Congratulations to the CHS Speech and Debate Team
Lots of congratulations are in order for the CHS Speech and Debate team. The team won First Place in the OnPoint Community Union Academic All-State Award for Speech and they had a great showing at the recent State tournament, held online April 19 – April 24. According to the coach Jen Loeung, “We’re proud of the team for their hard work and competing for the equivalent of three sports seasons, year-round, online in multiple new online competition formats. It's been a challenging year.” She added, “This has been the best team ever for supporting each other with feedback and technical support.”

The students who placed at state are:
• Camille Barcibal placed third in LIELL (Literal Interpretation for English Language Learners)
• Alexander Dimitrov and Elizabeth Dimitrova made it to the finals round with their dual interpretation.

According to Loeung, “Khup Hau Tuang and Jesse Fonseca competed well too.”

Kellie McCarty wins Melba Sparks Henning Award
On Saturday, April 17th, at the Oregon State Thespians Virtual Conference and Competition, Centennial High School’s Drama teacher Kellie McCarty was presented with the Melba Day Sparks Henning Award.

The Melba Day Sparks Henning Award is given each year as a career achievement award to adults who have extraordinary service with Oregon Thespians or Oregon high school theatre. Troupe Directors are invited to nominate both Thespian and non-Thespian adults who have made exceptional contributions to the growth of theatre and theatre education in Oregon. It is Oregon’s Theatre Educators Hall of Fame. The award is given each year at the conclusion of the State Conference. Honorees are nominated by their peers, other adults familiar with the nominee, or by the nominee’s students and sent to a screening committee made up of past honorees.

McCarty received some beautiful words from her colleagues, alumni, and current student Beatrice Byrd, for her nomination and eventual win. She is honored to be included with the names of theatre educators before her and shed many tears reading their kind words.

Congratulations to Kellie McCarty and the theater program. This is a well-deserved award.
2017 graduate Madison Scully named a Fullbright Scholar

Madison Scully, daughter of CHS Assistant Principal Laura Scully, and a 2017 CHS graduate has been selected for a Fulbright award to Spain for the 2021-22 academic year. She will be teaching English to early childhood and elementary students in the Canary Islands for nine months. She’s looking forward to immersing herself in the Spanish culture and practicing the language.

Madison will graduate this May from Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service (Major: Culture and Politics with a concentration in Environmental Justice, Minor: Spanish). While in school, she worked for the Jumpstart program (a national early childhood education program focusing on supporting children's language skills, literacy, and social-emotional development) and the DC Schools Project (a tutoring, mentoring, and advocacy program that engages Georgetown students to provide English language tutoring and support for youth and adults of immigrant backgrounds in Washington, DC). She has participated in study abroad programs to Ecuador and Peru.

The Fulbright Program is devoted to increasing mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.

SUN program at Centennial Middle School supports families during pandemic

A big thank you to the SUN program at Centennial Middle School for supporting the school’s most vulnerable families during the pandemic by providing $45,000 in gift cards this school year to meet families in need.

Cyber attack adds one more disruption to student learning and staffs work

This school year has been one of the most challenging school years that anyone can remember. The pandemic that led to comprehensive distance learning from September through March was challenging for many, but add in the smoke from the wildfires in September and the ice and snow in February that caused massive power outages, it seemed like the worse was behind the Centennial School District when elementary school students started returning to school in a hybrid model in early April. Just a few days after the district welcomed secondary students back for hybrid learning, we were hit with the unthinkable. On Monday, April 26th, the district’s ITC staff discovered that sophisticated cyber criminals encrypted certain files on the computer systems as a result of a ransomware attack. The ITC staff took all of the systems offline, launched an internal investigation and engaged with a leading cyber security and digital forensics firm.

While the district servers for e-mail and distance learning are back and up and running, it may take several more weeks for the rest of the servers and programs to be restored. District leadership, along with the ITC staff have been meeting daily and are working with the cyber
security and digital forensics firm to ensure the incident is contained, while the forensic investigation continues.

There are still questions about how this happened. These types of cyber attacks often find their point of entry into network systems via malware that is installed on devices and/or via links in phishing emails that allow the cyber criminals to gain access to an individual user’s credentials and then expand to the entire network. In the preliminary investigation, this appears to be the cause, but has yet to be confirmed. This is why staff is instructed to periodically change their passwords and to not click on links in e-mails from unknown sources.

Did you know that the Centennial School District is not the only district this has happened to? According to the F.B.I., the number of reported ransomware incidents against K-12 schools has increased since the beginning of this school year. In August and September of 2020, it was reported that 57 percent of the reported ransomware incidents involved K-12 schools, compared to 28 percent of all reported incidents from January through July of 2020. And the number of incidents around the country continues to rise.

Editor’s note: Normally C-Mail articles focus on the great things happening throughout the district or news about employees and retired colleagues. Due to the severity of the ransomware attack and the impact it has had on students and staff, we felt it was worth acknowledging.