



September/October 2017

Visit our website - <http://blog.sps.lane.edu/centennial>

Important upcoming dates and events

September 2017

- 21st Open house 6:00-7:00 pm
- 22rd Early Release 12:30 pm
- 28th PTA Meeting 6-7:30 in Rm. 1
- 28th Orchestra instrument check out 6:30-7:30pm in Gym and Cafeteria

October 2017

- 10th Coffee with Principal
- 4th Walk & Bike to School Day
- 5th Picture Day
- 13th Early Release 12:30 pm
- 20th Jog-A-Thon
- 27th Early Release

Please join us at Open House on Thursday, September 21st from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.!

Agenda:

Welcome
Open House overview
Introduction of our teachers
and teaching teams
School Song
Centennial Programs
Title IA School
In Classrooms with Teachers

Early Release Information

- All elementary students will be served lunch just as a regular day of school.
- Students will be release at 12:30 pm
- Please make sure to plan ahead. Thank you

Coffee with the Principal

Tuesday, Oct. 10th at 8:45 am
Centennial family Center, Room 1

Join us in The Family Center as Mr. Sterling invites parent input and involvement on the goals of Centennial this school year. Refreshments will be served and younger children are always welcome to come with you to the Family Center

Centennial's Walk & Bike to School Day Wednesday, October 4th

Join Millions of kids around the world walking, biking, skating and scooting to school!

Please remember to stop by the table out front that morning to get your prize! Have Fun!!

OBOB: Start Reading Now!

The reading list for the 2017-18 school year is available and team sign-up sheets are in the library! If your child wants to participate in OBOB this January, now is the time to start reading those books! If you aren't familiar with OBOB, here is a short introduction:

Oregon Battle of the Books, OBOB, is a statewide voluntary reading program sponsored by the Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL) and the Oregon Library Association (OLA). Students in 3rd-5th grade are encouraged to participate. The mission is to encourage and recognize students who enjoy reading, to broaden reading interests, to increase reading comprehension, promote academic excellence, and to promote cooperative learning and teamwork among students. Each year a list of books is chosen, and questions are written for each grade level division. Students read the books, discuss them, quiz each other on the contents, and then compete in teams of four students to correctly answer questions based on the books in a "quiz show" format.

District Wide TAG (Talented and Gifted) Testing ~ Springfield Public Schools

On Saturday, October 14, 2017, Springfield Public Schools will hold their district wide Fall TAG Testing at Ridgeview Elementary School. The TAG test assesses whether or not your child is at the 97thile or above in the areas of Reading, Math, or Intellectual giftedness. The 97thile means that if your child was in a line of 100 students, they would know more than the first 97 students in line. These children are at the top of their class, and typically above most students at their entire grade level at school. If you feel your child may fit into this category, please talk to your child's teacher and your school's TAG contact to refer your child for the spring testing. After you refer them for testing, you will receive a packet from your school with a parent questionnaire and more information about times of testing for your individual child.

If your child is already qualified as TAG, and you feel that your child may need to be accelerated a grade level, you would also speak to your child's teacher and the TAG contact to refer your child for acceleration. The testing for acceleration will take place Saturday, October 14, 2017, for the above grade level test in Reading, Math, Writing, Science, Reference & Research and/or Social Studies. After testing, we will meet as a team with your school to discuss the next steps and fill out the Iowa Acceleration Scale.

Questions? Contact your child's teacher and the school TAG Contact
Pamala White, Phone Number: 541-744-6383

Principal's Message

It's great to be back at school! Our students and staff have had a wonderful beginning to the 2017-18 school year, and we are expecting a very good year to come.

Safety

As safety is our primary concern, a big thank you goes out to families and friends who drop off and pick up students each day in front of the school. The pick-up and drop off routines have been smoother this year than in previous years. Your cooperation in the parking lot and in the streets adjacent to our school is crucial to ensuring safety of every student. While we usually see an increase in traffic once the rains start, our dual lane system (separate pick-up/drop off and flow through lanes) will help to keep traffic moving to reduce the overall times spent in traffic. Typically, 99% pick ups are completed between 2:50 P.M. AND 3:00 P.M.!

Open House and Title IA Annual Meeting

Please join us on Thursday, September 21st from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. for Centennial's **Open House**. You don't want to miss this!! Meet teachers, greet friends (old and new), see our wonderful school, and hear about our Title IA supplementary program. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. for Opening Remarks in the Courtyard, and then teachers will go to their rooms to greet families. We will have a Title IA presentation in Rm 13 at 6:50 p.m.

Behavior and Discipline at Centennial

Centennial's behavior expectations are: Safe, Respectful, Responsible (SRR). In order to help students achieve these expectations, Centennial uses Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) to reinforce positive behavior, encourage positive relationships, and promote positive attitudes that are demonstrated through good sportsmanship and consideration for others.

While PBIS cannot guarantee that all students will always behave appropriately, our staff members caringly teach or re-teach expected behaviors when students are found to have violated rules or have been disrespectful to others. We have found that employing PBIS at our school has made a very positive difference in the overall climate.

Serious rule infractions, such as fighting or engaging in very disrespectful behavior, are brought to the attention of the principal. Centennial's disciplinary philosophy is based on explicitly teaching and reinforcing appropriate behavior, and increasing the chances that the student will engage in appropriate behavior in the future. This is done by allowing students to rectify wrongs where possible, including taking responsibility for their actions

and recognizing the benefits that come with committing to better choices. In sum, Centennial's discipline approach is *educational* in nature, not punitive. It is our goal that all students will, to the extent possible, make decisions that contribute to a positive learning environment for themselves and others.

Important information about Centennial at Your Fingertips

Centennial Elementary School now has a "Student Parent Handbook. It is a fairly comprehensive document that should answer most questions you might have about our school's policies and practices. Unfortunately, we cannot afford to print one out for every family, but the Handbook is easily accessible on Centennial's website. Here's a direct link to the [Student-Parent Handbook](#):

<http://blog.springfield.k12.or.us/centennial/files/2017/09/CES-Student-Parent-HandbookV2-Google-Docs-1.pdf>

For those who don't have access to our website, we'll have several hard copies in the front office. Feel free to request one.

The Blue Jay is Changing its Format

This will be the last paper version of The Blue Jay. Starting with our next issue, electronic copies of The Blue Jay will be emailed to families and we'll continue to post issues on our website. We mentioned that this change would be coming in a newsletter last year, as shrinking budgets have us looking for innovative ways to meet the needs of our students. In addition, we are always searching for more Earth Friendly practices, and this will certainly meet that criteria. With electronic media being accessible to the vast majority of our families, we feel that this is the right time for this change. As with the "Student-Parent Handbook," we will keep some hard copies on hand in the front office, should any of our families request one.

Dan

WALKING AND DRIVING TO SCHOOL

Students are encouraged to use great caution when walking or riding their bicycles to school. Use crosswalks with care and stay on sidewalks whenever possible. Crossing guards will be on duty before and after school. Please follow their directions for safety.

Drop Off in the Morning

- On the lower level, please use the inside lane to drop off your child(ren);
- Do not leave your vehicle unattended at any time as this may interfere with emergency and safety vehicles, buses, and properly parked cars that wish to exit.
- If you need to come into the building, please park your car in a designated parking space or in a legal space on the street.

Pick Up

- On the lower level, please use the inside (curb) lane to pick up your child(ren)
- Pull up to the car ahead of you, but do not block the crosswalk
- After your child is safely inside the car, slowly pull to the outside lane and proceed to exit the parking lot;
- Please be courteous to others by picking up your children as soon as they arrive.
- **REMEMBER not to leave your vehicle unattended at any time as this may interfere with emergency and safety vehicles, school buses, and properly parked cars who wish to exit (and make room for others to park).**
- If you need to come into the building, please park your car in a designated parking space, or park on the street adjacent to the school.

Use of the Upper Level

- Because school buses take priority on the upper level, it is important that cars do not limit bus access to the driveway. By request of the bus drivers, **please do not drop off or pick up on the upper level until after the buses have departed in the morning (8:30 a.m.) and the afternoon (3:00 p.m.)**

Crossing Guard/Safety Patrol

Safety patrol has started thanks to our wonderful 5th graders and our Supervisors Mr. Hugo, Ms. Moss and Mrs. Brewer. We would like to remind parents about a few of our crossing rules here at Centennial.

- Please remember to walk your bike, scooter and/or skateboard safely on campus. Please do not ride them as this can easily cause you to crash into fellow students.
- Please listen to the directions of our Safety Patrol team when crossing.
- Please wait for Safety Patrol members to be fully blocking the intersection with flags out before crossing and please cross on the crosswalk BETWEEN our crossing guards.

Helpful School Reminders:

- Please help our students arrive on time. Breakfast doors open at 8:00 am, at **8:25 am students enter classrooms and the school day begins at 8:35 am** with morning announcements.
- Please keep our upper driveway bus zone free for buss access between 8:00-8:30 am and at dismissal from 2:15-3:00pm until buses have left school.
- Students and parents are asked to **please use our crosswalks and the crosswalk at Aspen**, and follow the guidance of our Safety Patrol students.
- We do appreciate a call to the school office (541-744-6383) **before 9:00 am** when your child will miss school due to illness, medical appointments or other events. Our home calling system begins soon after 10:00 am.
- Visitors and volunteers should check-in at the office upon entering the building and will be provided an identification badge to be worn while here at Centennial. Please remember that younger children are always welcome to come with you into the Family Center but we encourage you to please not bring them into the classrooms.
- Parents coming in to school to pick up their children are asked to wait in the courtyard or in front of the office area and **not outside classrooms or in hallways**. This will help relieve crowding and confusion in the hallways at dismissal.
- Joining your student at lunchtime is a special event. We ask that you call ahead if planning to purchase a school lunch so that our kitchen staff can prepare enough lunches. When sitting at the table with your student and their classmates you offer a model of good manners and conversation skills that help build a positive environment for all.

Welcome to the Family Center

What is the Family Center and where is it located?

The Family Center is a large inviting space in our school where students and parents can come to enjoy a quiet and safe space. Here they can learn about volunteer opportunities, access the Internet, research or obtain information for available resources in our community and discuss other concerns or interests that I may be able to assist with. This room is intended to be a welcoming and positive environment for children and families.

The Family Center is located in room 1 in the primary hallway near the front office. This space is shared with the PTA as well so there are almost always fun things to do and great people to meet. The Family Center will be open Monday -Friday 8:30am-12:30 pm. The Family Center is open to families and younger children are always welcome as well.

Please feel free to email me or drop by and say hi anytime!

Sincerely,
Crystal Mason
crystal.mason@springfield.k12.or.us

Collect those Box Tops

At Centennial Elementary, we participate in the General Mills Box Tops for Education program. Last year we earned over \$2000 for our school! Please double-check your throw a ways and recyclables. Collection bins are located in each classroom so please clip them out and send them to school with your child(ren).

Our first friendly competition has started and all Box Tops need to be turned in to the classroom by October 28th! The classroom that brings in the most Box Tops will win a party! Thank you for supporting our school by taking the time to clip and turn in those Box Tops!

Parent Notification: Reading and Math Services:

Every fall, winter, and spring, Springfield School District administers reading and math assessments to each of our students. Students scoring below the 20th percentile may be recommended by the building team to receive instructional interventions in reading and/or math. Students receiving interventions will have their progress monitored during regular intervals. At our school, all students receive a minimum of 90 minutes of reading instruction and 60 minutes of math instruction each day.