

Comet News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As I sit down every month to consider what to write in my newsletter for that month, I struggle with the myriad of topics that might be of interest to you and our school community. This month I have decided to focus on a potpourri of items that seem to cross before me on a daily basis.

The first topic that crosses our path on a daily basis is student tardiness. While this might seem like a trivial matter to some, I would ask that you view this from the viewpoint of our teachers and students in your child's classroom. Students walking in late to the classroom will disrupt the opening part of that teacher's lesson for that period, distract student from the focus that the instructor has established, or require special attention to bring them up to speed on material missed because of the tardy. Weather and two foot snow drifts aside, on a daily basis I see dozens of cars pulling up to the building and dropping their student off with only a minute or two to go before the late bell rings. We allow students to come into the building with ample time to put coats and hats into lockers, unload backpacks, get materials for SSR and their first class and be seated and prepared for class prior to the tardy bell at 8:28 AM. On a daily basis, we see students dropped off without adequate time for students to accomplish this normal daily routine. At a minimum, students need at least five or six minutes to make it from curbside drop off to their first period class. We know that things happen in your normal daily routine that throws everything off kilter. The intent of this message is to make every effort to drop your student off so that she or he has an adequate amount of time to be properly prepared for their first class of the day. Please make sure that you drop off your student no later than 8:23 AM in order to get them ready for their first classes of the day.

I would like to thank parents for dropping their student off next to the curb instead of the through-lane in the student drop off circle. I am so worried when I see a parent stop in the left through-lane and allow their student to get out in front of cars pulling in or out of the designated curbside drop off. Thankfully, parents are dropping off students next to the curb and we are hearing fewer and fewer screeching brakes. Thank you for taking a few extra seconds to pull up to the curb to drop off your student. We also appreciate the fact that you are dropping your students off earlier to avoid the normal traffic jam that can result from getting over one thousand students into the building on a daily basis.

Finally, after our Parent-Teacher conferences last week, I felt that giving parents, who might not have had an opportunity to make it to those conferences, options for discussing academic or social concerns of their students might be appropriate. If your child is experiencing difficulty in a class, the first and foremost source of information is that of the teacher for that particular class. After discussing that situation with your student, I would recommend a call or email your child's teacher to find out their perspective and collectively find solution to your child's dilemma. In many cases, we find that the child or the parent has not even addressed those concerns with the teacher who many times holds the key to that problem. We also have excellent human resources in our counseling department. We encourage students to come to the guidance office to address any social or academic concern that they might be experiencing. The counseling department would welcome contact with parents and the opportunity to help with any concern you or your child might have. Each academic core has a specific counselor tied to that group of teachers and students. Counselors and administrators meet with those core teams on a regular basis to discuss issues that the student or parent might bring to their attention. If you are not sure who your child's counselor is, please contact Connie Fuerst (720-972-5250), our school registrar, who will get you to the correct person. The administrative team is always available to discuss issues that you or your student cannot find solution to through the above venues. Please give us a call or send us an email at your convenience and an administrator will respond promptly to your concerns. Please give our ever-helpful Office Manager, Sue Brecht (720-972-5242) a call and she will direct your call to the appropriate core team administrator. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you.

Sincerely,

Larry Pohlit, Principal

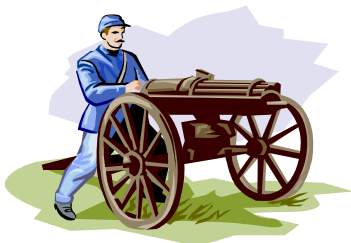


MYP News

One of the most exciting parts of being an MYP student is knowing that you are part of a global community of students in the same program. Imagine – a student at Treetops School in Australia is using the Areas of Interaction in much the same way as a student at Century Middle School!

In an effort to bring MYP students together, the Colorado/Wyoming/New Mexico International Schools have worked together for the past two years to provide a student summit. At these summits, MYP students from the region hear an international guest speaker, and then develop an action plan to take back to their respective schools. This year's summit was held on February 8. The guest speaker was Ken Rutherford, a graduate of Fariview HS and CU-Boulder, who is also a landmine survivor. Mr. Rutherford told the students of his experiences being a landmine survivor and forming the Landmine Survivor's Network. This organization aids survivors in getting back their lives after being injured by landmines. It also seeks to educate people on landmines and what they do to civilians – especially women and children. It's worth checking out their website at www.landminesurvivors.org.

In the next newsletter we hope to update you on the action that CMS students will be taking in the fight to rid the world of landmines.



Civil War Reenactment

The 4th annual Civil War Reenactment is coming soon! On April 26, 2007 8th grade students from Century Middle School will be reenacting a battle from the Civil War at the Lake Village Park from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. One of the most exciting ways to learn about a part of our history is to live it, and the Civil War reenactment is the closest thing to actually being there. Uniforms and props are provided along with some Civil War stories that you will never read about in a text book. We are privileged to be the only Middle School in Adams 12 that offers this kind of experience for our students.

New Service for Viewing Lunch Account Balances

Good News! Nutrition Services will now be able to leave a friendly reminder of your student's lunch account balance. We will be giving your home a call weekly to let you know how much money is left in your student's lunch account. Another friendly reminder will be left to let you know when your child owes lunch money. These phone messages will be starting in March.

¡Buenas noticias! Los Servicios de Nutrición podrá dejarle un recordatorio amistoso sobre el balance de la cuenta para almuerzos de su hijo(a). Le llamaremos por teléfono todas las semanas para dejarle saber cuánto dinero le queda a su hijo(a) en su cuenta. También le dejaremos un recordatorio cuando su hijo(a) deba dinero en su cuenta. Estas llamadas comenzarán en marzo.



Adjustment in Athletic Fees Expected

With the rises in costs for things like equipment, fuel and transportation, Adams 12 Five Star Schools faces the need to adjust its athletic fees beginning with the 2007-2008 school year.

“Our coaches and athletic directors work very hard to curb expenses while running highly effective athletic programs,” District Athletic Director Steve Atwood said. “But while they’ve done an outstanding job of finding the most economical way to run their programs, they’re all to a point where they can’t stretch their dollars any further.”

Because of the rising costs over the last seven years, schools have been forced to reduce services to athletes in transportation, equipment and supplies.

Athletic fees in the Five Star District have remained the same since 2000. Yet costs have, in some cases, more than doubled during that time. When comparing the Five Star District’s athletic fees to similar districts in the Denver metro area, our fees far below the average. The average fees for districts of similar size are \$102 for high school and \$44 for middle school. So, beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, fees for Adams 12 Five Star Schools will be \$90 for high school (maximum of \$180 per participant per year) and \$40 for middle school (maximum of \$80 per participant per year).

Considering all sports across all schools throughout the district, athletes and their families will see an increase in transportation and some new equipment. In addition, the additional funds will allow schools to meet the increased costs of staffing games with officials, game workers and coaches.

Students participating in the free or reduced priced lunch program will continue to receive assistance with athletic fees so that all students have an opportunity to participate in district athletic programs.

When “Adams 12 Five Star Schools is closed” due to inclement weather, how does this affect before and after-school activities?

This winter has been one of the snowiest on record, and we’re not even to Denver’s historically snowiest months of the year – March and April.

As you know, when the district Web site (www.adams12.org), the district’s closure line (720-972-4000, press 7) and the media report “Adams 12 Five Star Schools is closed,” that means classes have been canceled for all schools in the district. But what does a district closure mean for BASE (Before, After and Summer Enrichment) programs, co-curricular activities and other programs outside of the normal school day? **When the district is closed due to inclement weather, all activities and programs – whether before, during or after the school day – are canceled.**



District Wants Feedback on New Instructional Materials for Social Studies

The Adams 12 Five Star Schools wants parents and community members to give it feedback as it prepares to adopt new social studies instructional materials for grades 6 through 12.

The new materials the district is considering adopting will be on display at the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Education Support Center in the media center, March 12-23 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Education Support Center is located at 1500 E. 128th Ave., Thornton. For more information, call Donna O'Brien, 720-972-4157.



A Message From Our School Resource Officer

Dear Century Comet Parents:

First of all, let me thank all of you for your assistance in complying with the **“Right Turn Only”** and **“No Left Turn”** signs when exiting the student drop-off lanes during high traffic times (8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.). I believe that this is helping to minimize the traffic coming back around from High St. onto Lafayette St. during these times. Please keep up the great work in being mindful of these signs, especially during the high traffic times.

As part of a continuing effort to improve the safety for our students, as well as their parents who pick them up and drop them off, we have placed some new signs along the student pick-up/drop-off lanes. These signs state: **“No Waiting or Parking, Student Loading/Unloading Only, 8:00 am to 9:00 am, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm”**, and are located on both the left and right sides of the student drop-off lanes. These signs are in place for both the left and right lanes during these high traffic times, and have the same effect for both lanes.

Unlike in the past, I am asking the parents who pick up their children to assist us by not parking along the curb where the students are picked up prior to the end of the school day. Instead, I am asking that parents wait until the end of the school day (3:35 p.m.) to approach the curb, pick up their students, and then move on without delay so that other parents picking up their students can also use the curb safely. Please remember that the left lane of the student pickup/drop-off lanes is still a through lane only, and to avoid picking up or dropping off your student in this lane.

Please keep in mind that this change is an effort to make daily operations safer for students and their parents, and to provide for a smooth flow of traffic through the area surrounding the school. We will be monitoring the effectiveness of this new program over the course of the next several months. In order to properly determine its effectiveness, though, I will need all parents to abide by the signs that are now in place. With your help, we can determine if this change will make a positive or negative impact on the current traffic problems that we are experiencing, especially during pick-up times.

Again, thank you all for your continued support for a safer school and community.

Sincerely,

Officer Troy Evans

School Resource Officer, Century Middle School

Thornton Police Department



Notes From Performing Music



Congratulations to all the Century Music students who represented us at the District 12 Honor Band and Honor Orchestra Festival. This festival was held on Saturday, February 3 at Horizon High School. The students in the Honor Orchestra rehearsed for several evenings and the Honor Band students rehearsed all day Friday, February 2. It was a spectacular concert for both ensembles! Good Job Century Musicians!

Honor Band Students: Victoria Cardenas-Moreno, Kathleen Hansen, Logan Coffey, Raymond Auyeung,,Jono Methuselah, Kody Shinneman, Stephanie Rieger, Emily Walker, Austin Dyche, Alex Terranova, Kelsy Clark, Nicholas LeMaire, Drake Maurici, Brandon Dotson—Not Pictured: Keegan Nagel

Honor Orchestra Students: Shelby White, Elizabeth Berger, Claire Forbes, Caitlain Bricker, Krissy Hermanski, Erin Tschudi, Andrew Bakas, Kendall Cassidy, Kyle Caulkins, Adam Hartman



A Letter From Mr. Pennel:

Parents and Students,

It is hard to believe that this school year is almost half finished! I would like to take this opportunity congratulate all the music students for their successful concerts which were held in November and December. All the students did a great job and I am very proud of all of them.

Parents, all students now have their 2nd trimester practice logs. Please take the time to monitor your child's practice logs and encourage them to turn them in on a weekly basis. Practice logs are a very important part of your student's grade. Keep encouraging your child to be the best that they can be as they develop the craft of becoming great musicians.

Students, you must keep working hard and please come to class ready to learn. If you practice everyday, I can guarantee you that you will be awesome!

Everyone, get your calendars out and post the concert dates that are on our Music website. This website is located at: <http://homepage.mac.com/cmsmusic/My%20Website/index.html>

We also have more concerts yet to be scheduled. As soon as concerts are scheduled, all parents and students will be notified and the website will also be updated.

Once again, thank you parents and students for your continuing support of the Century Middle School Music Program. Have a terrific 2007!

Sincerely,
Mr. Pennel



Choir News

PBS is a Success At Century

All Choirs participated in the Showcase Concert for next year's 6th grade students on January 31st. It was a lot of fun and a HUGE success!!!

Coming up- All Choirs are working on Songs in Foreign Languages- Spanish, German, Japanese and South African.

4th period Treble Choir will be featured at the International Festival.

Girl's Show Choir will perform on Tuesday, February 20th at the School Improvement Team meeting.

Calling all BOYS who like to sing! We have space for interested boys in the Boy's Show Choir. We meet at 7:30 am on Wednesdays. See Ms. Malsch for more details.

Century Middle School continues to reward students for positive behavior. During January and February, over 600 students received a warm chocolate chip cookie at lunch for having 10 staff signatures ---Just for doing what they are supposed to do!!!!

Also 15 students received gift sacks with “ treats and gift cards. These students won a drawing from their PBS cards that they had signed. We were also very excited in January to be able to give away 50 sets of Nuggets or Avalanche tickets that were very generously donated by a Century parent.

Century students have the best behavior

Of all the middle schools in the district. This is tracked by district discipline date. We believe that behavior and academics go hand in hand to make CMS a high achieving middle school. We appreciate your parental support that contributes to our school performance.

PBS WILL CONTINUE TO REWARD STUDENTS.

We will have a drawing in February for tickets to sporting events to the Broomfield Events Center.

OUR CENTURY COMET RULE IS

Respectful

Understanding

Learners

Excel

Ultimate Frisbee club will be starting on March 20th.

Parents—Challenge your students, can they tell you the RULE?



Moose Core News

It's been a snowy, cold winter thus far—survival requires strength, wisdom, heartiness, and discipline. What species is best suited for success in such conditions? Why, the Kings (or Queens) of the Ungulates, of course—the Moose!

The Moose in 8th grade Physical Science are exploring the topics of density and buoyancy. How can objects as heavy as an ocean liner float? Soon we will be moving into the wonderful worlds of solids, liquids and gases. What is the kinetic molecular theory anyway?

7th grade Life Science Moose are exploring the world of ecosystems. Questions that we will be investigating will include how abiotic and biotic factors affect the ecosystems of the world. Should we be concerned with abiotic factors in our environment?

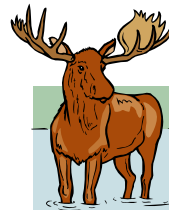
In Mr. Jones' 7th grade Moose Core MYP Geography classes, the students are now studying the physical and cultural geography of East and Southeast Asia. They have learned about both the ancient and modern history of China, with a special emphasis on Communist China. Additionally, the students have learned a little about the Japanese language and examined the tragedy of Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge.

Mr. Jones' 8th grade MYP American History Moose have continued their study of the causes and effects of the American Revolution. In the near future these students will also be examining how the ideals of the Revolution led to the creation of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The students will then learn about the difficulties faced by the new, weak United States.

Poetry writing can be quite stressful for some students and quite fun for others. However, for all students it is a rewarding venture. The 7th and 8th grade Moose Language Arts classes are participating in a writer's workshop. They will be creating different pieces for the genres of writing that are required for their grade level. It is a time that will require all students to learn how to revise a piece they have written, making it better with each draft. What a fun time Mrs. Jones is having with this unit!

In Mrs. Skeeter's 7th grade MYP Math classes the Moose will be continuing on with their introduction to algebra with solving simple to multi-step equations. They will then start working on 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional geometry. The 8th graders will be finishing up with quadratic relationships and moving on to symmetry and reflections.

Finally, on a positive note, the Moose Core finished up the Christmas Crusade for Children with a whopping \$3,714.33 collected to supply Christmas gifts for 26 children in 10 families. **Way to go Moose!**



Century 8th Grader Wins Geography Bee

On Wednesday, January 10th, the annual National Geographic Geography Bee was held in the CMS cafeteria. Each year students from around the nation compete in the Bee, answering questions about the physical, political, and cultural geography of the United States and the world.

This year's winner of the Century Geography Bee is 8th grader Christopher Brooks, whose correct answer to a question about the location of Mount Olympus (answer: Greece) earned him the school championship. Chris will now compete in the state-level Geography Bee. Finishing second was 7th grader Michelle Phillips, while 6th grader Brian Thomas was a close 3rd.

Also participating in the competition were 6th graders Zachary Bohan and Zachary Davis; 7th grader Toni Nicastro, and 8th graders Brandon Dotson, Michael Crockett, and Doug Yeager. All of the participants earned their way into the finals by winning class and core competitions. Congratulations is due to all of those who got involved and competed!



The Outer Limits Core

Greetings from The Outer Limits Core! We have reached the half-way point of the 2006-2007 school year, and are happy to report that the students and teachers in the core are all happy, healthy and wiser. The teachers would like to extend a special thank-you to those parents/guardians and students who braved the snow and cold weather to attend the February conferences. It is always a pleasure to meet with our students and their parents/guardians and keep the communication lines open between all involved.

The Social Studies classes finished their study of Monsoon Asia (formerly called the Far East) and have begun working on Southwest Asia (formerly the Middle East) and North Africa. We have discussed the geography of the area, political issues of past, and the cultural aspects of the areas. We are practicing our constructed responses and writing conventions in preparation for our next district common assessment. Our future units of study will include Russia and Eastern Europe, Western Europe, and Africa.

In Science, students experienced how cells reproduce/duplicate for growth and the development of new organisms. The students will be moving on to genes/heredity including such topics as DNA/RNA, chromosomes, genes, alleles, and how they transfer their codes from parents to offspring. Students will learn how and why they have the phenotype and genotypes they do and why they look the way they do. Students will obtain this information through hands on activities, worksheets and notes.

The Outer Limits 7th Grade Core has been busy practicing persuasion! You name it, we've got an opinion. Not only that, we can back it up with a claim, warrant, evidence, and then slam your rebuttal right back at you. We have studied our propaganda well and have mastered the art of subtle manipulation using words and pictures to sell your ideas. Parents and community members would be dazzled by our power point presentations, essays, skits, and commercials. For awhile there, it seemed like every student was a politician in training tugging at our vote. Next up? We will stretch our poetry muscles and flex our figurative language. I feel a class book of poetry comin' on just cryin' for publishin' by Spring Break.

This month in math we will be finishing our investigation of rational numbers and integers and beginning to learn about proportions. Honors will be working with proportions while looking at functions, tables, and graphs.

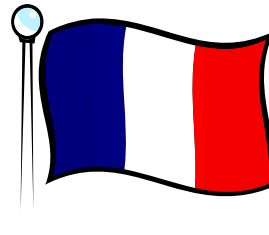
All-Star News

The All Stars are off to Outdoor Education! This month the sixth grade All-Star core begins the first round of outdoor education. Half the core will attend from Feb. 7 – 9 and half will attend from Feb. 12 – 14. Students who do not attend will be working here at school on an activity packet that covers the same topics: astronomy, survival skills, shelter building, orienteering and games, and high ropes challenge courses. We have been preparing in all our core classes for this trip, learning about the Rocky Mountains and the unique challenges facing people in this harsh and beautiful environment. The students are very excited to go and expect to have a wonderful time!

In Social Studies we have finished our unit of study on the ancient peoples of Latin America. The students really enjoyed learning about the Maya, the Aztec, and the Inca. Next we will learn about what happened to these tribes when the Spanish conquistadors came – a major clash of cultures! Following that, we will switch gears to the far north and begin our study of Canada. Students usually really enjoy learning about all the interesting people of the Arctic.

International Festival 2007

Century Middle School's ninth annual International Festival took place the evening of February 13th from 6 – 8 p.m. Students, staff, parents and community members enjoyed a wide variety of international cuisine and entertainment in celebration of our school's international focus. Century's World Language teachers would like to thank everyone who came together to make this event such a great success! DANKE! GRACIAS! MERCI!



Extreme Core News

It is that time of year when sixth grade teachers step things up. It is also that time of year when sixth grade students must accelerate and demonstrate an independent spirit. Efficiency and independence are skills that are honed and perfected in 7th and 8th grades in preparation for high school.

In science the month of April will bring an end to earthquakes/volcanoes. May, will usher in rocks, minerals, problem solving, research, technology, and inventions. There will be more independent work and the pace of study will increase. If you think back to August and compare your student then and now, they have indeed accomplished so very much. Remember to check your student's Agenda weekly and Schoolnotes.com for the latest on assignments, due dates, and events.

Survival has been the theme for second trimester in language arts. Students have survived the first half of the year as sixth graders! They have also been busy with an in depth survival genre study. As we move closer to CSAP, we will be spending more time reviewing for the test! Third trimester will see writing compare/contrast essays and a study of fantasy literature. As always, students are encouraged to read and write as much as possible!

As many of you know, Ms. Evans, our social studies teacher, has been quite ill. We wish her a speedy recovery.

From Mrs.
Bledsoe

My Outdoor Living class studied food safety and sanitation with a hands on (literally) experiment involving potatoes to emphasize the importance of hand washing before food labs. I think the point was driven home - be sure to check with your student about this.

My Cultures, Cuisine, and Customs class has just finished their Russian unit and I thought I would share some of their favorite Russian recipes with you. Enjoy!



The Liberty Core

MATH Counts Club Does Well

Congratulations to the Century Math-Counts team of Anthony DiDonato, Brandon Dotson, Aaron Lamb and Brian Walsh. The team finished in 3rd place this past Saturday at the Adams 12 District Preliminary Math Counts competition. Twenty teams from 5 of the Adams 12 middle schools competed.

Also, special congratulations to Brian Walsh from Century who finished in 10th place in the overall individual competition out of over 90 competitors.

American History

We're on to the writing the Constitution and examining the Bill of Rights! Expect some lively conversations and debate as we apply these important documents to middle school life. We are also gearing up for the Civil War Re-enactment on April 26th at Lake Village Park. If you can volunteer some time on that day, we could certainly use the help. Contact Mr. Grapner if you are interested.

Math

We just finished our book on probabilities (*What Do You Expect*). As a project, the students created their own game of chance and figured the probabilities and expected value (payout). The class then voted on the games we would play and after doing so, we compared the actual results to the theoretical ones, using the mathematical principles involved.

Science

Science classes have been learning about density and Archimedes' principle. We are now applying these concepts to the study of the different states of matter, intermolecular forces and pressure. Students will learn how each of these concepts affect the transfer of energy through different materials and the atmosphere around us.

Language Arts

We've just finished our research reports on the topic of America's People. Students chose to research a population of people that immigrated to the United States. In many cases they choose from their own lineage. Periods 1, 2, and 3 finished reading *The Light in the Forest* by Conrad Richter and period 6 finished *Time Enough for Drums* by Ann Rinaldi. Both novels are historical fiction and do align well with the American History pacing chart. Honors language arts is working on poetry and public speaking presentations. Literary elements, elements of poetry, and figurative language will be our February focus.

A Note of Thanks!

A great big thank you goes to Ms. Terri Bullock and the Colorado Rapids. She donated a large number of tickets to both the Nuggets and Avalanche games. The students and staff who attended had a great time. All of us at Century appreciate her generosity.



THANK YOU

March 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	
					Web Connection	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			School Play - Fiddler on the Roof @ 7:00p.m.	School Play - Fiddler on the Roof @ 7:00p.m.	Teacher Duty Day - No Students	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		CSAP Testing	CSAP Testing	CSAP Testing		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		CSAP Testing SIT @ 6:30pm	Student of the Month Breakfast - 7:30am			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Spring Break - No School - Spring Break - No School						

Adams 12 Five Star Schools
Century Middle School
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Thornton, CO 80241-2306

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To the parents and/or guardians of: