



the Blue Jay

Centennial Elementary

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March 2019

15: Report cards go home with students
15: Family Reading Night
15: School Spirit Day: Wear Green
16: District TAG testing
19: PTA 6pm (childcare & dinner provided)
20: Coffee with the principal (8:30-9:15am Room 1)
20: 5th grade families: *Parent Preview* (Human Growth and Development)
20: BJ's PTO Restaurant Fundraiser
21: 3rd Grade Music Program 7PM
22: 5th grade field trip to UO Art Museum
22: School Assembly @2:00
25-29: Spring Break

April 2019

2-9: Reading Olympics PTO Fundraiser
12: Menchies PTO Restaurant Fundraiser
12: School Spirit: Pajama Day
15: Spring Registration Packets
17: Coffee with the Principal (8:30-9:15am Room 1)
18: PTA 6pm (childcare & dinner provided)
19: School Assembly @2:00
22-26: Book Fair
26: Friends and Family Lunch
26: PTO Bingo Night 6-7:30
30: 2nd Grade music Program 7PM

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Happy Spring Centennial families! It is hard to believe that it is almost Spring with all that snow we just experienced. Thank you all for your support of the school district during that snow storm. Our maintenance crew worked long hours to ensure safety for our students. As a parent myself, I know how difficult it can be to make last minute childcare decisions, but please know those decisions are truly made with student safety in mind and not taken lightly.

With this loss of instruction, the school board along with district leadership will be making a final decision on the revised school calendar at the board meeting this Monday, March 11th. More communication will be coming once that decision is final.

The last trimester is an exciting time for everyone as the weather changes and there are several fun events to look forward to. It is also the last grading period for our fifth grade students in elementary school. Those students will be experiencing several "lasts" as they wrap up their elementary career and prepare to move to middle school. One suggestion to help prepare for this transition comes from our health aide, Mrs. Neis. She recommends families begin scheduling appointments to have the next vaccine requirement completed for students entering middle school. It is never too soon to start preparing for those big transitions!

Speaking of Mrs. Neis, she has been nominated for Classified Employee of the Year! She is wonderful with the students, always kind but firm when necessary, and empathetic but efficient. She deals with

everything from soiled pants to skinned knees to vomit, and often juggles multiple students in the Health Room at once. She manages problems large and small with competence and a warm and comforting smile. Her attitude is positive and upbeat, and it's clear she's ready and willing to do whatever it takes to help our kids be successful. She is an amazing member of the Centennial family. Congratulations Mrs. Neis!

The first week of March we celebrated ALL of our Classified staff for Classified Appreciation Week. All of our classified staff deserve an award for what outstanding support they provide to not only our students but to the teachers and community! Centennial is a better place because of the care and love they pour into this place.

Thank you,

Amy Halley, Principal

In April and May our 3rd, 4th & 5th grade classrooms participate in state assessments in English language arts, math and science. If you have any questions or need more information about state assessments please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher, Mrs. Halley, or Mrs. Rankins, our testing coordinator.



How parents play a role in state testing:

- **Attendance matters.** Teachers have a short window of time to get their classroom of students tested. If you have medical appointments, please plan to schedule those outside the school day or on a week your child is not testing. If your child has to be absent or late the week of testing, please contact the teacher ahead of time.
- **Be sure your child is physically prepared on the day of the test.** Taking a test requires a student's full attention, so your child should have a good night's sleep before the test. Make sure your child has a healthy breakfast and a nutritious lunch. Kids should come to school in comfortable clothing and remember their eyeglasses as needed.
- **Present a positive attitude toward the tests.** Let your child know that you have confidence in his or her abilities. Explain that some of the test questions may be difficult and that it does not matter if other students finish earlier. Let your child know it is okay go at his or her own pace.



ATTENDANCE: Our school attendance goal is to increase each month's attendance rate by 1% from last school year. February hit our school hard with illness and unfortunately we did not beat our goal. Since returning from our unplanned snow break attendance is been fantastic! March 4-7th we only had 10-14 kids absent per day!

January goal: 91.8% Actual attendance: **93% EXCELLENT**

February goal: 93.6% Actual attendance: 92.3%

March goal: 94.9%

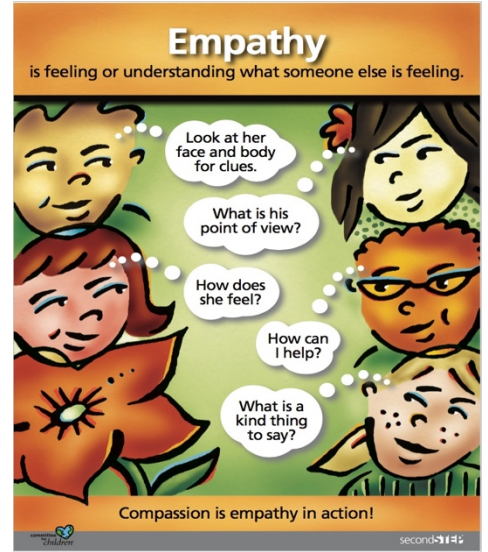
April goal: 94.8%

SOCIAL SKILLS:

This next unit in our **Second Steps** curriculum is Empathy. These social skills are being taught by the classroom teachers to all students. These next two months we will be focusing on feelings and “walking in their shoes.”

March/April Character Traits:

Integrity, Flexibility, Gentleness, Honesty, Forgiveness, Initiative, Trustworthiness



READING OLYMPICS is coming!!



The 4th Annual Reading Olympics will kick off when students return from Spring Break on April 1st.

Please look for envelopes and reading logs in your child’s backpack so they can participate.

Prizes are given for minutes read and also for money earned. **ALL** students who turn in an envelope will receive a prize just for reading and participating!

Congratulations to The Book Band for their successful win in Centennial's Oregon Battle of the Books tournament. Khalil, Christopher, Abraham and Aidan represent Centennial at the regional tournament at Thurston High on March 9. We are very proud of all of our OBOB readers! Be watching Facebook for the results of that competition! Good luck *Book Band*, we are all rooting for you.

