



THE CENTENNIAL SOURCE

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Please use this newsletter as a snapshot for upcoming events. For up to the minute information, please visit our community site at the website address listed above.

Learning Principle #10: Take Time to Practice

Probably the most basic and well understood Learning Principle has to do with taking time to practice demonstrating knowledge, skills and attitudes. Learning is quite complex and cannot be rushed. Time and practice are required to build expertise and confidence. Educators use different terms to describe practice. "Time on Task", "Guided Practice", "Independent Think Time" are all jargon for getting down to work and getting it done. In particular, effective Reading and Writing Skills are directly related to the amount of time children spend on (gasp!) reading and writing.

Educational programs should be designed to increase the time to demonstrate learning right from an early age. Therefore, students should be actively engaged and working in class, and be given learning tasks that are meaningful and consistent with what they know. In addition, we need to minimize the distractions to learning such as: TV, the computer, cell phones, MP3 players etc. It is a bit of old but true advice and despite the protest of youth, reducing such distractions unequivocally increases the performance, retention and skill development needed for school success.

Kids will tell you that they can concentrate better with such distractions, and that since they are digital natives, their brains are now "hard-wired" to multi-task. This is absolute nonsense. There is overwhelming scientific and practical evidence to indicate otherwise and to purport that multitasking is a myth. So... get to work and get it done. Turn off the tunes, unplug and get on with it.

Robert Zambrano, Principal
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IMPORTANT DATES

Friday December 18	School closes for Christmas Break
Monday January 4	School reopens – classes commence
January 14 to 16	Top 10 Girls Basketball Tournament
Friday January 22	Last day of classes for Semester One
January 25 to 29	Provincial Exams
Monday February 1	First day of Semester Two
Tuesday February 9	Grade 8 Parent Night
Thursday February 11	Report Cards issued – early dismissal
Friday February 12	Non-Instructional Day
Tuesday February 16	Grade 9, 10 and 11 Course Selection Night
Thursday March 25	School closes for Spring Break

For a more detailed list of upcoming events and activities, please go to the Centennial School calendar at www.sd43.bc.ca/secondary/centennial

A Reminder to Parents

When dropping students off in the morning, please obey the parking signs and refrain from parking in the side staff lot and turning around. This is causing dangerous congestion. Thank you.

Semester 2 Course Changes

Students are encouraged to see their counsellors *now* to change courses for Semester 2. Please note that many of our classes are at capacity and schedule changes may not be possible - students are asked to refrain from requesting lunch and block changes.

GRADE 12 STUDENTS

Post-Secondary Applications

- **now** is the time for Grade 12 students to finalize post-secondary plans and prepare post-secondary applications. Applications to community colleges, new universities and BCIT should already have been completed. Students who have not yet completed college or BCIT applications should do so immediately since registration priority for many programs will be based on the day the institute receives the application.
- Throughout the month of November students have had opportunities to meet with advisors from BC universities and colleges, as well as from post-secondary institutes in eastern Canada. The Canadian Universities Event, held on November 16, was an occasion for students to speak with advisors from 37 post-secondaries across Canada.
- The Counselling Department presented application workshops for local universities on December 9. Students who are planning to attend university should be applying now. On-line registration and self-reporting of grades is available through each university's website. The deadline for early admission consideration for all BC universities is **February 28, 2010**.
- Some certificate, diploma, and limited enrolment programs in college and all BCIT programs will require an interim transcript with the application. Counsellors can print interim transcripts.

Marks transfer

- most university and university transfer programs do not require an interim transcript. The post-secondary institutes will access marks from a Ministry of Education tape in late April – as long as students have completed the on-line ***Post-Secondary Institutions Choices Form (PSI)*** that is available on the Ministry of Education provincial exam site's "Student Secure Web" at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/ Students must give their consent to release marks (via PEN number) to institutions.
- Those students who are interested in attending eastern universities should be aware that these universities are also accepting applications now. See Mrs. Bradshaw in the Career Resource Centre if you are planning to apply to universities in the east, and have not yet applied.
- Students who anticipate a need for on-campus housing at university should also be contacting university housing offices now. See Mrs. Bradshaw in the Career Resource Centre for more information.
- Students planning to attend college or university in the United States should be registering for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). See Mr. Lewandowski if you require more information about the SAT or about American post-secondaries.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

- students seeking scholarships and financial aid should see the "Counsellors' Corner" page of the Centennial website if they missed the October information sessions. Our financial aid information, which includes external awards and bursaries, is posted on this page as well as links to major scholarship sites. New financial aid information is published regularly in our daily bulletin, *Centennial Today*. Now is the time for scholarship students to research potential awards and to begin working on their personal essays.
- Parents and students are asked to check the "Counsellors' Corner" section of the Centennial website. Information on post-secondary applications, course planning, information sessions, events, and scholarships have been posted. Students will also find useful links to post-secondary admission requirements, career planning and information, provincial exam samples and results, and scholarships.

LPI Exam

- as a convenience to Centennial students, one sitting of the LPI exam will be offered at Centennial School on April 8, 2010. There is room for 150 students. Students planning to attend UBC, SFU, Douglas College, UVic, or Capilano University may be required to write the LPI unless they meet the following exemption criteria:
 - UVic – final mark of 86% in the English 12
 - UBC – final mark of 70% in English 12 or Literature 12
 - Capilano University – 86% in English 12
 - Douglas College – 60% in English 12
 - SFU – 75% in English 12 or Literature 12

To register, students should go to the LPI website at www.lpi.ubc.ca. Deadline for registration is midnight on March 28. The registration fee of \$67 is payable by credit card, money order or personalized cheque. See Ms. Morissette for more information.

Centennial Class of 2010 Important Dates
Graduation Commencement Ceremony
Friday, June 18, 2010 at the Orpheum Theatre

★**Grad Dinner and Dance**
Saturday, June 26, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver Hotel
followed by **AfterGrad** on Sunday, June 27, 2010

See "Graduation Information" under the Parents section of the school website for graduation event updates.
www.sd43.bc.ca/secondary/centennial/Parents/GraduationInformation/pages/default.aspx

Grade 12's & Graduation Transitions Program

Almost all Grade 12 students have now attended a Graduation Transitions 12 (GT12) tutorial so they know the expectations of completing their GT12 program. (GT12 is a mandatory program required for graduation in British Columbia.) If your son or daughter has not yet attended a GT tutorial, it is critical he or she check the Centennial Today announcements and the GT website for information on remaining tutorials. These will be completed by December 16.

Students will need to submit their completed Exit Presentation forms no later than December 15 (for January Exit Presentations) and January 15 for March Presentations. Check out the Grad Transitions website through 'Programs & Services'.

SPORTS



THE TRADITION CONTINUES!

The Centaurs have been working hard this season to improve upon the double semi-final performance the program enjoyed last season, and the results show; both the junior varsity and varsity teams are playing for the Provincial Championships on Dec 4th and 5th! While striving for excellence, the players have learned determination, resolve, and cooperation as they progressed through the season and, without their sacrifices day in and day out, none of this would be possible. On behalf of the coaches, I would like to thank all the parents for their support, patience and dedication to their children's activities, and education and for being a part of the Centaurs family this season. GO CENTAURS!

Gr. 9 Girls Volleyball Team Develops Well

This year's crop of players faced a steep learning curve as they developed new systems, and vastly improved their skills to play against more experienced Volleyball club players. The girls did very well winning two games and competing in three tournaments. Their last tournament demonstrated their improvement, as they won several games against grade 10 teams. They also played a very solid match in the first round of the playoffs; unfortunately, they were unable to prevail against the top ranked Carney team. This bodes well for next year. Well done, girls!



2010 SPRING JUNIOR FIELD HOCKEY PROGRAM - Registration deadline is February 5, 2010

The **TRI-CITY EAGLES FIELD HOCKEY CLUB** has offered a field hockey program to younger players since 1991.

The Spring program runs for approximately 10 weeks from April through until the end of June. There is a mini program for those with 2000 to 2003 birth dates, and a junior program for those with 1992 to 1999 birth dates.

U-11 to U-18 teams compete in the Greater Vancouver Junior Field Hockey League and the program cost is \$115. The Club's Mini program is designed to introduce younger players to the sport and the rules and field size is modified. Season fee is \$100 per participant for the Mini program and space is limited.

Registration deadline is February 5, 2010 (and February 26, 2010 for Mini's). Late registrants add \$10 late fee, if space is still available. More information on the Spring program is available through the Club's web site at www.tcfieldhockey.com or by contacting Brian Lewis at 604-619-4034.

Players must first register with Field Hockey BC to gain insurance coverage and a player membership number. Under 11 and 12 players pay \$15 while U-13 to U-18 pay \$43. Without the player membership number, registration with our Club cannot be finalized.

Traditionally our Spring program has only included girls. The Club is entertaining the idea of putting together a BOYS TEAM, depending on sufficient enrollment. Call 604-619-4034 to register your interest.

We hope to see your daughter/son on the field hockey pitch this Spring!

INTERNATIONAL/ESL CAROL SHIP CRUISE

We're on board for Christmas! On December 1st, 76 ESL and International students cruised from Granville Island on a carol ship. Students on the trip have newly arrived from China, Korea, Taiwan, Iran, Afghanistan, Mexico, Cuba, Hong Kong, Bosnia, Hungary, Russia – and many other countries around the world. The thrill of the lights, music and turkey dinner was eclipsed only by the dancing and karaoke on board the ship.

It was an unforgettable evening for both students and teachers.



MUSIC

Centennial Music Department

The Music Department will be taking part in a number of seasonal performances during the month of December. We would like to extend an invitation to come to one or more of our events and enjoy an evening or two of festive music.

Centennial's Christmas-time Concert will be held Wednesday December 9th at 7pm in the Centennial gymnasium.

District Carol Night has become an annual tradition which features choirs from our District's Secondary Schools. Come and join the Junior and Senior choirs at Heritage Woods on Monday December 14th at 7:00pm. This is a great opportunity to get out and enjoy the festive spirit. **Heritage Woods Secondary is located at 1300 David Avenue Port Moody.**

The Centennial Choirs have been invited to perform in the community. On Tuesday December 8th at 1:40pm, they will be performing at the Dogwood Pavillion's Senior's Luncheon and on December 18th at 12:30pm for the Heart and Stroke Foundation Luncheon.

Middle School Concerts. The Senior Jazz Band and Senior Vocal Jazz Choir will be performing for Como Lake Middle School, Maillard Middle and Montgomery Middle during the week of December 14th to 18th.

Centennial Music Department's Jazz Night, Tuesday December 15th at 7pm in Centennial's Courtyard. This is another great opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit. Come dance, sing and enjoy an evening with Centennial's Jazz groups.

* **N.B. Purdy's Chocolate pick up is on Friday December 10th.**



Tree Chipping

Once again the Kinsmen Club of Coquitlam has graciously invited the Music Department to participate in their annual tree-chipping fundraiser. This is a "by donation" fundraising event.

Date: Sunday January 3rd; Time: 9am - 4:00pm; Location: Bring your trees to the Centennial School staff parking lot

***Parent help is needed.** Please contact Mrs. Baker or Mr. Laithwaite



INVITATION TO ALL CENTAURS IN Grade 11 and their FAMILIES

Centennial students currently in Grade 11 are invited to experience another culture and connect with a European student by participating in a unique exchange opportunity with a high school in Vienna, Austria! By hosting an Austrian teen this coming spring, these Centaurs will have the memorable experience of witnessing the lifestyle, history, language and culture of Central Europe in their senior year when the exchange is reciprocated in the Spring of 2011. For interested students and families, please contact Mr. Phelan by December 18, 2009. (dphelan@sd43.bc.ca) Further details will follow.



Centennial's We Team

Ever since the inspiring "Me to We Day" event held at BC Place in September, Centaurs have been pumped with spirit and enthusiasm to change the world by starting at their own school. Centennial's We Team has taken up this challenge and started a movement that aims to support change and raise awareness on social justice issues on both international and local levels.

In order to build a school in Kenya (Africa), *Brick by Brick*, the We Team is undertaking a major fundraising campaign. We have found a 100% Canadian-owned & family-operated coffee roasting company located in Delta, British Columbia called **Pistol & BURNES**. Pistol & Burnes sells only fair trade, shade grown, and organic coffee beans which are roasted locally, thereby ensuring quality control & freshness. We Team is selling Pistol & Burnes Farmer First whole coffee beans for \$12.50/pound (including taxes). Please support Centennial's We Team in reaching our goal! Together as one, WE can enable children the access to education, health care, clean water, sanitation, and the fundamental needs that each human being deserves! Coffee order forms can be downloaded from the school's website. Submit a completed form with a cheque to Ms. Peach's mailbox in the main office & your order will be filled within 5 school days. (Coffee orders are delivered to your son or daughter in one of their classrooms.)

At the local level, We Team is currently assisting local charities and not-for-profit agencies which focus on helping those less fortunate by collecting clean, gently used clothing. Although all clean, gently used winter clothing will be used, items which are in highest demand are men's & children's winter clothing, according to local shelters. (due to health regulations, only NEW socks can be accepted).

Please send your items to school with your son or daughter & they can deliver these to the collection boxes in their period 2 classroom. We Team will make sure the shelters for the homeless receive all appropriate donations. Thank you in advance for your support.

Centennial School
Parents Advisory Council Tax Deductible Donations

Dear Parents and Guardians,

PACs all over the District raise funds for such things as learning materials focused on school goals, sports equipment, music and theatre items, library materials, emergency preparedness supplies, and technology equipment. These items are all made available to the school, for use by our students, as a result of PAC fundraising initiatives and gaming funds.

The funds given to PAC's across the province were cut, so the amount to support our students has been significantly reduced.

We would like to offer parents the option of making a "Tax Deductible Donation" to Centennial School to help provide funds towards these and other "extras" for all students at Centennial. Instead of holding several fundraisers where the school receives only a small portion of the funds raised, **this option provides 100% of your donation to the school.**

You may choose to donate any amount; however, we are recommending \$30 per child or \$50 per family. Business donations are also welcome. However, **only donations of \$25.00 or more will receive an income tax receipt** from the school district.

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Centennial School Donation Form

Yes I would like to financially contribute to Centennial School.

Name (Please Print)	
Address	
City	
Province	
Postal Code	
Telephone Number	
Enclosed is my cheque/cash in the amount of: (circle one)	

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO CENTENNIAL SCHOOL.

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR DONATION TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE WITH YOUR STUDENT, OR BY MAIL, BY
DECEMBER 18, 2009.**