Editor’s Note: When the Centennial School District went to distance learning last March, C-Mail went on hiatus. We are bringing it back, but for the remainder of the time that the district is in Comprehensive Distance Learning, C-Mail will come out once a month. Please send your C-Mail items to carol_fenstermacher@csd28j.org

January is School Board Appreciation Month

January is School Board Appreciation Month and a time to acknowledge our Governing Board of Directors and their role in supporting our district and student achievement. The Board is responsible for setting the district’s mission, vision and priorities, for setting district policy and budget priorities upon which all administrative actions are based, and for the hiring of the superintendent.

We are fortunate to have a very committed and supportive Board as is evident in their many years of service to the students, staff and community.

Members of the Centennial School Board include: Board Chair Pam Shields; Vice Chair Rhonda Etherly; Rod Boettcher; Sumitra Chhetri, Centennial High School Student Representative Jesse Fonseca; Ronald “Jess” Hardin; Ernie Butenschoen*; Amanda Schroeder; and Claudia Andrews* – not pictured.

*Mr. Butenschoen recently moved out of state and has resigned. At the School Board meeting on January 13, 2021, the board appointed Claudia Andrews to fill the position for the remainder of Butenschoen’s term, which ends this June.
Centennial High School’s Anne Ellett named 2019-20 NFHS National Spirit Coach of the Year

Congratulations to Centennial High School’s Anne Ellett on receiving the 2019-20 National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) National Spirit Coach of the Year Award. She has been the head coach for the Hi C’s since she started the program in 1966. She is believed to be the longest-tenured high school dance coach in Oregon.

During her coaching tenure, Ellett has led Centennial to 11 state championships, including championships in both the Show and Dance/Drill divisions. She was named coach of the year for the Dance Drill Coaches Association (DDCA) of Oregon in 1988 and 1994. She received the DDCA’s lifetime achievement award in 2012.

Each year she strives to teach her new dancers the concept of FAD: ‘F’ for fun, ‘A’ for academics, and ‘D’ for dance.

In the announcement from the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association (OACA), Ellett is described as “exemplifying the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and moral character. She is a great ambassador for the coaching profession.”

Said Ellett: "Loving what you do, where you do it and who you do it with is all that matters. And I look forward to every day and every practice with my Hi Cs."

For 55 years, Ellett has made a direct impact not only on the students who go through the dance team program at Centennial but on our entire Oregon dance team community.

In the early days, high school dance competitions did not exist in Oregon. Ellett gathered several of her colleagues and in 1973 they launched the first ever state competition, which was named the Metropolitan Dance Festival (or Metro, for short). As times have changed, Metro no longer is the state competition, but it is still hosted each year by Centennial’s dance team. It is the longest running high school dance team competition in the state.

In the 1970s, Ellett would go on to co-found the Oregon High School Dance Drill Association (OHSDDA), which would become what is known today as the DDCA. The DDCA is a membership-based organization serving dance programs and dance coaches throughout the state. It hosted the annual state championships from 1973 to 1986. In 1987, the OSAA took over as host.
Today, the DDCA sponsors the All-State Dance Team, provides scholarships, hosts the Fall Category Championship competition, and oversees all local dance competitions leading up to the OSAA championships.

The DDCA changed the landscape of high school dance team in Oregon by providing a way for dance teams across the state to come together and provide advocacy at a state level. Ellett continues to be involved in the leadership of the DDCA by serving on the organization’s board of directors.

In addition to coaching dance, Ellett taught health, physical education, and movement at Centennial and Portland’s Jefferson High School.

**Meadows Elementary fifth graders offer advice on CDL**

Fifth grade students at Meadows Elementary School have put together a book called “Distance Learning Tips and Tricks from 5th Grade Professionals.” Topics include the importance of organization, staying focused, participation and managing stress. The informational writing pieces were part of their first full informative piece, focused on CDL. To see their insights, go to [https://read.bookcreator.com/VYagnCkKZUVxFS9lzqrC4e9ZNQL7y3SVsxYoTset4c/YnjYdjwQRD6kNAw5hYRzIw](https://read.bookcreator.com/VYagnCkKZUVxFS9lzqrC4e9ZNQL7y3SVsxYoTset4c/YnjYdjwQRD6kNAw5hYRzIw).

**Passage of 2020 Bond means work starting around the district**

Thanks to the passage of the bond last May, work on several projects has begun, or will begin in the next 90 days. The construction in progress includes:

- **Centennial Middle School Track** – Asphalt has been exposed. Repair work is underway. Field events have been relocated. Completion expected 4/16/21 pending weather.
- **Oliver Elementary School Track** – Asphalt has been removed and sub-grade is being modified. A sleeve will be added to irrigate the center field. Completion expected 4/2/21 pending weather.

The construction starting in the next 90 days includes:

- **Pleasant Valley** - Asbestos abatement of flooring in downstairs corridors, multiple classrooms, media center and front offices. Carpet tiles will go in the rooms and the halls left concrete with a grind and polish. Work direction expected March 8 – April 16 with offices consolidated March 12 – 26.
- **Centennial High School Pool Repairs** – Design in progress with bids expected late March and construction mid-April through mid-August.