



"...go forth from here this evening and do great things. You are prepared - you have a solid foundation. Go make us proud!"

- Josue Lowe, CHS Principal

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Class of 2017 Celebrates Graduation

The Centralia High School Class of 2017 celebrated graduation in grand fashion on June 9th. Rainy weather forced the celebration in to the NW Sports Hub facility for the second consecutive year. Because of concerns over facility capacity, the event was streamed live online for the first time to ensure that everyone who wished to watch the seniors walk across the stage had the chance to do so.

Students, staff, and audience members took several moments to remember Cheyllyn Collinworth, a top 25 student who tragically lost her life in an automobile accident just weeks before graduation. "We lost someone very special," said Valedictorian Hannah Jeffries. Jeffries called Cheyllyn "a wonderful person who wanted to make a positive difference in the lives of others, and succeeded."

Jeffries offered advice to her

fellow graduates saying "there will be moments that might seem so insignificant, when they could be the biggest moments of your life. So don't blink, you might miss it."

CHS Principal Josue Lowe addressed the class and recognized students who had overcome tremendous adversity in their journey through high school. He spoke of Caitlynne Robinson who, in several early years of her life, spent many nights sleeping in a restaurant booth while her mother worked to support her family.

Brandon Richey, he noted, will graduate from the Thurston County Fire Academy on June 22nd. Brandon has been a significant caregiver for his younger siblings, including one with autism.

Lowe also spoke of Dustin Davis, a construction class student with commendable skills. Dustin starts every day at 4 am taking care of

responsibilities in his family home before school. He has worked at Rite-Aid late into most evenings to help make ends meet.

Mr. Lowe closed his speech by telling the class "go forth from here this evening and do great things. You are prepared - you have a solid foundation. Go make us proud!"

The class has collectively been awarded scholarships with renewable values totaling more than \$1.4 million. Much of those funds are raised locally by individuals and organizations like Dollars for Scholars. They are attending colleges and universities across the nation including Whitworth, The University of South Carolina, UW, and WSU. Others are entering military service in the Army, National Guard, or Marines. Congratulations to the Centralia High School Class of 2017!





Valedictorian Hannah Jeffries speaks to her classmates during the Class of 2017 graduation ceremony on June 9th.

19 Graduate Futurus High School

The Knights of Futurus high school celebrated graduation for their Class of 2017 on Tuesday, June 13. The ceremony was held at Centralia High School. Nineteen graduates received diplomas in the third graduation celebration since the school opened in 2014.

School administrator, James Bowers, praised the graduates and those who have supported them through various struggles.

Teacher Faye Olason noted that, for many, their education is not complete. "These young men and women are going places. To culinary school, to Centralia College, to Evergreen State and South Puget Sound Community College. To training programs to become nurses, truck drivers, cosmetologists and social workers. To pursue passions for art and flying. They all leave us with a purpose," she said.

Superintendent Mark Davalos took an opportunity to applaud the tenacity of the students who made it through to graduation. "When Education didn't quite fit according to how school was set up, you didn't quit. You found a way to move forward," he said.

Futurus is the Centralia School District's alternative high school. It serves 11th and 12th grade students who are at-risk of not graduating, who are credit deficient, or who require a non-standard path to graduation for a variety of reasons. Of the 19 students who graduated, 13 were on-time graduates. "I think this is a great example of the effectiveness of this school," said Administrator James Bowers. "Our purpose for existing is to help students get to graduation when they might otherwise be prevented from doing so. I couldn't be more proud."



Top Ten CHS Graduates of 2017

The CHS Top 10 is determined by a combination of GPA, activities, and difficulty of coursework.

1 **Hannah Jeffries**
 Pacific Lutheran University
 Biochemistry
 GPA: 4.0

2 **Joseph Maxwell**
 Wyoming Catholic College
 Liberal Arts
 GPA: 3.95

3 **Noah Thomas**
 Washington State University
 Athletic Training
 GPA: 3.96

4 **Abigail Hopkins**
 Whitworth University
 Business Administration
 GPA: 3.94

5 **Brian Murray II**
 University of Washington, Tacoma
 Business Administration
 GPA: 3.872

6 **Nikolas Evans**
 Western Washington University
 Undeclared
 GPA: 3.861

7 **Maya Patraca**
 University of Washington
 Pre-Med
 GPA: 3.795

8 **Zackary Stelzner**
 Washington State University
 Electrical Engineering
 GPA: 3.66

9 **Chloe McLachlan**
 Washington State Univ., Vancouver
 Veterinary Medicine
 GPA: 3.771

10 **Lacey Duffy**
 Centralia College
 Education
 GPA: 3.923

Centralia High School SkillsUSA Construction Team Wins State, Heading to National Competition in Kentucky

Centralia High School's SkillsUSA team recently won the top spot at their state competition. The team will now head to Louisville, Kentucky for the SkillsUSA National competition June 21-24. This is the first year that CHS has been able to put together a team for the TeamWorks competition, though individual students have been invited to SkillsUSA national competitions in the past.

The TeamWorks team members Howie Griffith, Trajan Ziel, and Jacob Keehr earned the honor by beating out their peers from across the state by building a structure to a set of standards.

Because the CHS program has no electricians, team advisor Mitch Smith reached out to Weatherwax High School in Aberdeen, and an electrician from their program will join the CHS team as their fourth member.

In Louisville, the team will have a matter of days to build a complete structure from scratch. They will have a budget to work within and will have to estimate their need for construction materials accurately. They will also take some side trips to visit the Louisville Slugger Museum and other sites.



The CHS Skills USA TeamWorks team poses in a photo from May, 2017. The hard hat and square are a stand-in for a team member who will be joining as an electrician from Aberdeen.

BOND UPDATE

District sells Bonds, Lowers Cost Per Thousand Estimate

Cost per thousand estimate falls from \$2.12 per year to \$2.07 in the first year and \$1.97 each year thereafter. The District expects this rate to continue to fall slightly.

The Centralia School District completed the sale of \$74 million in voter-approved bonds on May 9th. The transaction gives the district the financing to move forward with plans to replace two elementary schools and to rebuild Centralia High School. "This is an exciting event for our district," said Superintendent Mark Davalos. "We are moving the process forward with a great team in place to advise us as we go."

A combination of a favorable A1 credit rating from Moody's, enhanced by an Aa1 rating with the state guarantee, and attractive interest rates made Centralia's bonds appealing to investors. "Those investors see our bonds as an excellent value and this made it possible for us to obtain our financing at a lower cost than we initially forecast," said Davalos.

The District originally estimated that property owners would pay \$2.12 per \$1,000 in assessed taxable value for 25 years under the approved bond plan. "We are now able to reduce that estimate," Davalos said. Taxpayers can now expect their estimated cost per thousand to be \$2.07 in the first year, and \$1.97 in each year thereafter. "With increased appreciation in our community property value through economic development and

investment, we expect that rate will likely continue to fall even more as time goes by," he added.

With the financing stage complete, the district now has a legal obligation to invest at least 85 percent of the funds into the approved building projects within three years. "We aren't allowed to let the money sit in the bank and draw interest indefinitely," Davalos said. "The heat is on, and we're focusing on moving these projects forward to groundbreaking and completion."

OAC Services, Inc. was hired as project manager in April to oversee the planning and construction

processes. "We are moving quickly but intentionally on these projects. The need to replace these schools is still urgent, and we don't want to waste any time. We have assembled a great team of advisors and experts to guide us through the process," Davalos said.

Voters approved a \$74 million bond proposal on February 14th that allows the district to replace Jefferson Lincoln and Fords Prairie elementary schools with brand new buildings. It will also allow the complete reconstruction of Centralia High School as a "like-new" facility. The bond is the first to be approved in Centralia since 1986.



Representatives from the District and the Board of Directors visited the offices of D. A. Davidson for the bond sale on May 9.

District Hires Project Manager and Architects for Construction Projects

Led by a pair of CHS graduates, OAC will oversee the process of building three new schools in Centralia. Voters passed a \$74 million bond in February to approve the projects.

The Centralia School District Board of Directors voted unanimously on March 29th to approve the hiring of OAC Services as Project Manager for the district's upcoming bond construction projects. The approval comes after the recommendation of the company by Superintendent Mark Davalos and members of the Project Manager Search Committee. The hiring is part of the process that started with voter approval of a \$74 million general obligation bond in February. As project manager, OAC will be tasked with keeping the three projects on time, on target, and on budget. They will also oversee financial management and compliance with all applicable regulations.

"They really want to serve us well, and they have a lot of great ideas and questions," said Superintendent Mark Davalos. "We had a one hour meeting scheduled for Tuesday, and it ended up running for close to three. Our relationship with OAC is off to a great start," he said.

"Given the scope of our projects and the fact that we really haven't experienced this type of work in our District in over three decades, I felt it was necessary to recommend that we hire an experienced project manager," Davalos said. "We really don't have the capacity in a district our size to do this work ourselves, despite having very talented directors and staff. We all have full-time jobs and then some," he said. "This partnership will help us make sure we are fully and efficiently maximizing the investment our community has made." The district received 9 "really outstanding" qualifications packets from interested applicants, and 5 were selected for interviews with the committee.

OAC has strong local ties. Principal Dan Chandler graduated from Centralia High School in 1976. Senior Associate Kasey L. Wyatt is a member of the CHS class of 1993. Both expressed excitement about the opportunity to come back to Centralia to help make improvements that will serve many future generations. "I'm proud to be here to help out," said Chandler as he introduced his team.

Wyatt will be the head project manager for Centralia, working closely with district staff. "Having the opportunity to work with Centralia is something that has been on our radar, both Dan and I, for as long as we have been with OAC. We're both very connected to the community and very passionate about education. This is a dream opportunity for us to serve this community and to show our skills in K-12 planning and construction," she said. Local ties aside, OAC has an impressive catalog of work in Tacoma, Clover Park, Pullman, and other districts across the state.

The district is pressing ahead with the work to

get each project started. "The urgency of the bond campaign wasn't just about getting the funding in place," said Davalos. "We want to move forward with improving and replacing these school buildings so that we can continue our work to improve outcomes in Centralia."

ARCHITECTS HIRED

On May 4, BCRA was hired as the architect for the new buildings that will replace Jefferson Lincoln and Fords Prairie elementary schools. The firm was responsible for the designs of Jefferson Middle School in Olympia, and many recently built schools in the Clover Park school district.

BLRB was selected to lead the design for the re-creation of Centralia High School. The Board of Directors approved the contract on June 14. BLRB designed the Forks High School remodel, as well as schools in Tukwila, Sumner, and Seattle (Garfield High School modernization). One of their founders worked on the original design of CHS.



Superintendent Davalos introduces members of the BCRA staff to the Board of Directors

New Websites Unveiled for District & Schools

New sites are designed to improve visitor experience, make content more relevant and easier to find.

The Centralia School District unveiled revamped websites on April 4, more than seven years after the last major upgrade to their Internet presence. The primary advancement brought by the new sites is responsive design, which allows the websites to scale appropriately to a larger variety of Internet connected device displays.

“We estimate that nearly 80 percent of our website users are visiting our pages on mobile devices like cell phones and tablets,” said Communications & Public Relations Coordinator Ed Petersen. “The old sites weren’t great for use on mobile devices. These new enhancements mean that our mobile visitors will have a vastly improved experience, hopefully resulting in better usability.”

The sites include a new mobile theme. “We had a mobile theme with the old sites, but it wasn’t great. It really just put a different skin on the top layer of our content. Getting beyond the homepage was clunky,” he added.

Now that the new design is active, the sites will undergo some reorganization of content as well. “I’ve been monitoring user feedback regarding our websites for several years. The top complaint by far is that it is difficult for users to find content that is

relevant to them, and this is true of all stakeholder groups from parents to staff and students. In the next steps, content will be reorganized into a much more intuitive scheme that makes it easy to find relevant information, no matter what you are looking for,” Petersen said.

The new layouts are much more visually pleasing than the old. Color themes common to the district’s schools are maintained – there’s lots of orange and black – and larger photos accompany news headlines. “There is a photo slide show at the top of each page,” Petersen said. “But it’s not just there to show off nice pictures. Each photo links to a news story from the district, or some other form of content. The visual aid is there to draw the user in to learn more about our schools.” Content on the pages is also less cluttered, making it less imposing to visitors.

“Our goal in communicating with any of our stakeholder groups is making sure that the information they want is easy to access. Beyond that, we want to share new information that our visitors may not be aware of as well. I think these new sites help us achieve both goals, and with so much more communication on our bond projects coming up, we’re excited to have these new platforms ready to go,” said Petersen.



A recent screen shot shows the layout of the new Centralia School District website design. The sites are now “responsive,” meaning they adapt to a wider variety of displays than the old sites, making information more easily accessible to mobile users. Visit the CSD websites at www.CentraliaSchools.org

New K-8 Mathematics Curriculum Adopted

Ready Math curriculum will be in place at the start of the 2017-18 School Year.

The CSD Board of Director has approved a recommendation from District leadership regarding the adoption of a new K-8 mathematics curriculum. The recommendation is the culmination of more than a year of work by the Math Materials Review Committee.

“We have recommended the adoption of the Ready Math curriculum, by Curriculum Associates” said Kristy Vetter, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning. “This program aligns perfectly with the i-Ready assessment and intervention program we have already implemented in our schools. It will give us a much stronger instructional base with many additional tools to help students who are struggling in math.”

The Math Materials Review Committee chose three programs to review before selecting the Ready Math program. Community members were invited to an open house in April to preview the materials and were given an opportunity to provide feedback to

district officials on two finalists.

“This will be a continuous K-8 math curriculum in our district,” Vetter said. “In the past, we’ve had K-5 curriculum, and then grades 6-8 were on something else. With the new program, we will have a good continuity all the way through middle school,” Vetter said.

At the start of the current school year, the CSD implemented i-Ready, an assessment and intervention tool for math and reading. “Ready Math comes from the same company,” Vetter said. “The new curriculum is designed to work with i-Ready, and the two elements really enhance and compliment each other well. This will be a valuable enhancement to our intervention services for students who need extra help in math.”

The new curriculum also aligns well with Washington State Standards for math as measured by the Smarter Balanced assessment.



New Graduation Requirements Set for CHS

Requirements will be phased in. Class of 2024 and beyond will need to earn 33 credits.

New graduation requirements have been adopted for Centralia High School after unanimous approval by our Board of Directors in May. The new requirements go into effect with the incoming class of freshmen, who will graduate in 2021.

Through this year, seniors have been required to accumulate a total of 22 credits for to graduate. The new requirements will be introduced in a tiered manner over the next four years.

The new requirements are as follows: Class of 2021, 25 total credits. Class of 2022, 28 total credits. Class of 2023, 30.5 total credits. Class of 2024 and beyond, 33 total credits.

With the new credit requirements comes a new scheduling structure as well. CHS will switch to a trimester scheduling system in the fall of 2020. “This will give us the scheduling flexibility to offer more courses and new courses so that our students have a better selection of classes to choose from as they work to meet the new graduation requirements,” said Principal Josue Lowe.

By 2024, requirements will change for the number of credits required in each focus area as well. “English credit requirements will increase to 5.5, for example,” Lowe said. A full breakdown of the new credit requirements is available on the school’s website.

“I want to thank the board and our committee who worked very hard on these requirements for two years,” Lowe said.

CSD Thanks Retiring Employees

Retirees have given a more than 266 years of combined service to Centralia’s schools.

The Centralia School District wishes to thank the following retirees for their incredible contribution to education:

Donna Dodson, Fords Prairie Elementary; 28 years in education, 18 in CSD service.

Larry Moir, Transportation; 17 years of CSD service.

Debbie Everley, CHS; 37 years of CSD service.

Jacqueline Widders, CHS; 25 years in education, 24 years of CSD service.

Sue Beck, Jefferson Lincoln; 31 years of CSD service.

Christine Langford, Washington; 31 years in education, 21 years of CSD service.

Allyson Myhre, Fords Prairie; 34 years in education, 32 years of CSD service.

Eric Luther, CHS; 30 years in education, 27 years of CSD service.

Carol Schwarz, Fords Prairie; 31 years in education, 29 years of CSD service.

Linda Kenworthy, CHS; 25 years in education, 5 years of CSD service.

Anthony Moss, CHS; 21 years in education, 15 years of CSD service.

Wayne Compton, CHS school resource officer; 10 years of CSD service.

Thank you for 266 combined years of service!



District Reviews K-6 Literacy Practices

The Centralia School District launched an independent review of K-6 reading programs in response to a request from the board of directors during the process of budgeting for the 2016-17 school year. The review was conducted by staff from the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Educational Service District (ESD) 113. Funds for the review were allocated in the planning process for this year's budget.

The review team visited on May 8th and 9th and spent the two days visiting buildings and staff. "This was an opportunity to showcase the work our staff has been doing to improve literacy results," Vetter said. Molly Berger, a K-12 English Language Arts Specialist with OSPI, Cheryl Vance, Regional English Language Arts Administrator for ESD 113, and Shelley O'Dell from OSPI conducted the review. "They're experts in Literacy," said Vetter. "They'll help us identify areas where we excel and where we can implement new practices for better results."

Four focus areas were identified:

Data Analysis: What does our data tell us? Are there particular skills or groups of students that we need to be responding to differently?

Materials: What are the strengths and weaknesses of the district's current materials? This will help the district identify advantages or concerns about conducting a literacy curriculum materials review next year.

Practices: How are we identifying and supporting struggling readers? What are the best research-based practices for literacy development? What does the district need to plan for as it transitions to a K-6 model so that we have consistency in our program across all schools?

Our Plan: The district has developed a three year K-6 literacy plan. What additional recommendations are there that will help us find more success under that plan?

"Our goal was to learn more about what our strengths and weakness are in our K-6 program so that we can make changes that help deliver better literacy outcomes for all of our students," said Vetter. The ultimate goal is for the district to gather information that will be useful as considerations are made for a future adoption of new literacy curriculum materials in the coming year.

"Our Elementary Literacy Team has done outstanding work in developing our three year plan," said Vetter. "They have been incredibly dedicated in their work and the results are showing."

FINDINGS

The review resulted in five general recommendations: The creation of a literacy model of instruction that is consistent across grade levels and schools; development of a data review process; an instructional materials review process; evaluation of current independent reading texts

for diversity in levels, interests, cultures, and genre; and development of a plan for evaluating consistency.

"We were already well into the implementation of most of these recommendations well before the review, so this really validates that the work we have been doing is appropriate and that we're on the right track," Vetter said.

The District will review elementary reading curriculum choices next year. "We will take a look at whether our current materials are really the best fit for our teachers and students, or if there is something else that better fits our needs and aligns with state standards," Vetter said. "An ideal curriculum will be one that is shown through research and real-world implementation to be well-aligned with those standards."

PROMISING RESULTS

The CSD's Elementary Literacy Team was developed in 2015 to study ways to improve outcomes for students. Their work has resulted in the adoption of i-Ready as an assessment and intervention system for both reading and math. Under their leadership, the district has made significant strides in putting research-based best practices to use in classrooms.

Preliminary results indicate many grade levels and subgroups showing growth this year that significantly outpaced growth statewide. In fact, many CSD groups grew double digits this year, while the same group statewide fell.



i-Ready provides computer adaptive assessment and individualized intervention for students in reading and math.

Elementary teachers engage students in a variety of interactive lessons designed to help with the acquisition of reading/writing skills.



Steve Warren, Executive Director of Human Resources, reads to a class of Kindergarten students at Edison Elementary in March 2017.

A CHS Early Childhood Education student works with a Fords Prairie Kindergartener as part of a "literacy agents" program the schools developed.



Elementary Students Showcase Culinary Skills in First Ever CSD/ Sodexo Future Chef Event

Seven students in fourth and fifth grades got an opportunity to showcase their culinary skills in the first annual Centralia School District Future Chef competition. The April event was hosted and presented by Sodexo, the district's food service partner. Dishes prepared by the students ranged from an excellent chicken pot pie to desserts like black bean brownies and peanut butter cookies. Each student was responsible for planning and preparing their entry dish.

Food Services Director, Mike Young, organized the event. "This is a great opportunity for the kids to show their cooking talents," Young said. "It's important to us to get the kids involved in the kitchens and this gives them a chance to work with the food service staff in ways they don't normally get to during the school day."

Danielle Vekich (Principal of Washington Elementary), Heidi Jenkins (Principal of Oakview Elementary), and Karen Curtis (Executive Director of Fiscal Services) served as judges for the cook off. Curtis was impressed by the

experience. "This is good exposure for these kids to learn how to prepare food that is nutritious," she said.

Superintendent Mark Davalos attended and sampled each dish as well. "I think cooking is one of the best life skills we can teach our kids," he said. "Not only how you prepare food, but the ingredients that go into it are important things to think about. We want kids to think about what they put in their bodies."

Students participating in the Future Chef competition were: Zaden Waggoner (Cheddar Bay Biscuits), David Mansell (Buffalo Chicken Macaroni and Cheese), Lily Hubbard (Banana Muffins), Lily Harris (Peanut Butter Cookies), Ellen Buzzard (Chicken Pot Pie), Emrie Butterfield (Black Bean Brownies), and Natalie Mielitz (Taco Cups). Buzzard and Butterfield were the second and first runners up respectively. Mielitz placed at the top and took home an extensive list of prizes including culinary tools and even a remote-controlled quadcopter, provided by Sodexo. "Every dish was outstanding, very impressive," said Young.



Fords Prairie, Jefferson Lincoln Students Pass Million Word Reading Mark

Three amazing readers have surpassed the million word mark according to their Accelerated Reader data this year.

Penelope Fuller: Third Grade @ Jefferson Lincoln in Mrs. Prince's class. Penelope has read more than 1.3 million words this year!

Tyrus VanTuyl: Second grade @ Fords Prairie in Mrs. Chamberlain's Class. Tyrus has read at least 4.3 million words this year. Probably More. He's been known to "sneak" books into the baseball dugout.

Kycen Donahue: Third grade @ Fords Prairie in Mrs. Steenkolk's class. Kycen has logged more than 1.6 million words this year.

Great job to all of our amazing readers. We can't wait to see what everyone can do next year!

Science on Wheels Rolls in to Fords Prairie

Students took part in a day of fun learning through hands-on activities on May 30th.

Pacific Science Center's *Science on Wheels* program rolled into Fords Prairie Elementary on May 30th. The event engaged students in fun, hands-on learning activities that lasted the entire day.

Three stations were setup around the school: Robotics, Engineering, and a station that encouraged students to re-imagine tools and objects. As classes rotated through each station, students were given a lesson by Pacific Science Center staff, and were then given tasks to perform using a variety of materials including programmable robots.

A fourth part of the rotation transformed the school's multipurpose room into a hands-on free-play zone where students could choose from a number of activities. Tasks included bridge and arch building. There were also stations that gave lessons on light refraction using lasers and electrical conductivity of the human body.

Edison and Jefferson Lincoln schools have also hosted events by Pacific Science Center this year. Each has been tremendously popular with students who enjoy the opportunity to engage in lessons that support learning through playful and engaging activity.



Washington Elementary Teacher Prepares Formal Meal For His Students

The treat was the culmination of a lesson unit on nutrition, manners, and etiquette.

Washington Elementary teacher Fred Noreau hosted a formal luncheon for his 5th grade class on June 12. The event was complete with white tablecloths, a homemade meal, and formal flatware donated by McMenamins Olympic Club in downtown Centralia. The lunch treat was a celebration of the class completing a lesson unit on manners and etiquette.

The meal, which Mr. Noreau prepared himself, included salad, bread, and a delightful main course of chicken and pasta. Students were also served sparkling juice.

Noreau said the idea came to him about 6 years ago when he decided to tie table manners and food etiquette lessons into the nutrition chapter of their health textbook. "I gathered pictures and made a couple slide shows to help kids learn what table manners are considered proper in our society. Throughout the short unit, I contrast our culture's eating etiquette with that of different countries," he said.

"The lunch isn't a celebration of good behavior, or good grades. I try my utmost to involve ALL my students, regardless of their behavior or academic status. It's simply a special occasion we share as a class. I eat individually with each of my students during the first months of the school year, and this is the 'family meal' that caps off the year," Noreau said.

Many students' families don't sit down and eat as a family very often, according to Noreau. "Some don't get much food from home. Everywhere I've had the chance to travel, no matter the language, religion, cultural or political beliefs, the act of breaking bread with someone builds relationships and bridges many gaps between people. When it's time to clean-up, my students are often amazed at how quickly time went by and they love that we communicated via conversation, not through technology."

Mr. Noreau's wife also got involved with the celebration, helping to serve each student.



Centralia High School Librarian Selected For Lilead Project

Debi Shultz joins only 21 other school librarians selected from a nationwide pool for professional development opportunity.



Centralia High School Librarian, Debi Shultz, has been selected from a nationwide pool of candidates to serve in an 18 month Lilead Project Fellowship. According to a press release from Lilead, the program is "a nationally recognized professional

development opportunity designed to empower, enable, and equip school district library supervisors to think differently and creatively about library programs...and to be effective and inspirational leaders in their districts."

Shultz, accompanied by CHS principal Josue Lowe, informed the district's Board of Directors of the appointment at the April 13th special board meeting and workshop. "Debbie has been an outstanding leader for our library staff across the district," said Superintendent Mark Davalos. "We are very proud to have her represent Centralia as a Lilead Fellow and we look forward to our students being able to benefit from the professional development she will be a part of."

Check it Out!

Teams from several of our schools will be visiting local neighborhoods to give out free books this summer. Check our websites for info!

Dates, Locations Set for Annual USDA Summer Meal Programs

Anyone age 18 and under is welcome to join us at one of our summer meal program locations for lunch or a morning snack.

Dates and locations have been announced for the District's annual USDA funded summer meal programs. Anyone age 18 and under is welcome to participate in the programs, sharing of meals is not permitted.

From June 29th through August 11th (Monday through Friday) lunch and breakfast will be served at Oakview, Jefferson Lincoln, and Fords Prairie Elementary schools this year. Breakfast is from 7:45-8:15 while lunch is 11:45-12:15.

In addition, two sack lunch programs will be available. Centralia Middle School will host from June 29th through July 28th from 10:40 to 11:05 a.m. The second sack lunch program is at Cooks Hill Community Church June 29th to August 11th from noon to 1 p.m. Centralia High School will host a morning snack at 9:45 from June 24th to July 7th.

The end of the school year can cause a tremendous amount of stress for students. "For many, the hot lunch they receive at school each day is the only reliable nutritious meal they get much of the time," said Food Services Director Mike Young. "The goal of this program is to help insure continuity of access to nutritious meals during the summer months.



Centralia Middle School Student Honored for Anti-Drug/Alcohol Essay

Shalynn Blankenship received recognition from Washington State Law Enforcement Association for an essay she wrote in January.



Shalynn Blankenship, an eighth grade student at Centralia Middle School, was recently honored by the Washington State Law Enforcement Association (WSLEA) for an her submission in an essay contest in January.

WSLEA sent a letter to one of Shalynn's teachers in March notifying the school that her submission was ranked as Third Place Winner for Region 2. Shalynn originally read the essay to the entire CMS student body before submitting it to WSLEA.

She was further recognized for her work in an assembly on April 28th. Assistant Principal Tod Pickett said "we want to give her our congratulations for her work." He added "she shared a whole heck of a lot. It was impressive."

The WSLEA letter thanks Shalynn for her participation in the essay contest. "We hope that the contest helped prompt discussion in your classroom of the fight against drugs and alcohol."

Shalynn cited a desire to be a positive role model for her younger siblings. "I am the third oldest sibling of eight children," she said. "I play a big role in who they will become." She added, "When they see me steer clear from negative activities, they too want to make positive choices. I am an example for their little eyes, and I hope what I do can grow on them."

"We're proud of Shalynn, and of any student who takes a stand to abstain from drug and alcohol use," said Principal Heidi Bunker. "This essay and her outlook are a great representation of the values of Centralia Middle School."

POSTAL PATRON

SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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2320 Borst Ave. | Centralia, WA 98531
 www.CentraliaSchools.org



DeMonte to Lead Jefferson Lincoln, Richards at Oakview

Both new principals officially assume their new leadership positions on July 1. Both are coming from North Thurston.



Kelli DeMonte has been named Principal of Jefferson Lincoln Elementary, effective July 1. Superintendent Mark Davalos described DeMonte as “a talented and experienced educator with a great track record of success as an elementary school administrator. We are fortunate to have her join our team here in Centralia.”

DeMonte comes to Centralia from the North Thurston Public Schools where she has worked since 2002. She taught grades 1-3 for 10 years, before being named Dean of Students at Horizons Elementary in 2012. In 2014 she was named Assistant Principal at Horizons and in 2015 she became Assistant Principal at Chambers Prairie Elementary.

DeMonte described herself as excited to begin a new phase in her career. She has worked to develop and implement “sustainable school-wide discipline systems,” as well as budget plans. She has been very involved in the training and development of staff in her previous management roles.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Pacific Lutheran University in 2002 and a Master of Arts in 2006 from Lesley University. She holds administrative credentials from Seattle Pacific University.

“Kelli is a great candidate,” said Board member Bob Fuller. “I only had one concern with her after the interview,” he said. “I was worried that we couldn’t make reference calls fast enough to get her!”



Shannon Richards will take the reins at Oakview Elementary on July 1, replacing Heidi Jenkins who announced her resignation from the position of principal earlier this year. “Shannon is an up and coming administrative talent with great leadership qualities and strong recommendations,” said Superintendent Mark Davalos.

Mrs. Richards has most recently served as District Title & LAP instructional specialist for North Thurston Public Schools. She was previously an instructional coach and fourth grade teacher at Lacey Elementary. From 2007-2011, Richards taught fourth grade at East Port Orchard Elementary and South Bay Elementary (Lacey). “Shannon has rich experience in the intermediate grade levels, which makes her a perfect fit for Oakview,” Davalos said.

Richards is also a fluent Spanish speaker. Currently, nearly 33 percent of students in Centralia identify as Hispanic. “Shannon’s bilingual skills will be a tremendous help to those families at Oakview who identify that they speak primarily Spanish,” said Davalos. From 1992 to 1997, Richards taught in a variety of bilingual settings in Mexico and Nevada.

“I want to thank Heidi Jenkins very sincerely for her leadership at Oakview over the past two years,” Davalos said. “It is wonderful that we can bring on another talented educator in her place and I’m looking forward to seeing how Shannon grows as a school administrator in our system.”

Board Meeting Audio Now Available Online

Audio recordings of Centralia School District Board meetings are now available online at www.CentraliaSchools.org. Recordings will generally be posted to the website within three business days of a board meeting. Visitors can stream the audio directly from the site or download it for later listening.

Sign up to Receive Email Quick News

We have added another resource to our efforts to put more news and information about the CSD at your fingertips. On April 21, the district began sending periodic email Quick News updates to parents, guardians, staff, and other interested parties who sign up to receive them.

The latest edition of Quick News will always be available at www.CentraliaSchools.org/QuickNews. For easier access to the information, anyone who wishes to receive periodic email news updates may sign up on the same page by simply providing a name and valid email address.