

NEWS



November 2018

Safety lessons

Kindergartners visited Safety Village of Wayne County this year. During their hour-long session, the students learned about good fire and bad fire from Chief Mike Davis. They learned how to dial 911. The classes practiced how to stop, drop, cover, and roll. After watching a movie about fire safety, they put their skills to work in the smoke house. It shows students how a smoke-filled house looks. Kids practiced rolling out of bed, crawling on the floor to a window, opening it and yelling for help. They also crawled down stairs in a smoke-filled hallway.

“It is a great learning experience for them!” said Margaret Burkhart, one of the the kindergarten teachers. “They walk away with practical skills to use at home and their very own fire hat!”



Elementary students learn kindness and acceptance

Principal believes it is one of the most important lessons educators can teach

Centerville-Abington Elementary School teaches and reminds students all year to be kind and accepting and that bullying will not be tolerated. Students are reminded every day on morning announcements about the bullying policy and the high expectations for exemplary character. During the first two weeks of school, teachers teach lessons and provide activities to help students get to know one another, learn what bullying is and is not, and what to do if they or someone else is being bullied. Students are also taught how unkindness and bullying can have a lifelong effect on others. In addition, digital citizenship lessons at the beginning of the school year cover how to be safe and treat others with respect while online.

October is National Bullying Awareness Month. Students participated in Unity Day on October 16. To support those who have been bullied and encourage kindness and acceptance of others, students wore orange.

Third grade teacher Patti Sharp read a book to her students about *Chrysanthemum*, who is treated unkindly by others because of her name. As they detected examples of bullying in the book, they tore pieces from the self-portrait they had made. After listening to the book, students reassembled their portraits and discussed the lasting effects of bullying.



Fourth grade teacher Cheryl Oesterling encouraged her students to write on paper links how they can make a difference with kindness. Students signed a promise about how they will make a positive difference in their school. "The Promise" pledge was provided by the United Way More Than Words crew from Centerville Christian Church after a character education presentation about contentment, our word of the month, and the effects of bullying.

Victoria Bevins asked her fourth-graders to sign pledges at the beginning of the school year that they won't bully or stand by and allow others to be bullied. Students are also encouraged to follow the Classroom Constitution that states that they will protect one another and treat them with respect.

Mrs. Bevins started a Positive Footprint initiative last school year and is doing it again this year with the entire school. Students are encouraged to write positive messages on paper footprints, which are displayed in the hallway to encourage positive behavior.

Many of our **fifth-graders** viewed the movie *Wonder*, based on a true story about a boy their age with facial differences who faces unkindness at school.

All students participated in Mix It Up Day during lunch on October 17. It is part of an international campaign to teach tolerance and acceptance. As students entered the lunchroom, they were given a card that matched the card on one of the tables. Conversation starters in cups encouraged them to talk and get to know one another. Student response to this activity was positive so it will be repeated.



New staff



Several positions have been filled by new teachers this year; others have been filled by staff already employed in the school corporation.

Brian Bellew, left, is assistant principal at Centerville-Abington Elementary School this year. He replaces **Sean Stevenson**, right, who is now principal of Centerville Junior High School.

Mr. Bellew, a 2001 graduate of CHS, taught social studies and English at Centerville for the past five years.

He began working at Centerville as a teacher's assistant in 2006, a position he held for five years. His first teaching job was at Test Intermediate School in Richmond, where he taught seventh grade math.

"I take great pride in being from this area and working for this school corporation," said Mr. Bellew. "I can't imagine working anywhere else."

Mr. Stevenson was assistant principal at Centerville-Abington Elementary for the past two years. Prior to that, he taught eighth grade English at Centerville for two years and ninth grade English for four years at Tri Junior-Senior High School in Straughn, Indiana.



Ashley Strait, at left, teaches kindergarten. She completed her student teaching at Rose Hamilton Elementary School and taught sixth grade at Milroy Elementary School in Rush County prior to assuming her current position.

Mika Thornton teaches first grade. She previously taught kindergarten and first grade at Monroe Central Elementary School in Parker City, Indiana. Ms. Thornton recently moved to the Centerville area and wanted to work close to home.

"I contacted Mr. Stevenson, and I was very lucky that position came open," she said. "I have loved working here at Rose. The principal and staff are just wonderful!"



Courtney Stonerock is the special education teacher for third- and fourth-graders. She graduated in May from Indiana University East, after completing her student teaching at Hagerstown Elementary School. She lives in New Castle. Mrs. Stonerock said she became interested in the position after hearing great things about Centerville from the surrounding area.

"I'm very happy and proud to be a part of this amazing school corporation," she said.

Alaina Hickman is the new art teacher for Centerville-Abington Elementary School and Centerville Junior High School.

"My experiences here have been wonderful so far," said Ms. Hickman. "I feel like I am a part of the community. The joy that students have on their faces when they are creating art is the best part of my job!"

Ms. Hickman is from Dresden, Ohio. She graduated from Ohio University in 2014 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Graphic Design and from Valparaiso University this year with a Master of Secondary Education and a license for K-12 visual arts.

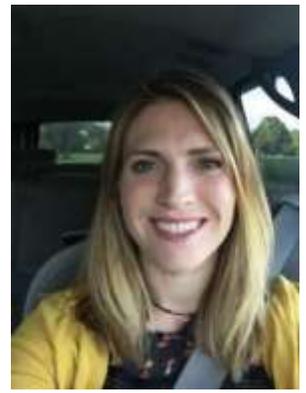


Lauren Grogan is the new health teacher at Centerville Senior High School. She replaces Carla Bryant, who retired. Ms. Grogan grew up west of Centerville in Straughn and graduated from Indiana University East in May. She said she feels welcomed and right at home at CHS.

"I am surrounded by a supportive faculty and fantastic students," she said. "Things are going great and I couldn't be happier!"

Jessica Maule teaches high school chemistry. She has taught biology classes at Hagerstown and microbiology, comparative anatomy, and human anatomy and physiology as a teaching assistant at Ball State University. Mrs. Maule said her students are great this year.

“All is well, and I am settling into the classroom,” she said. She is from Centerville and has children in Centerville-Abington Community Schools.



Anne Elstro is a fifth grade social studies teacher. She taught at Vaile Elementary in Richmond for ten years. She completed her student teaching under Leah Adams at Rose Hamilton Elementary School in the past. Principal Kelly VanWinkle was teaching at Rose Hamilton during this time.

“She heard that I was looking for a new teaching position in Centerville and remembered me from my student teaching,” said Ms. Elstro, who has lived in Centerville her entire life and loves being a bulldog.

“I feel very blessed to be a part of this amazing staff. Everyone has been very kind and welcoming. The fifth grade team is astounding, and I couldn't be happier with my new position.”

Amy Sheard, a new kindergarten teacher, graduated from high school at Franklin County High School in Brookville, Indiana, and from college at the University of Cincinnati. She has worked with children and families for more than ten years.

“I have spent most of my career teaching preschool in Richmond and Cincinnati,” she said. “I also worked at Communities in Schools for three years. I am so excited to be at Rose Hamilton Elementary. I love being part of the kindergarten team!”



Melanie Jones is a special education teacher at the the high school. Previously, she was a para-professional for Randolph Central, Randolph Eastern and Monroe Central. She was also in charge of the alternative school classroom in Randolph County.

Clayton Smith teaches sixth grade. He is a 1992 Centerville High School graduate and is in his 13th year of teaching. He has taught at Connersville High School, Richmond High School, Lincoln High School, and Seton Catholic High School.

“Although I currently live in the southeast corner of Richmond, it has been my desire to teach in Centerville-Abington Schools since I entered the profession,” said Mr. Smith.



Katherine Stegman-Frey is the new high school French teacher. She has taught at Randolph Southern and was an English teaching assistant/lecturer in France. She earned her undergraduate degree from Ball State University and her master's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

“I am very happy to be part of the bulldog family,” said Ms. Stegman-Frey.

A commendable council



The Centerville Junior High School Student Council recently finished a **hygiene item collection drive**. Items were donated to the Veterans Resource Fair held on October 19 at the Tom Raper Center in Richmond. Student Council Sponsor Tiffani Thornburg said the school collected over 250 items, such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes.



To assist needy families in the school, the Student Council will kick off a **Thanksgiving food drive** in November. One food item is designated for each classroom, and classes compete to see which classroom can donate the most items.

In December, the annual **Penny Wars** competition will begin. The class with the highest penny count wins a doughnut party.



“Students love depositing silver coins and dollar bills to reduce their opposing classes’ penny total,” said Ms. Thornburg. In previous years, students have collected up to \$850, which is used to purchase gifts for needy families in our community during the Christmas holiday.



Finally, the Student Council sells candy grams to students and staff during each holiday season (Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas) to boost school morale and promote kindness. The money purchases prizes for the Reading Counts tickets that students earn when they pass a Reading Counts test at 80% or better. Tickets are drawn at our recognition program at the end of each quarter.

Two Centerville students vie for college scholarship

Seniors **Molly Coomes** and **Addie Walter** are two of five Wayne County finalists in the running for a Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. Ninety-two students applied for the four-year, full-tuition college scholarship.



Molly, at left, said the eight-part application was long and asked her to include such things as personal insight, extra-curricular activities, work experience, how she has overcome adversity, letters of recommendation and three essays.

“I was very surprised when I got called about being a finalist for this scholarship and being set up to interview with the Wayne County Scholarship Foundation committee,” said Molly. “There were 92 applicants, so to stand out to the committee as one of the top applicants of an already exceptional group of students in all of Wayne County, I am quite humbled and honored.”



Addie said the top five applicants did the face-to-face interview to allow the committee to get to know them better.

“Although the process was nerve racking, the interview allowed us to express ourselves and have one more chance to prove we were worthy of the award,” she said, adding that being in the top five is a tremendous accomplishment in itself.

The applicants had to have at least a 3.5 grade point average.

“It takes time and effort to maintain a good GPA along with having strong relationships with your mentors. I believe that each applicant has put in hours of dedication toward their school work and their community to be considered for this award,” said Addie.

You are welcome to attend meetings of the Board of School Trustees, held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Spencer Administration Building. You are encouraged to contact our schools if you have questions or comments. Office hours for corporation buildings are from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Superintendent: Philip Stevenson
Assistant Superintendent: Mark Campbell
855-3475

High School Principal: Mikel McCoy
Assistant Principal: Timothy Hollendonner
855-3481

Junior High School Principal: Sean Stevenson 855-5113

Centerville-Abington Elementary Principal: Kelly VanWinkle
Assistant Principal: Brian Bellew
855-5132

Rose Hamilton Elementary Principal: Lee Stienbarger 966-3911