Wendy Hazen and Tami Virell chosen as 2021 Triple C Award recipients

Congratulations to Wendy Hazen, Counseling Secretary and Attendance at Centennial Middle School (CMS) and Tami Virell, Executive Assistant, Human Resources on receiving the 2021 Triple C Award. Both were recognized at last week’s school board meeting.

Vicki Nelson, Nathan Buck, Johanna Castillo, Rowan Parker, Kristin Lee, Shane Fisher, Chris O’Connor, Angela Dickey, Adeline Reamer, Karen Bigham, Carolyn Dishman, and Robert Olson nominated Hazen. Here are just a few of the highlights from her nomination:

• One way to describe Wendy is by something you can often hear her say, “We’re not here to be average, we’re here to be awesome!”
• She steps in at a moment’s notice to fill in for other secretaries, help administrators, fill in for the nurse, does lunch duty, empties garbage, or absolutely anything that needs to be done and usually without being asked.
• Students will always be the best assets to any school. She knows every child that walks through our front doors. She knows every allergy, every giggle, and every bus number. Though it’s trying to know every child, especially when they become high school students almost overnight, she remains knowledgeable and remembers.
• She creates a warm and inviting atmosphere. She welcomes everyone with a friendly smile and a happy greeting. In many ways she is the heart of our building.
• Anyone who volunteers to clean student restrooms on multiple occasions when we are short custodial staff deserves an award.
• She would rather do the right thing and remain anonymous.
• She is the stellar example of perseverance and enduring support.
• It is fantastic to think about the many lives she has had a positive impact during her tenure at Centennial Middle School; generations of families are always pleased and excited to find out that she still works at CMS.
• She is a one-of-a-kind person with a heart of gold.

Virell was nominated by Andrea Rose, Dr. Paul Coakley, James Owens, Gabriella Fork, Corinna Jobe, Shannon Burley and Penny Close. Highlights of her nomination include:
• She has a work ethic that is unmatched and an unparalleled level of commitment – commitment to the success of District staff in serving students, to providing work of the highest quality, and to enhancing the reputation of the district in the community.
• She is extremely organized, dedicated, knowledgeable and computer savvy. She has built positive relationships with the Centennial staff and community and is often sought out by others when they have questions.
• She is flexible and willing to take on the hard task to ensure the best interest of all involved.
• She works behind the scenes in her cubicle at the District Office but provides an invaluable service to all in the district. She always goes above and beyond to help others.
• She is kind, friendly, is always pleasant to work with and she has a great sense of humor.
• She is usually the first one in the building and the last to leave. Her ability to multi-task is surpassed by no one.
• Every day she goes the extra mile for everyone. She works nights and weekends to accomplish so much – I know this because she answers my emails after work hours and on weekends.
• She has supported staff by attending family funerals, hospital visits – supplied food for families and so much more.
• Whenever I work with her on anything, I always feel like I am the “Padawan learner” and she is the “Jedi Master.”
• She takes it upon herself to provide exceptional support and service to staff – current, new and former employees – parents and the general public.
• She will brainstorm ideas with anyone who comes to her for help. She is a methodical thinker and can see different perspectives to the problem to help find a solution.
• Her work behind the scenes in support of our staff provides a solid backbone for the district.
• Every day she shows she cares, she shows her commitment, and she shows her creativity.

Because of the pandemic, there was no Triple C awarded last year – so the committee awarded the 2020 Triple C to all of the employees of the Centennial School District for stepping up and going above and beyond last Spring, and every day since.

District retirees
On Monday, June 14, Centennial School District administrators and School Board members will gather on Zoom with many of the folks that are retiring this year. The 2021 retirees include: BA
Amsden, Transportation; Amalia Carter, Centennial High School; Penny Close, Pleasant Valley Elementary School; Susan Cunningham, Centennial High School; Eddie Erwin, Dining Services; Carol Fenstermacher, District Office; Tami Green, Centennial High School; Roxanne Kempton, Patrick Lynch Elementary School; Lynn Kern, Centennial High School; Greg Melvin, Centennial High School; Julie Mitchell, Transportation; Kathy Schiedler, Centennial High School; John Waker, Dining Services; Susan Wentland, Centennial Middle School; Cathy Vermillion, Meadows Elementary School; and Tom Young, Centennial High School. Congratulations to all of our 2021 retirees we will miss you!

The CHS Class of 2021 Valedictorians/Salutatorian and Honored Educators

Congratulations to the following CHS students on their selection as valedictorians for being ranked at the top of their academic class: Sofia Cing, Kyle H. Cook, Madisen Kramer, Rachel Le, Naomi Maldonado, Thomas Sato, Samuel Schuhl, Eric Tran, and Ruby Tran.

The salutatorian for this year is Artem Leonchik.

The following educators were recognized as "Honored Educators" by our class valedictorians:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sofia Cing</td>
<td>Beth Lifson</td>
<td>Centennial High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyle H. Cook</td>
<td>Isaac Eivers</td>
<td>Gresham Arthur Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madisen Kramer</td>
<td>Marie Strickland</td>
<td>Butler Creek Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Le</td>
<td>Janice Yang</td>
<td>Centennial High School</td>
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<td>Naomi Maldonado</td>
<td>Doug Paul</td>
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<td>Thomas Sato</td>
<td>Patrick Fera</td>
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<td>Samuel Schuhl</td>
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<td>Eric Tran</td>
<td>Alexander Macke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruby Tran</td>
<td>Jimmy Mei</td>
<td>Centennial High School</td>
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Grayson Hosking selected as a 2021 Amazing Kid

Powell Butte Elementary School's Grayson Hosking has been named one of Pamplin Media Group’s 2021 Amazing Kid.

The 10-year-old was recognized for his volunteerism and charitable giving to organizations including My Father’s House, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Doernbecher Children’s Hospital. To read the full story, go to: https://www.pamplinamazingkids.com/amazing-kid/grayson-hosking/

Melinda Thomas receives Every Day Counts Award

Last week, Melinda Thomas, a substitute teacher at Oliver Elementary School, was awarded the ESS Every Day Counts 2021 Impact Award in recognition of her thoughtful and generous
approach to education and her commitment to students. In addition, both she and Oliver Elementary School received a $500 monetary award.

The Impact Award was created in 2014 to recognize employees based on frequency of work, feedback from partner school district(s), and a commitment to exceed the expectations of their role. ESS specializes in placing qualified staff in daily, long-term, and permanent K-12 school district positions including substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, and other school support staff.

Congratulations Melinda on your award!

Oliver students place in Top 10 in the Celebrate America creative writing contest

Fifth graders at Oliver Elementary School recently participated in the American Immigration Council’s annual "Celebrate America" creative writing contest. The prompt was, "What does it mean to be a welcoming nation?" Two Oliver students, fifth graders Varbah Johnson and Lihana Ta’ale placed in the top 10 of all Oregon contestants with their poetry submissions. These students and their families attended a virtual award ceremony on June 1st to celebrate their accomplishments, which was led by an immigration judge. We are so proud of their achievements!

Photo: Varbah Johnson holding up 10 since she placed in the top 10

Jolene Dunlap honored at 2021 Sources Showcase

Centennial Middle School (CMS) Health and PE teacher Jolene Dunlap was recognized at the 2021 Sources Showcase last month for her work to create belonging and connection at CMS as part of the Sources of Strength programming (suicide prevention and mental health efforts.) She, along with seven others from around the state were Adult Advisor Award Winners.