



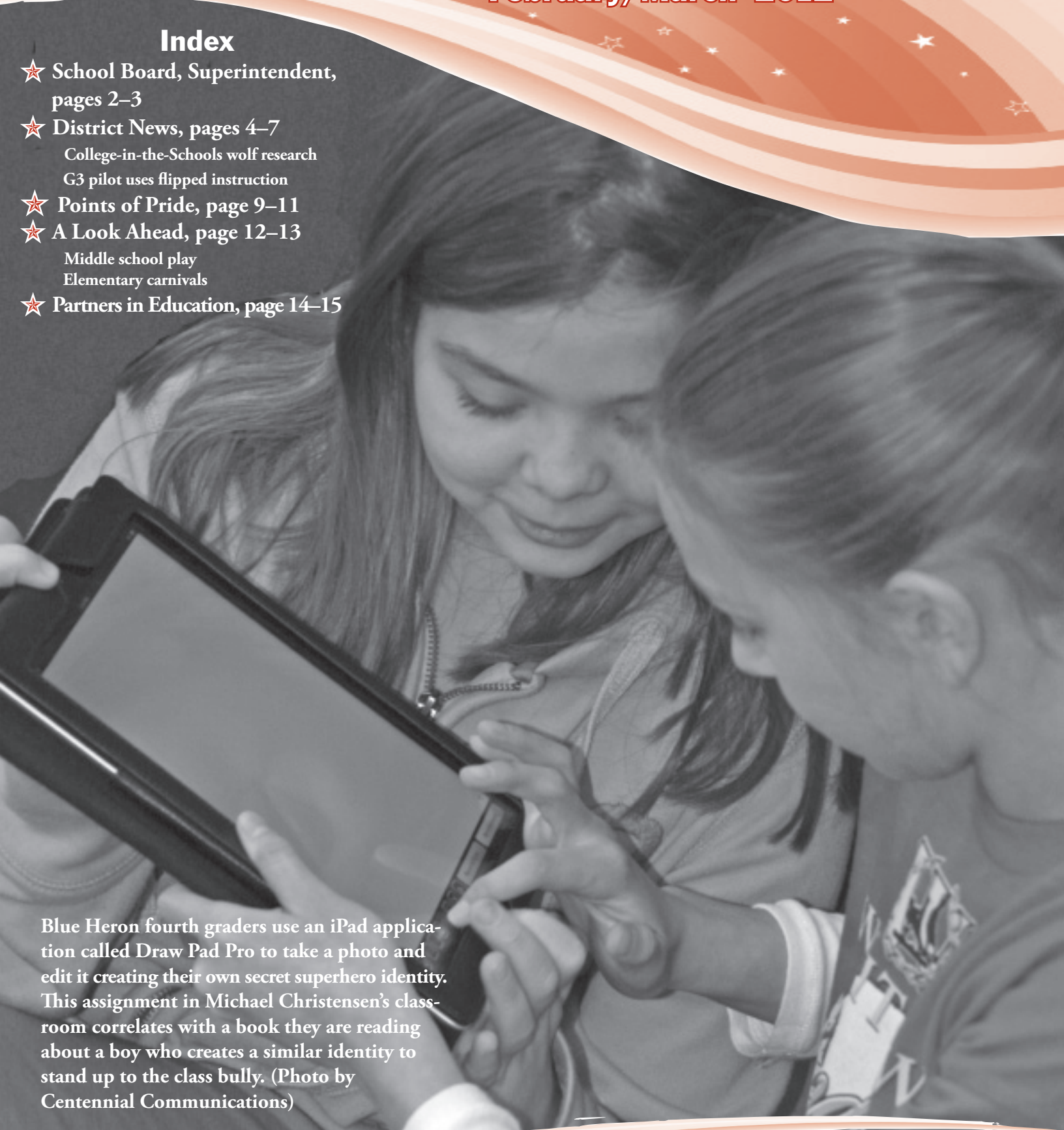
The Observer

SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

February/March 2012

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Blue Heron fourth graders use an iPad application called Draw Pad Pro to take a photo and edit it creating their own secret superhero identity. This assignment in Michael Christensen's classroom correlates with a book they are reading about a boy who creates a similar identity to stand up to the class bully. (Photo by Centennial Communications)

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Vol. XV, No. 4

Centennial School District

4707 North Road, Circle Pines, MN 55014 763-792-6000

www.isd12.org Cable TV channel 20

E-mail: first initial last name@isd12.org
(except common last names—consult building or program sites)

The Observer is published six times a year for residents of Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Lexington, Lino Lakes, and the 6,532 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 Services—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.

Nondiscrimination—Centennial Schools does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, parental status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation or age. District 12 Policy 5000 applies to all areas including employment, academics, coursework, cocurricular and extracurricular activities, or other rights or privileges of employment or enrollment. It is the responsibility of every school district student and employee to comply with this policy conscientiously. David Thacker (4707 North Road, Circle Pines, MN 55014; 763-792-5282) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies.

School Board

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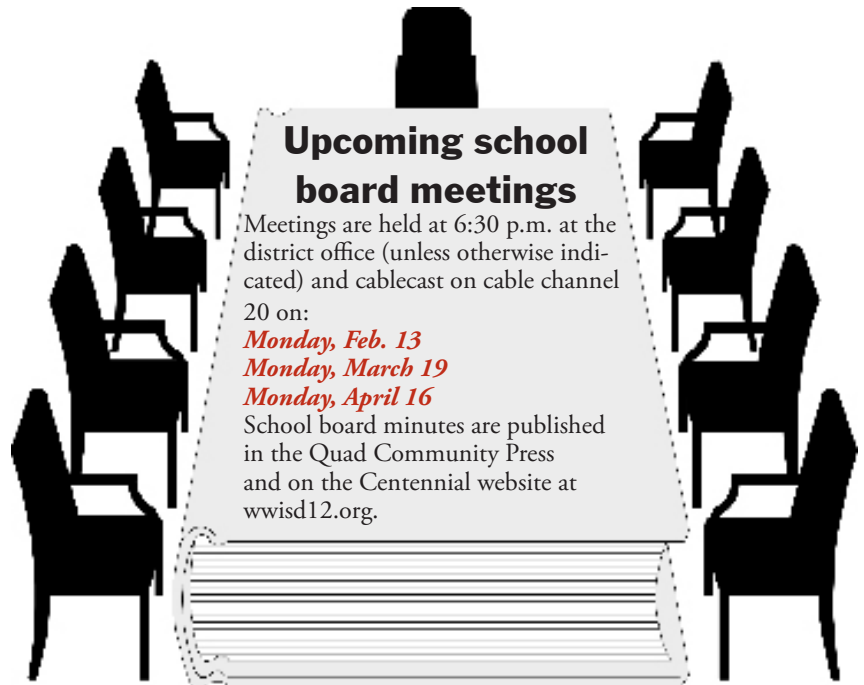
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School Board



Dr. Keith Dixon
Centennial School District
Superintendent



“ A planned, thoughtful approach based on available data and information gathered—not best guesses or knee jerk reactions—will allow us to create a road map. With this in hand, Centennial can successfully chart its course into the future.”



kdixon@isd12.org

Charting a course

What a great time to be Superintendent of Centennial School District. As a big picture person, I’m excited about all the opportunities for improvement that are and will be considered as we chart a course for the future.

The course we chart will become our long-range plan. Why do we need one? It’s important to set direction and priorities to help get everyone on the same page. We also know that families have more options than ever before when it comes to education. If we want to continue to thrive, Centennial needs to think like a free market school district offering the programs and services that families want for their children.

Our responsibilities include high achievement for all, providing safe and welcoming environments, and creating effective and efficient systems.

A planned, thoughtful approach based on data and information gathered—not best guesses or knee jerk reactions—will allow us to create a road map for this journey. We’ve already begun the discussion with the school board, administration, and teacher leaders, and we’ll be listening intently to our community.

The information we’ll be using includes district data (formal and informal), input from external stakeholders (community, parents, students), and information from internal stakeholders (staff).

The result of all this hard work will be a strategic plan or our road map into the future. To really be useful, the map will need to be reviewed often and our direction adjusted. This will hopefully ensure the continuous improvement we’re striving for, which was championed by management guru W. Edwards Deming. He called the four-step management method Plan, Do, Check, Act.

PLAN involves establishing objectives and goals, which is what’s happening now. We’ll soon begin the process of gathering community input surrounding the question “What do our customers expect.” This organizational assessment will help the Centennial School Board, the administration and teacher leaders, craft a vision and mission that matches the Centennial community, which will be shared and hopefully embraced by the community.

From there, the district will work on two parallel tracks:

- Determine if district operations meet the best standards and work toward meeting the defined customer expectations. This track requires an examination of key systems and processes. Are they working? Do they meet the best standards? What improvements need to be made?
- Determine the assets needed to meet those expectations. Assets include programs, activities, staff, facilities, technologies, equipment, and financing. This track examines each area to determine what’s working, what needs to be discarded, and what needs improvement.

DO, the second step, involves implementing the plan and collecting data for the analysis that needs to be done in the following steps.

CHECK involves studying the results and comparing them against the goals developed in the Plan phase. Are there deviations, implementation roadblocks, execution issues, etc.?

Finally, **ACT** requires adjusting the plan and/or taking corrective action based on differences between actual and planned results.

This process continues until objectives and goals are met and then attention can move to another area where the process can be repeated. The result is an ever-changing (or continuously improving) road map. With this in hand, Centennial can successfully chart its course into the future.

Interim appointment extended



An additional year was recently added to the interim superintendent's position in the Centennial School District.

The Centennial School Board invited Superintendent Keith Dixon to serve as interim superintendent for a second year. Dr. Dixon accepted and will extend his interim status until June 30, 2013. The board is pleased with Dr. Dixon's performance, as was noted in his mid-year review in December.

The additional time will allow Dr. Dixon to help develop a strategic plan for the district while also looking to improve key systems and processes. This work will identify Centennial's future direction while simultaneously clarifying district values, beliefs and operating systems.

In creating a new life cycle for Centennial, the strategic planning process will also:

- identify programs of interest to the community,
- create financial stability for the district and its taxpayers,
- focus on student achievement while recognizing individualized learning successes, and
- strengthen the connection between the district and all community members.

With these tasks in process, the board will then focus on hiring its next superintendent. The work will begin in the fall with the goal of hiring a new superintendent in spring, 2013.

Audit results positive

The Centennial School Board received a positive audit report for the 2010–11 school year.

“It was an OK year for the school district,” said Dan Huffman, Director of Business Affairs.

Huffman noted that the fund balance grew by a little over a million dollars.

The fund balance growth was due to changes on the expense side: reductions in transportation, a decline in utility costs due to energy conservation efforts, and salary savings that were greater than what was targeted.

While the fund balance growth is good news, Huffman said he is working to “create a budget process that is more predictable.”

The auditor from MMKR (Malloy Montague Karnowski Radosevich) and Company noted that the district is below average in its spending. Huffman echoed his comments adding that at the same time the district is “above average in local effort” from district taxpayers.

There were two findings in the audit:

- ☞ A required quarterly report related to federal stimulus funds was not filed
- ☞ One invoice was not paid in a timely fashion

Huffman noted that steps have been taken to avoid such findings in the future.



The audit report can be found under publications on the “district” pull down menu at www.isd12.org.



Blue Heron fourth grade teacher Mike Christensen helps with an iPad application that allows students to interact with their learning content in a new way. (Photo by Centennial Communications)

G3 pilot uses flipped instruction as strategy

Ever hear of flipped instruction? It's an educational strategy where students access the content through technology at home. Class time is then used to bring understanding to the content.

For example, instead of coming to school and hearing a lecture and then going home and asking for help from mom and dad, the model is flipped. Students listen to the lecture at home and then come to school to get help and consultation from the teacher.

Centennial has established an innovative partnership with Infinite Campus that incorporates flipped instruction as a strategy. The pilot program, called G3, goes beyond flipped instruction in this way:

- * Time is no longer constant, it is the variable. Rather than moving through curriculum as a class with students showing varying degrees of proficiency, G3 expects all students to achieve true proficiency at their own pace.

- * Rather than emphasizing the group, the plan→instruct→test→repeat cycle focuses on the person. G3 will focus on a student's readiness. The curriculum will be designed to meet student needs with respect to personal aptitudes, preferences and interests.

The technology will be the enabler transforming the way teachers teach and impacting instruction.

Staff working with Infinite Campus include Chris Ripken at the high school, Centennial's Department of Teaching and Learning, and some teachers at the middle school.

This emerging new option will allow students to achieve proficiency at their own pace. Once a student grasps a concept, they can move on to the next without having to wait for their peers. Those students who need more time are able to persist in their current unit or teachers are able to work with them to offer another path toward mastery.

The Centennial/Infinite Campus partnership is key. Infinite Campus is the largest American-owned student information system. Located in Blaine, the company got its start when founder and CEO Charlie Kratsch served as Centennial's technology director.

Centennial Area Learning Center (CALC) students received their high school diploma at CALC's January Senior Celebration.





www.isd12.org/cdo/board/policy/Contents/TC6000.htm

Transportation information

Non-public reimbursement outlined

Centennial School District, in compliance with Minnesota State law, will reimburse residents the cost of non-public transportation from their residence to the Centennial District boundary. Reimbursement forms will be provided to the non-public school by the Centennial School District and must be received by Friday, June 22 to be eligible for 2011–12 non-public transportation aid. For information call Centennial Transportation at 612-789-5143 or the non-public school.

Hazardous requests reviewed

Students living within the walking/bussing limit of school may request Centennial School Board review to authorize bussing. A committee will review all existing hazardous transportation situations and new requests. New requests can be made in writing or by calling Centennial Transportation at 612-789-5143 before Friday, April 27.

K–5 optional transfer due March 15

Attendance areas within district boundaries, based on home addresses, determine the schools students are assigned to attend. The superintendent recommends changes in attendance areas to the Centennial School Board based on the census, attendance reports, and projected enrollments (see Policy #6008 at www.isd12.org/cdo/board/policy).

Parents/guardians may apply to transfer their child to another school within the district for the 2012–13 school year. To apply, complete an Optional Transfer Application Form (found online at www.isd12.org/cdo/board/policy/Contents/TC6000.htm or by calling 763-792-6006) and submit by March 15:

By mail—Optional Transfers, 4707 North Road, Circle Pines, MN 55014

By fax—763-792-6050

By e-mail—mboyd@isd12.org.

The Optional Transfer Committee will review each request. Parents/guardians will be notified of the committee's decision by June 1. Denials will be determined based on:

- Space availability in a particular building
- Space within a particular program
- Class size limitations

For more information call Margaret at 763-792-6006.

Parking lots to be swept

The annual clean sweep of parking lots at all district-owned facilities is scheduled in the near future, weather permitting. The sweeping is conducted in the late evening, early morning hours so it does not interfere with the school day or after school events and activities. The district apologizes, in advance, for any disruption to school neighbors caused by this routine maintenance.



www.isd12.org or contact Jeanne Scarr, Centennial Education Association President, at 763-792-5757/ jscarr@isd12.org

Teacher of the Year sought

Nominate a Centennial teacher for Teacher of the Year honors by the March 23 deadline.

Every year the Centennial Education Association (CEA) selects a teacher to serve as a yearlong representative of all the teachers in the district.

Members of the Centennial community—students, parents, Centennial staff, and friends of the schools—are invited to help in the selection process by nominating a teacher they feel would be a good ambassador. Candidates must have five years of successful teaching experience in the district and have made contributions to their school, community, and profession.

Check the district website at www.isd12.org or contact Jeanne Scarr, CEA President, at 763-792-5757/ jscarr@isd12.org, to obtain a nomination form.

Don't wait to earn your GED


The clock is ticking and potential students are encouraged to earn their GED before the required test changes.

While a GED is equivalent to a high school diploma, it can be earned in fewer than four years when students study at Centennial ACE.


- Attend day and/or evening hours—Students who work full-time days are only required to attend two nights a week. Students whose work hours vary can attend a combination of days and nights with a total of 18 hours available per week.
- Work at your own pace—Students don't have to rush to keep up with "the class" and can choose to do homework outside of class. The more hours students spend at ACE and devote to homework, the shorter the preparation time to be ready to pass the GED.
- Have an individualized study plan—With the teacher, students design a personal learning plan.
- You learn differently as an adult—and students who recently left high school will remember some concepts and may only need a few months to study for and pass the GED. Students who left high school decades ago will probably need a little more time to prepare, but are more motivated now and have learned much through life experience.
- Be treated as an adult—ACE is an adult academic program. Students ages 16 and up are given choices: when to attend, how much homework to do, and which subject(s) to work on.

Students who earn a GED often find a job easier and faster, earn more money than someone without a high school diploma, and are better prepared to further their education.

The GED test will change in January, 2014. Students who have not passed all five parts of the GED test prior to that time will need to start over. The new test is expected to be more rigorous, so now is the time to earn a GED. Don't procrastinate. Potential students are invited to contact Centennial ACE at 763-398-2980 or via e-mail at cenACE@isd12.org.



ACE
Adult Continuing Education
Centennial Schools



4203 Woodland Rd,
Circle Pines
763-398-2980
cenace@isd12.org

Mondays/Wednesdays,
9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Tuesdays, 4:30–8:30 p.m.
Thursdays, 6–8:30 p.m.



College-in-the-schools gone wild

Twenty-two high school students from teacher Melissa Smith's College In the Schools Environmental Biology class participated in a hands-on experiment on wolf behavior at the Wildlife Science Center in Columbus, MN to prove how humans and wolves can coexist. Seniors Mackenzie Bledsoe and Courtney Kueppers describe their experience:

"The howling that greets you when you arrive at the Wildlife Science Center is vivid and exciting," wrote Mackenzie Bledsoe. She continued,

"After our first visit to the wolf center, we were intrigued and ready to start brainstorming. We had witnessed both the strength of the wolves as one pack ate a deer in front of us, but also of the shyness of the wolves. They would pace back and forth protecting their land, but also curious and afraid of what we were doing. Usually the alpha male would take charge of watching us, making sure his pack was protected. Interestingly enough, the wolves are only dangerous when they are in a pack. They are able to move quickly and efficiently to swarm into its prey, but alone only the alpha male can take charge. Without the alpha, nothing can happen.

What we had witnessed was enough to get our brains swirling. We were able to create experiments that would challenge the wolves in order to see what they would do to keep away from food. This is the continual research the center does to ensure that once the wolves are freed they can be protected and respected by humans."

Courtney Kueppers described the experiments:

"Seniors Nick Kourajian, Courtney Kueppers and Cassie Clark put their shiny fence to the test. With help from the educational director, the group ventured into the cage's holding pen and tied the twine fence with metallic flags from side to side. On the other side of the fence there was raw meat awaiting the wolves if they would cross the fence. The idea was that the shine of the flags would deter the wolves from the meat. The group saw interesting results, as the wolves were not so eager to cross the fence to get the meat, as they were to play with the fence and chew on it.

Later in the day a scarecrow was put to the test. Everyone gathered to watch the figure, made of wood, dressed in flannel and blue jeans, and soaked in axe cologne, enter the cage. Hotdogs were placed in front of, next to, and behind the figure. The wolves only grabbed the meat that did not require them to go around the figure. The scarecrow was deemed the most successful experiment of the day.

The class gained a great understanding of the complexity of the problem of trying to keep wolves safe in the world, as well as trying to make as little conflict as possible between humans and wolves."

Students earn high school and college credit simultaneously while still in high school via college-level courses taught by Centennial staff through Anoka-Ramsey Community College's Concurrent Enrollment Program (Environmental Biology, General Physics) and the University of Minnesota's College-in-the Schools Program (Introduction to Literature, Democracy in a Changing World, Intermediate German).



Learn more about wolves at
www.wildlifesciencecenter.org

Points of Pride

Recognizing outstanding achievements, honors and awards of students, staff, and graduates of Centennial.



Triple "A" winners announced



Mitch Ledin

Seniors **Mitch Ledin** (left) and **Kristen Nordby** (right) were nominated for the Academics, Arts and Athletics Award, and continue on in regional and state competition.

The honor, sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League, is awarded to a male and female high school senior with a 3.0 or higher GPA who participates in league sponsored athletics and fine arts. For more information visit www.mshsl.org.



Kristen Nordby

NCAA college athletic scholarship offers



Erick Bloom

High school athletes participating in the NCAA college scholarship signing ceremony include:

Erick Bloom—Western Illinois University (NCAA I), soccer

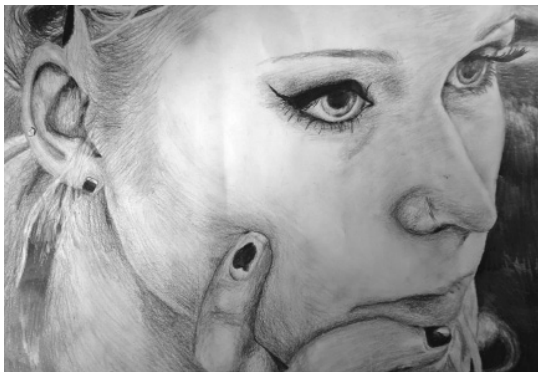
Danika Gieske—North Dakota State University (NCAA I), soccer

Kristen Nordby—Moorhead State University (NCAA II), softball



Danika Gieske

Senior Emma Cote' was a silver key winner for her drawing (left) and junior Jordan Coffer received honorable mention for her digital art (below) in the 2011 Scholastic Art Awards.



National Honor Society

welcomes 62



Indicted into Centennial's National Honor Society (NHS), recognizing outstanding middle level and high school students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, and character are: Juniors: **Susan Alt, Stephanie Anderson, Mariah Arends, Jessica Axt, Grant Bauer, Nora Beckemeyer, Daniel Becken, Kelsey Billingsley, Nicole Boehne, Megan Bona, Travis Bretoi, Meghan Chau, Jordan Coffer, Mackenzie Crowley, Ray Culp, Sarah DeBoer, Joshua DeWitt, Nathaniel Ecker, Alexzandra Eich, Sydney Fabian, Robert Faust, Kevin Fox, Daniel Fried, Lauren Gannon, Andrew Gustafson, Devon Henschel, Kelsey Huntington, Jacob Irlbeck, Marshall Johnson, Dustin Johnston, Jonathan Keller, Megan Kienholz, Courtney Klair, Mitchell Kohl, Lauren Kolak, Jessica Lodico, Arianna Lossing, Rachel Mann, Madison Moore, Caitlin Navratil, Brendan O'Connell, Megan Osborne, Allison Oyos, Rachel Pederson, Eva Schmidt, Sonjay Sivarajah, Bailey Stack, Alexander Stetson, Hanna Stibbe, Rachel Tolkinen, Benjamin Walker, Paige Waytashek, Katelyn Weed, Peter Winegar, David Young-Stephens, Maria Zaki**
Seniors: **Philip Capra, Brendan Gessner, Adrian Groeschel, Brittney Heron, Kevin Miller, Tanner Nelson**

Middle school teams compete successfully



Future City team members (from left) Alexandra Larson, Erin Nelsen and Evan Nelson display their futuristic city.

Future City team members from Centennial Middle School built a model of a futuristic city, called National Legion of Ninjas (NLN), and took fourth place earning the Outstanding First Year Participant Award in regional competition. Contest entries included building a city with a focus on renewable energy using Sim City 4 software, writing an essay about the renewable energy and a narrative of the city, two presentations and answering judges' questions. Middle school teacher Jamie Sobolik is the team advisor.

Knowledge Bowl teams placing in Metropolitan Educational Cooperative Service Unit's (ECSU) Knowledge Bowl Metro Region Grand Finale Meet are: 2nd place: Team Centennial Pi to the 42nd power—**Megan Knudsen, Nick Knudsen, Nick Foreman, Megan Johnson, Matt Wiege**; 5th place and Science Champion Trophy: Team Centennial White—**Lucas Erlandson, Nate Feltman, Ian Russman, Kylie Jensen, Espen Fredrick, Jack Villa**. The team advisor is Lynette Anderson.

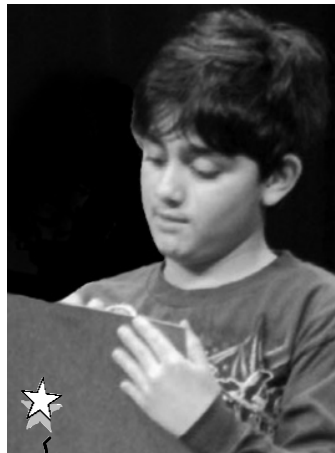
Geography Bee champions named

The National Geographic Bee's challenging test of geographic knowledge begins with bees in schools across the United States using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society. The contest, for 4–8 graders, is designed to encourage teachers to include geography, spark student interest, and increase public awareness.

Students are tested on the world's major physical features (location of countries, islands, major water bodies and physical features, major lines of latitude and longitude, highest/lowest/deepest points), major current events, principle languages, currencies, religions, former country names, exotic species, and more.

Centennial's school champions and finalists are:

Blue Heron—**Carter Shoquist** (champion), **Cassie Sherman, Hunter Berger, Andrew Ratz, Ellie Jensen, Billy Fabozzi, Frank Matti, Olivia Mineau, Sean Buster, Arcadia Langmead, Garrett Hoch**
Centennial Elementary—**Hamza Khan** (champion), **Alex Burgaud, Devin Brownlee, Casey Manselle, Logan Dickinson, Samuel Barrett, Rylee Shearing, Annika Beuning, Bradley Hoffhein, Nolan Summerfield**



Centennial Elementary Geography Bee winner prepares his answer.

Centerville—**Jacob Welsch** (champion), **Katelyn Everson, Henry Zwiers, Katelyn Ramacher, Olivia Parker, Cameron Walters, Jacob Welsch, Lucas Nelson, Corey Larson, Claudia Comstock, Julia Solberg**

Golden Lake—**Matt Hoover** (champion), **Ryan Gramse, Payten Bailey, Nick Farbelow, Andrew Holzer, Matthew Hove, Sarah Lavall, Adam Loeffler, Micah Posavad, Pedro Villa**

Rice Lake—**Sarah Holicky** (champion), **Mitchell Politiske, Alex Phillips, Allison Athman, Evan Baker, Ella Kemper, Kori Skrypek, T.J. Harmon, Haiza Haque, Elliott McVey**

Middle school—**Drew Hardenburgh** (champion), **Tim Cisar, Preston Waldvogel, Jasmine John, Mason Marshall, Matt Wiege, Sara Clark, Peyton Greve, Matthew Ardito**

One hundred school champions from each state proceed to state in April, based on a written qualifying test. Winners advance to nationals in Washington D.C. in May.



Test your knowledge at
www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee

Student honors

▶ Junior **Bailee Sandbakken** was chosen by North-east Metro Career and Technical Center as December Student of the Month for her positive attitude, being thorough in her work and encouraging others to do their best.

▶ Annual Drug Awareness Poster Contest winners: Blue Heron—**Heather Bly, Nate Schoolmesters, Olivia Mineau, McKenzie Lohse, Sammy Lund, MaiQuyen Pham**

Centennial Elementary—**Matthew Tesfatsion, Emma Corbett, Edgardo Gonzalez-Galvez, Robin Clark, Clara B all, Danielle Belfiori, Jillian Neudahl, Lauryn Stacy, Marissa Dessellier, Hannah Olson, Preston Brown, Deidra Anizor, Madelyn Andersen**

▶ Rice Lake carnival button contest winners are **Ella Kemper** and **Christopher Meng**.

Staff honors



Centennial High School Assistant Principal **Adam Holm** (above) was named 2011 Assistant Principal of the Year for the Southwest Division of the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP).

Adam's nomination arose from his work at Hutchinson High School where, among other efforts, he helped develop the Reach Program which received a MASSP Star of Innovation award last summer.

★ ★ ★ star corner

Bruce Carrigan

***Job Title:** Golden Lake Elementary head custodian.

***I've been with the district:** 14 years.

***My primary job is:** Maintain a clean, safe and fun environment for students and staff.

* **What I like most about my job is:** I get to work with a great staff.

***First job:** Working on a farm in southern Minnesota, riding on a tractor spraying weeds.

***Fondest memory:** Being there for the birth of my son and getting to hold him for the first time.

***The people I admire the most are:** Veterans and the military service members who give us the freedom we enjoy today.

***One thing I learned in school:** No chewing gum in class.

***High school:** Roseville High School.

***Favorite school lunch:** Turkey and gravy over mashed potatoes.

***Family:** My son Weldon turned five in August and started kindergarten in September.

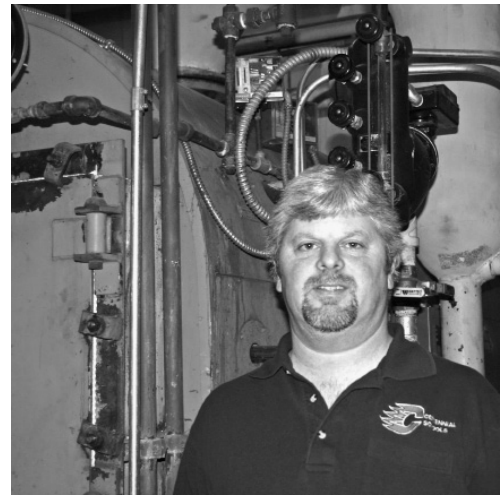
***Hobbies/interests:** Camping at Minnesota state parks, golfing, hiking.

***Favorite movie:** *It's a Wonderful Life*.

***Wildest dream:** Go on vacation to Alaska.

***A perfect day is:** Out on the boat fishing (hopefully catching something).

***Words of advice/philosophy of life:** Live life one day at a time.



A Look Ahead

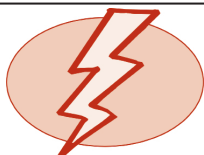
Key

BH=Blue Heron Elementary
CALC=Centennial Area Learning Center
CEPO=Centennial Elementary Parent Organization
CPTA=Centerville Parent Teacher Association
CT=Centennial Elementary
CV=Centerville Elementary
DO=District Office
ECFE=Early Childhood Family Education
ECS=Early Childhood Screening
GL=Golden Lake Elementary
HS=High School
LL=Learning lab
MC=Media center
MS=Middle School
MSA=Middle School Auditorium
PAC=Performing Arts Center
PTA=Parent Teacher Association
PTO=Parent Teacher Organization
RL=Rice Lake Elementary
SAC=Systems Accountability Committee, meets in Learning Lab
SBLT=Site Based Leadership Team

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

- 1*CT kindergarten reg, 5:30–7pm
 *ECS
 *GL Planning & operations, 7:45 am, office
 *MS 3rd quarter mid-term
 *RL grade 4 music program, 7 pm, PAC
 2*CV bingo, 6 pm
 *GL Lunch with a Loved One, 11 am–1:15 pm, library/cafe
 *MS 3rd quarter mid-term
 3*HS Region 5AA Solo & Ensemble inst. contest, 8 am–3 pm
 5*GL spring picture day
 *Grades 11–12 academic awards, 6:30 pm, PAC
 6*Band boosters, 7 pm, HS
 *Conferences: MS/elementary after school/evening
 *GL Book fair, 4–8 pm, library
 *Grade 10 academic awards, 6:30 pm, PAC
 *MS PTA, 6:30–8 pm, MC
 8*Conferences: MS/elementary after school/evening
 *GL Book fair, 4–8 pm, library
 9*No school
 *Conferences: MS/elementary, morning
 *GL Book fair, 8 am–noon, library
 12–16*No school, spring break
 19*HS spring sports parents night, 6:30 pm, white
 *School Board, 6:30 pm, DO
 20*CV: site council, 8:10 am, office; PTA, 6:30 pm, MC
 *GL PTA, 6:30–9 pm, staff lounge
 21*Indian Ed. Parent Advisory, 6:30 pm, R236
 21*CALC conferences, 4–8 pm
 *GL Site council, 7:45 am, office
 *HS senior choir recitals, 7 pm, PAC
 *SAC, 4:30–6:30 pm, LL
 *RL: SBLT, 4 pm, MC; PTO board, 5:30 pm, office conference; transition to MS, 7 pm, atrium
 23*ECFE gym night, 6:30–8 pm, RL
 *MS grade 7 party, 2:30–4:30 pm, cafe/gyms
 26*BH PTO, 7 pm, MC/art room
 *CALC conferences, 4–8 pm
 *HS: band concert, 7:30 pm, PAC; parent advisory, 6:30 pm, white MC
 27*HS conferences, 4:15–8 pm
 *MS spring musical, staff/sr preview, 3–5 pm, MSA
 28*MS spring musical grade 5 performance, noon, MSA; senior preview, 3 pm, MSA
 29*End 3rd quarter
 *HS conferences, 4:15–8 pm
 *MS spring musical, 7 pm, MSA
 30*No school, teacher workshop
 *MS spring musical, 7 pm, MSA
 31*MS spring musical, 2 pm, MSA



School closings

In case of inclement weather or emergencies necessitating the closing of Centennial Schools, broadcasts will be made on local television and radio stations, the district website at www.isd12.org, and twitter. Centennial's School Closing Information Line (763-792-6030) lists emergency school closings and regularly scheduled non school days.



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

Centennial Middle School Drama Department presents...

Disney Alice in Wonderland JR.

Join Alice's madcap adventures in Wonderland as she chases the white rabbit, races the dodo bird, gets tied up with the Tweedles, raps with a bubble-blowing caterpillar, and beats the Queen of Hearts at her own game. Roles are plentiful, including three cheshire cats and dozens of other wacky characters. Directed by Laurie Tangren and Mary Andrews.



7 p.m., Thursday, March 29

7 p.m., Friday March 30

2 p.m., Saturday, March 31

(Free senior preview—3 p.m.,
Tuesday, March 27)

Middle School Auditorium

Tickets: \$5/adults; \$3/children

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- 1*MS: PTA, 6:30–8 pm, MC; grade 5 band/choir recruitment concert; choir info meeting, 6 pm, MSA/cafe; band parent meeting, 6:30 pm, MSA/cafe
- 4*CT site council, 7:45 am, conference room
- 5*ECS
 - *HS choir concert, 6:30 & 8 pm, PAC
 - *RL: SBLT, 4 pm, MC; PTO board, 5:30 pm, office conference
- 6*No school
- 9*CV grade 2 musical, 2:45, gym
 - *CALC advisory board, 7:30 am
 - *CEPO, 6:30 pm, MC
 - *CV grade 2 musical, 6 pm, PAC
- 11*Indian Ed. Parent Advisory, 6:30 pm, R236
- 12*CV picture day
 - *GL: Planning & operations, 7:45 am, office; grade 2 musical, 7 pm, cafe
 - *RL grade 2 music program, 7 pm, PAC
- 14*HS Grand March, 4 pm, PAC, Prom
- 15*RL carnival, noon–4 pm
- 16*GL PTA, 6:30–9 pm, staff lounge
 - *HS open house, 6–8 pm, white gym
 - *MS grade 5 orientation, 7 pm
 - *School Board, 6:30 pm, DO
- 17*MS grade 5 orientation, 7 pm
- 19*GL: Site council, 7:45 am, office;
- 21*BH carnival, noon–4 p.m.
 - *GL Garage sale, 8 a.m.–3 pm
- 23*BH PTO, 7 pm, MC/art room
 - *CV: site council, 8:10 am, office; PTA, 6:30 pm, MC
- 26*RL SBLT, 4 pm, MC 27
 - *CT carnival or family fun night, 6–8:30 pm
- 28*MS Jazz Night Club, 7:30 pm, cafe



Call 763-792-6108 to apply for a **senior citizen pass**, entitling free admission to all Centennial School District events and activities except playoffs, regional and state competitions.



Look for the spring **Community Services Activity Guide** in the mail and online in early March

Water safety instructor and Fitness for You instructors needed. Call 763-792-6100.

Early Childhood (EC) classes offered

School Readiness

Registration is underway for Early Childhood's School Readiness classes beginning fall, 2012.

School Readiness prepares children, ages 3 (by Sept. 1, 2012) and up, to enter kindergarten with the skills and behaviors necessary to be successful.

Children work on listening, personal and social development, language and literacy, thinking and math skills through guided play, group time, and social interaction. Parent participation is part of the program, offering guidance and support in preparing a child for their school years.

Watch the mail for a brochure or call the Early Childhood Center at 763-792-6120 for information.

Infant Massage

(ages 3 weeks–crawling)

Learn the benefits of infant massage while spending time with your baby. Massage has been found to help with colic, digestion, circulation, and relaxation. 6:30–8 p.m., Wednesdays, Feb. 22, 29; March 7. Cost: \$30. Register by Feb. 15. For ages 3 weeks to crawling.

Baby Shower

If you have a new baby and live in the Centennial School District area, you are invited to a baby shower on Friday, Feb. 3 hosted by Centennial EC. Meet new parents, enjoy fun activities, and pick up a free gift. If you're not able to attend, please call 763-792-6120 to schedule a new baby visit.

Moonlight swim set

Join the fun at Centennial Community Pool from 7:30–8:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays through March 1. The Moonlight Open Swim fee is \$2 per person or \$5 per family. The pool is located in the Centennial High School red building, door D13.



Enjoy games, silent auctions and raffles, gift baskets, food, face painting, photo booth and more at:

- Golden Lake Elementary**, noon–3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25
- Rice Lake Elementary**, noon–4 p.m., Sunday, April 15
- Blue Heron Elementary**, noon–4 p.m., Saturday, April 21
- Centennial Elementary**, 6–8:30 p.m., Friday, April 27
- Centerville Elementary**, noon–3 p.m., Sunday, May 6



Partners in education

Reaching out to the community...

- * Over 130 coats and blankets were donated by Rice Lake students for the Salvation Army's Coats for Adults program.
- * Over 125 new clothing items, and 80 small toys were donated in the Blue Heron Elementary sponsored drive for Alexandra House and Youth First.
- * Kids Club service projects: coat, clothing and food drives; holiday cards for "The Forgotten Ones"; Macy's Letters to Santa for Make a Wish.

Old eyeglasses wanted

Curt Gutbrod's Blue Heron fifth grade class, along with the Circle-Lex Lions Club, is collecting used eyeglasses for those in third world countries. Mackenzie describes the project below. Send donated eyeglasses to Blue Heron Elementary, c/o Mr. Gutbrod's 5th grade class, 405 Elm Street, Lino Lakes, MN 55014 or drop them off in the Community Services drop box outside door B2 by the district office.

"Clear" news...

by Mackenzie Lohse

Mr. Gutbrod's 5th grade class and the Circle-Lex Lions' Club are collecting eyeglasses for children and adults in 3rd World Countries.

Clean out your trunks and old cases and find those lonely eyeglasses and send them to Blue Heron Elementary.

The donated eyeglasses will be sent to 3rd World Countries and find a friend whose eyes need them. Even if you donate one pair, that will help maybe one child see their parents or one adult to see their child more clearly. One pair of donated eyeglasses can make a difference! Remember, these people who are unable to see clearly can't just go to the eye doctor and get glasses like we can, so be a hero for those people.

Thank you.

Featured partner



Lino Lakes resident **Tim Henderson** (left) describes the middle school WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) program he volunteers for as an enlightening and enriching experience, giving an in-depth view of students in action.

Tim also coaches basketball, baseball and football and works with veterans at the American Legion, where he is a member.

When not working as a labor representative for AFSCME Council 5, he enjoys fishing, hunting, working at the YMCA and running with his dog Charlie.

Other Henderson family members include Tim's wife of 20 years Kristy, Cenennial High School (CHS) graduate Ashley, CHS senior Thea and sophomore Kayla, and eighth grader Karl.

Tim encourages all dads to volunteer for WATCH D.O.G.S. For more information on volunteering please call Dr. Bill Wick at 763-792-5405.

Centerville Elementary Principal Cathy Tschida (right) accepted a \$500 ExxonMobile Education Alliance Grant for Centerville Elementary after being nominated by Bobby and Steve's Auto World in Lino Lakes.



Over \$250 and 2,150 food and personal items were donated in the Centerville Student Council-sponsored food drive for the Centennial Area Food Shelf.

Middle school students helped with the Student Council-sponsored Packages for Military project.



Thank you...

- * Centennial Basketball Association donated \$982 for adjustable basketball baskets in the high school white gym, allowing the courts to be used by younger players.
- * Lifetouch gave Centennial Elementary \$506.75 for fall pictures.
- * Alerus Financial gave \$100 on behalf of Josh Hicks.
- * Rice Lake received \$9,621.30 for 2011 donations from Target's Take Charge of Education program.
- * Centerville received a \$500 grant from IBM for technology with volunteer hours from Centerville parent Karen Case.
- * \$250 was matched from Wells Fargo/Grant family to Centerville Elementary.
- * Centerville Elementary received \$1885.10 from collecting Box Tops and \$340.15 from collecting Kemp's caps.
- * Centerville parent Paul Lundh donated \$200 to United Way.
- * Funding Factory reimbursed Centerville Elementary \$223 for computer cartridge recycling.
- * Wells Fargo Foundation Educational Matching Gift Program from various families—\$30.
- * Residential Mortgage Group/Nippoldt family \$100 donation through "Refer a friend. Build your community".

You can help

Rice Lake Student Council is collecting used tennis shoes (toddler-adult, no cleats) until April 22 for an eco challenge called GreenSneakers. The goal is to keep shoes out of landfills and send them around the world for reuse in disaster and humanitarian efforts.



The bserver

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Circle Pines, Minnesota
Permit No. 8

The Observer is a publication of the
Centennial School District
4707 North Rd, Circle Pines, MN 55014
www.isd12.org Cable channel 20

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Change, technology and associated possibilities

by *Cathy Wyland, Director of Communication*

Technology is all the buzz in education (and everywhere else) today. Flipping classroom instruction, using cell phones for in-class responses, adopting BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policies, purchasing iPads for students and staff, etc.

With a focus on maintaining student enrollment, some school districts are jumping on whatever band wagon rolls by, hoping it will meet their customer's needs.

Centennial wants to offer the kinds of educational programs that meet customer needs while transforming teaching and learning. To that end, the district is working on a new strategic plan (see Superintendent's Column, page 3) and has been piloting potential technologies.

The pilot option is a good way to try something on a small scale, make adjustments and improvements, and then when successful, expand it to scale. Last year, for example, Rice Lake piloted the wireless use of various laptops and iPads. The pilot was a success, resonating with students and staff and enhancing the learning environment.

Like other pilots done in the district, it was conducted in tandem with Centennial's Department of Teaching and Learning. Results led the district to expand this technology and begin investigating adding a wireless infrastructure to support further expansion.

Another pilot was the use of thin clients, a less expensive way to create a traditional computer lab. Thin clients are simple terminals that work in a networked environment by relying on a more powerful computer to do most of the processing. The high school set up a thin client lab last year and it worked well. The pilot has been expanded

and will be tested further with state on-line assessments.

The system and process are important, as is the link to Teaching and Learning, as Centennial identifies quality indicators and looks at its capacity to expand successful pilots.

Two projects underway at the high school show promise.

One is a hybrid class involving the use of Schoology, a learning management system that makes it easy to create and share content. The class taught by Jason Tlusty time shifts content and allows students to move through the curriculum at their own pace. Students login to Schoology, listen to lectures and then do required homework before moving on to the next module. Rather than being physically in class every day, they attend 2-3 times per week and are online the other days.

The other pilot, G3, is underway thanks to a partnership with Infinite Campus. G3 is in its infancy and, in a nutshell, turns the traditional model of education on its head. With G3, time is the variable and achievement is constant. The plan, instruct, test, repeat cycle focuses on the student. High school teacher Chris Ripken, and teachers at the middle school, are working on this venture. Read more on page 5.

Change, technology and all associated possibilities aren't going away. Consider a recent Pew Research Center survey that showed more than 75 percent of teens own cell phones, 73 percent use online social networking sites, and 38 percent share artwork, photos, stories and videos online. With technology so pervasive in today's world it makes sense to thoughtfully capture these skills to improve student learning.