones. She had been on leave since May when she was diagnosed with lung cancer.

Students and staff alike appreciated Betty's firm but loving care. "She was funny, kind, quiet, humble and had a way with kids that we all can copy," said Donna McKenny, Centennial School Nurse who oversees health services for the district. "Betty knew the fragile flyers and the frequent flyers and she handled them differently."

That handling ran the gamut from emergency services to various health-related screenings, and included catering to students who needed advice, support or just someone to listen to them.

"She had a big heart," Donna added. "And everyone is better for knowing her."

Betty is survived by her husband, Ron, their three children and two grandchildren.



Retiree continues to learn



According to **Barb Matelsky**, she is learning a whole new world—spending time with her three children and enjoying her four grandchildren—after retiring September 1.

Barb's Kids Club career spans nearly a dozen years, and she retires with eight years of service to the Centennial School District. Serving Centerville families enrolled in the school age child care program was a highlight for Barb, who especially enjoyed working with former principal Bob Stevens.

"Miss M definitely will be missed at Centerville," noted Community Education Director Cathy Wyland, "She enjoyed taking children under her wing and keeping parents informed about Kids Club happenings."

While Barb gets used to her new world she also reminisces about her old world. "Centerville was an extension of my family," she said. "The children and my daily experiences with them kept me young at heart."



For more information, visit the district website at www.isd12.org and click on the People Power Planet box on the home page (lower left), www.peoplepowerplanet.com or www.energystar.gov.

Three receive ENERGY STAR recognition

Three Centennial schools were named energy all-stars by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Centennial High School, Golden Lake Elementary, and Rice Lake Elementary earned ENERGY STAR certification, which means they cost less to operate and improve the quality of the environment.

The ENERGY STAR designation means Centennial has worked to cut costs and reduce energy use.

The district achieved this accomplishment through its partnership with McKinstry and the People Power Planet education effort.

McKinstry engineers worked with district custodial staff to identify energy efficiencies and make changes in the physical plant to reduce energy use.

To earn the EPA's ENERGY STAR recognition, schools must perform in the top 25 percent of similar buildings nationwide and must be independently verified by a licensed professional engineer.

ENERGY STAR certified buildings use an average of 35 percent less energy and are responsible for 35 percent less carbon dioxide emissions than typical buildings.

All Centennial schools are participating in the energy efficiency effort spearheaded by energy champions at each site working through the People Power Planet powerED program. Champions work to raise awareness and educate students and staff to take action and reduce energy use by discovering energy saving opportunities including reducing, reusing, recycling, etc.

Highlights include energy savings of 25 percent at Blue Heron and 23 percent at Centennial Middle School. Leaders in carbon savings to date include Centennial High School at 1,778 tons and Centennial Middle School at 1,031 tons. Results are impacted by age and condition of building, heating/cooling equipment, usage, etc.

Fellows focus on transition years

Promise Fellows, an AmeriCorps program focusing on youth in the transition years (grades 5–9), is available at Centennial Middle School (CMS) this year.

Promise Fellows work to intervene early and reach youth before they fall behind. They focus on the five promises: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, effective education and opportunities to help others.

Through Minnesota Alliance for Youth, CMS has added AmeriCorps Promise Fellow Joan Reinhardt to the staff. Joan's experience as a tutor for struggling students will fit in with her new role at the middle school. Students can access Joan after they have received instructions in their classes and need assistance with their work, require a small group setting and/or assistance with tests, quizzes, projects, etc. She will also offer an after school homework help program Monday through Thursday. The activity buses will be available for returning the students home following the program.

Joan will work closely with the CMS counseling staff in helping meet student needs. For more information on Promise Fellows, visit mnyouth.net/promise-fellows.

New health website has Centennial connection

A new website that provides health and fitness lessons and activities for schools and families—set to launch in January 2013—has several Centennial connections.

Health Powered Kids™ (healthpoweredkids.org) was spearheaded by Susan Nygaard, Centennial parent and Manager of Community Health Improvement for Allina Health. The website includes photos of children, several from the district; and it features photos of Centennial Middle School (see below).

Health Powered Kids™ provides free lessons and activities that will help kids, ages 3–14, make healthy lifestyle choices. It is based on the award-winning nutrition education and physical fitness program called Power by the Hour. Allina developed the program with area school districts and YMCAs to help children make healthy lifestyle choices, hour by hour.

Centennial has used Power by the Hour curriculum in elementary classrooms and in the Kids Club (school-age child care) program.

Health Powered Kids™ will provide fun, easy-to-use information about health and wellness in two categories:

Families—The website features fun activities families can do together at home. It includes resources that empower children and teens to make healthy choices about eating well, staying active and managing stress. Those healthy choices include eating more of the good stuff, going for a bike ride with a friend instead of watching TV, and working out a stressful situation by writing down thoughts instead of lashing out. “When kids eat well and stay active, they feel better—and so will their parents,” says Susan.

Educators—The website will offer teachers over 50 lessons, take-home newsletters and more resources that focus on nutrition, physical fitness and mind-body balance.

Each lesson includes a topic overview; an explanation for students; at least one activity to help students understand and apply the concept; and a take-home newsletter to inform parents and offer tips for keeping kids healthy at home.

Interactive SMART Board activities will be provided along with related lessons, and a printer-friendly version of the lesson. A sampling of lesson topics includes Staying Safe During Physical Activity, Hungry for Breakfast, Get Out and Enjoy Nature, and Your Happy Heart.

Also, Power Chargers, a collection of short exercises that give kids a quick activity break can be used to wake kids up in the morning, energize them after lunch, or help them focus before a big assignment.

Website visitors will have a choice of two, five or 10+ minute Power Chargers, depending on the time and space available. Related lessons focusing on other aspects of health and wellness will increase the learning potential.

In addition to teachers, website users will likely include school staff, home-school educators, day care providers and others who work with young people.

Visit the website at healthpoweredkids.org and consider improvements in healthy lifestyle choices. Allina Health is the largest non-profit health care system in Minnesota.



Making healthy lifestyle choices is the goal behind a new website—Health Powered Kids™ (healthpoweredkids.org)—set for a January 2013 launching. The website has several Centennial connections: it features photos of Centennial Middle School; it features photos of children including several from the district; and its creation was spearheaded by Susan Nygaard, Centennial parent and Manager of Community Health Improvement for Allina Health.



An announcement for school closings or a delayed start is usually made by 5:30 a.m. If winter storms or other emergency situations cause us to close school for the day, delay the start of school, or close school early, we will notify our school community through:

▷ An "alert notification" will be sent to you by telephone and email through our Campus Messenger system. A message will be sent to your home phone, cell phone, work phone, and email address, based upon information provided by each family. Contact your child's school office to update your contact information.

▷ The district website at www.isd12.org

▷ Recorded messages on district and school office phones

▷ Twin Cities news media on radio and television

School Closings, Delayed Starts, Early Dismissals

When would the district close school, delay the start time, or shorten school day?

With the arrival of winter comes an increased chance of a weather-related school closings, late starts, or early dismissals. If this does occur we want to notify you as soon as possible, and that means having up-to-date contact information.

The most typical reasons for closing school, delaying the start of school, or shortening the school day in Minnesota are related to snow and cold. Students must be able to safely arrive at school, whether by bus, car, or walking. The amount of snow, temperature, wind chill, passable roads, buses that start are among the many factors that are considered.

The choice to cancel school is never easy and never taken lightly. It is important to note that parents always have the right to excuse their child from school if they feel conditions are unsafe. If you do choose to keep your child home, we ask that you please call the attendance line to report the absence. Your student will be given an excused absence for the day.

When school is canceled for the day, the following will typically take place:

- All schools are closed
- All daytime programs are canceled including: Early Childhood Family/ Special Education Programs, School Readiness Preschool, Kids Club KC Preschool, Kindergarten Plus
- Before- and after-school programs and classes are canceled including Community Education programs for youth and adults
- School facilities will not be open for evening community rentals
- After-school or evening athletic or activities practices or contests are at the discretion of the district and the activities director.

When school is dismissed early, the following typically occurs:

- * Afternoon Kindergarten (if it hasn't begun by this time), Early Childhood Family Education and School Readiness Preschool programs that have not started by this time, after-school and evening programs and classes including Community Education programs for youth and adults will be cancelled. Afternoon K Time will close. Parents will be contacted and asked to pick up children within two hours after notification of the closing.
- * Afternoon School Readiness Preschool will close. Parents will be contacted and asked to pick up children within two hours after notification of the closing.
- * Afternoon Kids Club will not open for care of students. The Early Closing plan you have specified on your child's Emergency Form will be followed.
- * School facilities will not be open for evening community rentals.
- * After-school or evening athletic or activities practices or contests are at the discretion of the district and the activities director.

Staff will refer to your Emergency Form and follow the plan you have outlined. If you specify "home", your child will be sent to your home address. If you specify another location, your child will be sent to that location.

Points of Pride

Points of Pride recognizes outstanding achievements, honors and awards of students, staff, and graduates of Centennial.



Chris Rypken and Nichole Ehrich have been selected TIES Exceptional Teachers for 2012. The award recognizes teachers who model the best practices in using technology in their classroom and engaging students in learning.

Educators honored as TIES Exceptional Teachers



"When you think about technology at Centennial High School, **Chris Rypken** is the first name that comes to mind," notes Tom Breuning, high school principal.

A front runner in all CHS technology initiatives, this 17-year employee continues to push the limits of technology use in the classroom.

Chris started a technology professional learning community, is piloting a G3 (Generation 3) instructional initiative, and is mentoring teachers in the use of iPads in the classroom.

"The G3 initiative is a cooperative effort with Infinite Campus," Tom explains, "where the high school is offering a hybrid model that allows students to learn at their own pace."

With this pilot course, Chris prepares electronic lecture segments explaining various geography concepts in each of the geography standards. The lecture segments allow students to move ahead at their own pace while providing the opportunity for easy review of concepts they don't initially grasp.

G3 will allow participating teachers to knit together practices such as blended learning, flipped instruction, personalization and affordable technology in standards-based, individualized classroom pilots.

Chris has a passion for expanding limits in technology as it relates to student learning, Tom notes. "And that's why this social studies teacher is a perfect choice for TIES Exceptional Teacher."

Blue Heron kindergarten teacher **Nikki Ehrich** is an innovator in technology, according to Principal Dan Melde.

"She is always willing to explore and try new things with technology to enhance instruction," he said. While meeting student needs and engaging them directly in the learning, Nikki also serves as a mentor to other teachers.

Last year for example, she helped pilot the implementation of iPads into classrooms at Blue Heron and took the lead for the kindergarten team.

"She shared ideas, applications and ways that iPads can improve student achievement," Dan said.

In addition to modeling best practices in the use of technology, she shares her knowledge with peers in small and large group settings. This collegiality at Blue Heron and beyond expands the capabilities of all staff and increases the learning opportunities for all students.

Nikki has been with the district for 10 years. She started her Centennial career at Centennial Elementary and has been a Blue Heron staff member since 2004-05.

"Nikki is well deserving of this award," Dan said, "for she will continue to build her knowledge base in technology, assist her peers, and work to improve achievement for all students."





Centennial's fall musical, *Annie*, received the following honors from the 2012–13 Spotlight Musical Theatre Program, sponsored by the Hennepin Theatre Trust. Director Mark Quinlan stated this performance is a school record.

Overall Performance

★ Honorable Mention Performance by a Chorus

Individual Awards

★ Honorable Mention Performance in a Leading Role:

Sami West as Annie

★ Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role:

Erin Hartford as Grace Ferrell

★ Honorable Mention Performance in a Supporting Role:

Ryan Eichenauer as Oliver Warbucks

Sabrina Kampa as Lily St. Regis

Maddie Theis as Miss Hannigan

★ Outstanding Performance in a Featured Role:

Jo Jo Laterell as Molly

★ Honorable Mention Performance in a Featured Role:

Dustin Johnston as Drake

★ Honorable Mention Performance in a Featured Ensemble:

Orphan Ensemble
Warbucks Servants

Individual award winners will perform at the SpotLight Showcase in June. Outstanding Individual Honorees are eligible to compete for the Triple Threat Award.

2001 Centennial graduate **Anna Sundberg** was named Best Actress in the "Best of the Twin Cities" December issue of *Mpls./St. Paul Magazine*.

National Merit scholars announced

Centennial High School (CHS) seniors **Marshall Johnson** (left) and **Grant Luhmann** (right) earned semifinalist recognition in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program. They will continue on to the finalist level of the competition where Merit Scholarship winners are determined. Semi-finalists must have outstanding academic records, endorsement from their principal, and SAT scores confirming their per-

formance on an earlier qualifying test. The National Merit Scholarship Program selected 16,000 semifinalists out of over a million entrants.

Nicole Boehne, Allison Cassell, Devon Henschel, Johathan Keller and **Peter Winegar** received Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise in the National Merit Scholarship Program. They are among 34,000 students across the nation to receive this honor.



star

Paula Andrzejewski

*Job Title: 5th teacher at Rice Lake Elementary.

*I've been with the district: 20 years.

*What did you want to be when you were young?

An author/illustrator and naturalist.

*One thing I learned in school: Science is more fun when you "do stuff and get messy."

*What I like most about being a teacher is:

Encouraging students to increase their independence as they explore ideas and find joy in their own learning.

*Greatest accomplishment/proudest moment:

I've been married 27 years, and the greatest accomplishment is raising two strong, independent children who love life and learning.

*Wildest dream: To do adventure-travel to faraway places like Africa or New Zealand.

*Hometown: I was born in New York.

*Hobbies/interests: Sea kayaking, cross country skate-skiing, showshoeing, hiking and biking when not reading.

*Favorite book: *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George.

*A perfect day is: Sunny, warm day out in the wilderness with ample time to absorb the beauty and peace surrounding me.

Literary artists

ACE (Adult Continuing Education) student Judah C. Batener's poem was published in the 2012 issue of *Journeys: An anthology of adult student writing*. The 160-page anthology is published annually by the Minnesota Literacy Council and includes submissions from adult students across the state.

by Judah C. Batener

*I'm from dust and heat
I'm from mango trees
I'm from playing in the rain
I'm from barefoot in the sand
I'm from hand pumps and wells
I'm from washing clothes with hands on washing boards
I'm from a house with double porches
I'm from no electricity and unfinished buildings
I'm from 24th Street with kids playing in the dirt
Boys playing soccer and girls jumping rope
I'm from single mothers cooking and cleaning
I'm from rice every day
I'm from a tiny kitchen with everything in it, dim lights and very comfortable
I'm from a large family
I'm from respecting my elders
I'm from people dying prematurely every other day
I'm from traumatized families
I'm from loss of loved ones I'm from broken hearts from the wars
I'm from war and more war
I'm from a happy neighborhood with loud talking and hard-working people
I'm from everybody trying to get through the day alive and peacefully
"Go to school and learn, become a better person, always put God first"
Is what my parents say
I'm from church every Sunday and Wednesdays
I'm from growing up with the teachings of Christianity
I'm from Liberia
The Sweet Land of Liberty*

Cecilia Sanvick's essay, *America*, was selected to be read at the Blue Heron Elementary Veteran's Day Program—



America

by Cecilia Sanvick

Hi! I am Cecilia Sanvick and I want to tell you why I am proud to be an American. I am proud to be an American because of the rights that we have, as well as the freedoms we fought for and still protect today.

The rights that I am thankful for are the right of speech, the right to worship what I believe, and a peaceful home.

Some people in my life that have fought for our freedom are my greatgrandpa, my grandpa, Great Uncle Jeff, and family friend Ben Matthews. My great-grandpa Clarence fought in World War II and in the Battle of the Bulge. My grandpa Clarence fought defending freedoms in the Vietnam War. My great uncle Jeff was trained for the Korean War, went out to Korea, but never went out to war. More recently, our good family friend, Ben, fought in Iraq a few years ago.

When I was in first grade, my teacher, Mrs. Burggraff, had her husband out in the war too. So we made him a card with some pictures of him and wrote all of our names on it. It made me feel good to support a member of our troops.

I really appreciate all of the people that have fought for our freedom. It makes me feel grateful that other people risked their lives for me so that I wouldn't be ruled by other countries, and that everyone is free. Right now I want to say "thank you" and "good job" to all of the veterans and troops out there.

Student athletes compete at state



Photo courtesy Mark Butina

Girls soccer—Section 5AA champions and coach **Rob Mangone** headed back to the state tournament for the second year in a row. The team lost in the state tournament quarterfinal to Blaine 2-0.



Photo courtesy Lloyd Keller

Boys cross country—Cougar cross country team members placed 7th at the State AA Cross Country Meet. The team qualified by winning the Section 5AA and the Northwest Suburban Conference championships.



Adapted soccer—North Suburban (Centennial/Spring Lake Park Cooperative) and **Deb Kline** (coach) won the State Consolation Championship. The team plays in the CI (cognitively impaired) division.



★ *fourth in the State Girls Double Tennis Tournament and first in section play.*



Swimming/diving—On their way to the State Swim/Dive Tournament, swimmers took 2nd at sections and were first-time Northwest Suburban Conference champions.

The team, qualifying for 9 of 12 events, earned 12th place at State and broke three school records. Relay results include 7th place in the 200 medley and 12th in the 200 freestyle and 400 freestyle entry. Individual qualifiers include Tara Chapman (3rd in the 100 breaststroke and 8th in the 200 individual medley, All-American time and All-State), Alyssa Udean, Kaila Chapman and Anna Udean.



★ *Photo courtesy Lloyd Keller*
Girls cross country members qualified for the State Girls Cross Country Tournament.





Ms Soccer

Senior was awarded the Class 2A Ms. Soccer Award given by the Minnesota State High School Soccer Coaching Association. The award is given to

the top senior player in Minnesota. A 5-year varsity player and letter winner, plays forward/attacker, scored her 100th goal this fall, scored 104 goals and 40 assists, is a three-year All-Conference and All-State player. She will attend and play Division I soccer at University of California—Santa Clara next year.

NCAA signings

Seniors signing NCAA college athletic letters of intent are:
Paige Waytashek (basketball at Northern State University)
Dan Becken (basketball at Northern State University)
Josh DeWitt (basketball at Mayville State University)
Tyler Litman (baseball at Northern State University)

Coaching awards

Chip Fetcher was named Section 4AA Swim/Dive Coach of the Year.
Pete Crawford was named Section 4AA Swim/Dive Assistant Coach of the Year.

Girls soccer coach **Ginger Flohaug** achieved her 100th win as coach.

Athletic awards

Northwest Suburban Conference (NWSC) fall awards: (AC=All-Conference; HM=Honorable Mention)

Volleyball

AC: **Carly Troutd**
HM: **Dezera Sieracki, Lindsey McAuley, Elizabeth Olson**

Football

AC: **Luke Dentz, Michael Diggins, Louie Lebert, Christiaan Malinowski**
HM: **Josh DeWitt, Andrew Gustafson, Mack Kenyon, Jake John, Ben Walker**
***Michael Diggins**: Pioneer Press All-Metro First Team
***Ben Walker, Christiaan Malinowski, Louie Lebert**: Pioneer Press Honorable Mention All-Metro
***Louie Lebert**: NWSC Offensive Line-man of the Year

Girls tennis

Conference champions, Section 5AA runner-up
AC: **Emily Johnson, Kelly Jachymowski, Courtney Klair, Paige Waytashek, Danielle Olson, Jenna Sundstrom, Meghan Longen, Megan Bona**
***Kelly Jachymowski, Courtney Klair**: Section 5AA Doubles Champs, 4th place at State Doubles Tourney

Girls soccer

Section 5AA champions, State Tournament
AC: **Jenna Roering, Ashley Osmek, Jessica Axt, Kortney Kenville, Brianna Bourdage**
HM: **Madison Butina, Morgan Wirz, Chelsea Weber, Katri Gifford**
***Jenna Roering**: Minnesota's Ms. Soccer, Star-Trib Player of the Year, Pioneer Press Player of the Year, Coaches Association All-State Team (3 years)
***Ashley Osmek**: Coaches Association All-State Honorable Mention

Adapted soccer

State Tournament (5th place)
AC: **Kody Blatt, Anthony Bengsten**
HM: **Cody Jacobsen**
***Anthony Bengsten**: State Tourney "All-Tournament" Team

Boys soccer

AC: **Blake Miller, Brandon Henderson, Amakale Tilleskjer**
HM: **Sam Tonia, David McGough, Ben Greensweig**

Girls cross country

AC: **Clara Sweeney, Megan Kienholz**
***Clara Sweeney and Megan Kienholz**: State Tournament qualifiers

Boys cross country

Conference champions, State Tournament (7th place)
AC: **Cole Arends, Jake Peterson, Ben Jack, Joe Bourdage, Kevin Grow, Jonathon Keller**
HM: **Aschalew Tilleskjer, Motuma Tilleskjer**

Girls swimming/diving

Conference champions, 3 relay teams and 4 individuals qualified for State Tournament
AC: **Tara Chapman, Anna Udean, Alyssa Udean, Mira Schroeder, Kaila Chapman, Tia Erickson, Sarah Grow, Sarah Laman**
HM: **Alexa Andersen, Molly Vancil, Julianne Seppala, Solveig Stensland, Ellie Keen, Shelbe Carlson**
***Tara Chapman**: 100 Breaststroke—placed 3rd, All-State; 200 Ind. Medley—placed 8th
***Alyssa Udean**: 200 and 500 Freestyle
***Kaila Chapman**: 50 Freestyle
***Anna Udean**: 100 Butterfly

A Look Ahead



In the event of inclement weather, the decision to cancel school is made as early as possible. Unfortunately, the timing of any given storm is impossible to control and weather forecasts are often unreliable. Every effort is made to arrive at a timely and prudent decision with the available information. Once the decision is made, school closing information is posted on the district website at www.isd12.org, on the school closing information line at 763-792-6030, and sent to local radio and TV stations. The Campus Messenger automated calling system will also be used. The choice to cancel school is never easy and never taken lightly. It is important to note that parents always have the right to excuse their child from school if they feel conditions are unsafe. Be sure to contact the school to report all absences.



School activities and events are also listed on the district's website calendar at www.isd12.org.

Kindergarten information session, registration set

Kindergarten parents are invited to a Kindergarten Information Session 6–7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 29 in the Performing Arts Center (4707 North Road, Circle Pines).

The session will feature information about the kindergarten options available in the Centennial School District and include a question and answer period. Registration packets will be available at the information session, and they will be mailed Feb. 1 for parents who are unable to attend. The options for 2012–13 are:

Half-day option

★ The district's half-day kindergarten program. Morning and afternoon sessions are offered at each elementary.

Full day options

★ **Kindergarten Plus** (all-day kindergarten) This all-day, fee-based program is taught by licensed teachers and includes the same curriculum covered in the half-day program. The all-day focus allows for additional time to practice learned skills and reinforce activities while providing additional time for differentiation.

★ **K Time Kids Club** (half-day kindergarten and half-day school age child care). Centennial's half day, fee-based K Time program compliments half-day kindergarten and provides parents with a flexible all-day childcare option. K Time is taught by Kids Club Site Managers and the curriculum reinforces what is learned in half-day kindergarten.

The deadline for registration is Friday, March 29.

Completed registration materials will be collected at individual building kindergarten registrations:

<i>Elementary</i>	<i>Day/Date/Time</i>
Blue Heron	Thursday, Feb. 21, 5:30–7 p.m.
Centennial	Thursday, Feb. 21, 5:30–7 p.m.
Centerville	Tuesday, Feb. 19, 5–6:30 p.m.
Golden Lake	Tuesday, Feb. 26, 5:30–7 p.m.
Rice Lake	Tuesday, Feb. 26, 6–7 p.m.

Contact Maggie Boyd at 763-792-6006 for more information. A kindergarten information link is available on the district's home web page at www.isd12.org.



Late starts for grades 1–12

Centennial School District has a 2-hour late start on Tuesday, Jan. 8 and Feb. 5 to provide staff development opportunities.

Transportation:

- 1–12 grade students report two hours later than their scheduled start time. Buses will run two hours late.
- New kindergarten routes are created for late start dates. Bus cards will be sent home with kindergartners noting the pick up time. Kindergarten Plus, morning kindergarten, and K Time Kids Club run on a normal schedule.
- There is no morning ECSE since transportation will not be available to run these routes, but the midday session will be held.



Centennial Community Band
Concert
7:30 p.m., Friday, March 1
Performing Arts Center
Donations accepted

Celebrating 10 years

Education Award nominees due Jan. 18

The Centennial Area Education Foundation's annual Investment in Education Awards honors two adults and two students who have shown significant investment in each of the following categories:

Helping the community—exhibits involvement and dedication toward the community and its members.

Education—shows love of learning and a commitment to education by giving of time, talents or resources.

To nominate a candidate for one of these categories, simply complete the Investment in Education nomination form found at www.caefoundation.org. Return the form to Centennial Area Education Foundation, Attention Barb Regnier, at P.O. Box 4, Circle Pines, MN 55014 or by email to barbregnier@comcast.net by Friday, Jan. 18.

Awards will be presented at the foundation's Reaching for the Stars Gala on Saturday, March 2 at Bunker Hills Golf Club.



Cultural Expo set for Feb. 15

The public is invited to Centennial Indian Education's **Spirit of the Earth Education Expo**, 5–9 p.m. (Grand Entry, 6:30 p.m.), Friday, Feb. 15 at the high school red building lower gym.

Come hungry—try fry bread tacos and one-of-a-kind items from several vendors. Admission is free.

For more information call Tricia Garvie, Carlson at 763-792-5199 or pgarvie@isd12.org. Tables available for vendors at \$20. Please call Erica at 651-431-1971 for a table.

Obliviate
The Hate



Don't just stand there

One in four teens is bullied. Every nine seconds, someone in the United States is verbally, physically or sexually assaulted.

Join the youth-driven "Obliviate the Hate" campaign to be empowered to become a part of the bullying solution at:

Centennial Community Summit

Monday, Feb. 25

Centennial High School Performing Arts Center

Learn how you can help stand up to and stop bullying and harassment by intervening when bullying is occurring in ways that are safe, legal, healthy, and respectful.

Contemporary a cappella singers return



Take a break from work, grab your family and friends and awaken your spirit with **Tonic Sol-fa**.

Although they are simply four voices and a tambourine, Tonic Sol-fa has spent the past decade on the road carving their niche as the nation's top vocal group. In that time, this quartet has been named one of the top five "must see" groups in America, has been awarded numerous original song and album awards in pop, gospel and holiday genres, appeared on NBC's *Today Show* and in the pages of *Newsweek* magazine. Outings with Jay Leno, Shawn Colvin, and Garrison Keillor have propelled album sales to more than 2,000,000 copies (mostly sold from the back of their trailer) and have earned the group thousands of intensely loyal fans.

The *New York Times* describes Tonic Sol-fa's sound as "A vocal kaleidoscope...unique to the human voice." Improvisational and passionate music combined with cutting-edge stage presence is the benchmark by which critics and fans agree: nobody does it like Tonic Sol-fa.

Tonic Sol-fa won their first Emmy Award in 2010 in the "Musical Composition/Arrangement" category for a song performed in a Toys for Tots public service announcement. The quartet was also voted into the Midwest Music Hall of Fame.

This special event is sponsored by Centennial Middle School and Centennial Community Education.

Tickets

All reserved tickets will be sold online at www.seatyourself.biz/centennialms for \$22 (50¢ service fee added per ticket).

General admission tickets are on sale at the middle school cashier's office (7:15 a.m.–2:30 p.m.), Community Education Office (9:30 a.m.–3 p.m., Monday–Thursday), and at the door for \$22.

To purchase tickets outside of these hours please call 763-792-5420.



Partners in education

Featured partner



Centerville stay-at-home mom Hilary Handahl and son sing "Sticky, Sticky Bubble Gum" during circle time in Linda Prom's Mini Movers (2-3 year olds) Early Childhood Family Education class. The family, including dad Zach, will welcome a new baby in January.

Community outreach

- \$2007 and 2049 food items were donated by high school students and staff and 255 pounds of food from Blue Heron for the Centennial Community Food Shelf.
- 187 units were donated at the high school Senior Class Committee-sponsored blood drive.
- 295 pounds of Halloween candy was donated by Rice Lake students and shipped with profits from the School Store to troops in Afghanistan.
- Centerville second graders collected \$835.39 in a "Trick or Treat" for Unicef service project.



Centennial Elementary collected 1,562 books in a book drive for Colleen's Collection for Kids and the Pines School. The Student Leadership Council worked with staff supervisors Elyse Godes, Christine Olson and Nicole Oertel.

Thank you...

- US Bank—Circle Pines Branch, for posting a sign advertising Centennial ACE (Adult Continuing Education) where adults study to earn their GED (General Education Degree). The test is changing in 2014, so now is the time to earn a GED. ACE is a free adult basic education program located a block east of US Bank.
- \$50 from Diane West to Golden Lake for students in need lunch accounts
- \$300 from Alerus Mortgage "Refer a friend. Build your community" on behalf of Marie Reeves, Tammy/Jesse Herbert, Brian/Lauren Allen
- Box of school supplies and a check for \$77 from the Circle Pines Credit Union to Centennial Elementary
- \$1,000 from Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation for the Artificial Turf Capital Fund
- \$317.70 from Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign to Blue Heron on behalf of Kari Streit, Holly Witthuhn, Tom and Karen Reineke
- Anonymous \$500 and \$250 donation for High School Mentor Program
- \$500 from IBM via Centerville parent Karen Case to be used for technology
- \$70 from Barb Leatherman/Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign

Community Education

Providing community connections and lifelong learning opportunities.



The winter/spring activity guide is available at www.isd12.org/community-education.

Interested in teaching a Community Education class? Have a new idea for a class? Call 763-792-6100.



www.isd12.org/community-education

Community Education provides connections

Dozens of services provided in 10 different program areas met the needs of district residents during the 2011-12 school year.

Program areas include Adult Continuing Education (ACE), Aquatics, Communications, Community Education, Driver's Education, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and School Readiness, Early Childhood Screening, Facilities, Kids Club and its K Time and KC Preschool programs, and Kindergarten Plus.

The annual report to the Minnesota Department of Education includes service to:

- 843 children ages 0-5.
- 3,276 children grades K-12.
- 1,004 adults and 306 seniors.
- Over 65 groups used district facilities bringing an estimated 18,604 visitors to Centennial.

Other annual reports to the state provide details on these programs:

- ACE—44 adults logged 2,433 hours of attendance last year, and 11 adults earned their GED (General Education Degree).
- Early Childhood Screening—screened 392 children last year, ages 3-5.
- ECFE and School Readiness—served 233 children, ages birth to kindergarten, and their parents in weekly classes; also served 120 children via monthly home visits to 16 licensed home day cares.
- Kindergarten Plus served 170 children in eight sections at five schools.

Funding for Community Education is provided via a combination of state aids, levies, and participant fees with a mission of "Providing community connections and life-long learning opportunities."

Community Education exists, according to State Statute 124D, "to make maximum use of the public schools of Minnesota by the community and to expand utilization by the school of the human resources of the community, by establishing a community education program."

The Minnesota Community Education Association estimates that each dollar of aid or levy results in over \$6 in additional revenue, extending the impact of programming dollars well beyond their initial potential.



Early Childhood gym nights

(18 months-5 years)

Activities and open gym play for families. Free.

6:30-8 p.m.,

*Friday, Jan. 11 at Blue Heron Elementary

*Friday, Feb. 8 at Centerville Elementary

*Friday, March 22 at Rice Lake Elementary



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Celebrating 20 years of service

by *Cathy Wyland, Community Education Director*

Fun and learning come together at Kids Club, Centennial's school-age care program, which is celebrating its 20th year of service to the community.

The program meets the needs of working parents during the school year with before and after school service, and all summer with a summer program. KC Preschool serves children the year before kindergarten, and a K Time component provides care for half-day kindergartners.

As a 20 year old, Kids Club has provided quality care for thousands of students. A few of those children have returned and work for Kids Club.

As a third grader, Patrick Riley enjoyed the staff and field trips. Working at Kids Club for the past five years has helped Patrick pay for his college tuition.

New site manager Gillian Fernstrom said she met some good friends in Kids Club and they remained friends through high school and beyond.

Helping site managers get their projects ready and then working with the younger kids was something Heather Watson enjoyed when she was in Kids Club. The six-year employee also remembers playing cards, bead board games and being with a variety of kids.

Parents are pleased with the service provided in Kids Club. Each year they are asked to rate the program in six areas on a 7-point scale. Recent results for all sites ranked between 6 and 7 with most areas showing improvement over last year. The areas rated are: variety of activities, health and safety, staff to child interaction, staff to parent communication, overall satisfaction,

and positive experience. Survey results are used to set site goals for the upcoming year.

Among the survey comments were:

*"Kids Club staff are an extension to our family. I am never concerned when I leave in the morning, and my daughter is excited to see everyone each day."

*"Staff are very proactive in helping address behavior problems. Also, I am pleased with how flexible staff are with drop-in care."

*"Love the variety and choice of activities."

Kids Club currently serves 689 children from 554 families at five elementary school sites.



Kids Club staff members who were enrolled in Centennial's program when they were in elementary school include (from left) Patrick Riley, Gillian Fernstrom and Heather Watson. Kids Club is celebrating its 20th year of service.