Log College Community,

We are half way through our school year already! It seems not so long ago that we had our opening and the distribution of student Chromebooks. Now these devices have become a part of who we are and what we do in a 21st Century Learning Environment. Everyday we are creating new experiences through technology that are progressing our students forward in their educational journey.

It is important that parents, guardians, family, teachers, and support staff all continue to support and safeguard our students in this ever-changing landscape of technology and education. One way to do this is to understand the pros and cons of social media for middle school students. There are a lot of productive ways that social media may be used in education for our students. However, there are a few key points to keep in mind when dealing with middle school age children: 1) Social Media was not designed for middle schoolers; 2) Social Media can be an addictive form of entertainment; 3) Social Media can take away the skill development of learning the hard "face-to-face" skills required of this age; & 4) Social Media may lead to students disconnecting from their families.

Social media has the potential to be a wonderful tool in a variety of ways! We have to be vigilant in making sure that our children are using it appropriately and not at the cost of other important experiences in their lives.

Have a great second half of your school year!

Kindest Regards,
Mr. Doster
The 8th graders in STEM 1 classes have been working on a number of projects. They have been redesigning the STEM classroom to create areas for brainstorming/designing, building, and testing. They also had the opportunity to come up with new designs for Mr. Doster’s office, which we are still working on during our Flex period. The plan is to build furniture from pallets and 2x4s to create different seating and meeting areas in his office.

The STEM 1 semester will conclude with a Robotics Unit and a discussion on careers. Students will be building Lego Mindstorm NXT robots and programming them to perform different challenges in the room. They will also be working with Ozobots. The Ozobots are programmed using different colored markers. We will start with markers and paper to program the Ozobots and then use a drag and drop program called Ozoblockly. We were fortunate enough to receive the Ozobots through a Centennial Education Foundation grant.
7th Grade Science: What’s Happening?

7th Grade Science students have completed the Matter Unit and have begun working on the Energy Unit. Students were introduced to lab equipment such as graduated cylinders and triple beam balances. Students used this equipment to calculate the volume and density of objects of various shapes and sizes. Students also completed several labs that involved separating objects based on their physical and chemical properties. Properties such as luster, magnetism, and flammability were just a few of the ways students were able to complete this task.

In mid-January students will complete a “Popcorn Lab” to learn first-hand, the differences between conduction, convection, and radiation. Students will use this knowledge to create a brochure comparing and contrasting the three methods and heat transfer.

Business, Computers, and Information Technology

During this semester, Mrs. Cornish’s Personal Finance students demonstrated how to calculate Net Pay and balance a checkbook. At the end of the course, the students had the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to live “On their Own”. Through a simulation program, our students had to see how far their paycheck would take them based on the cost of living and the “life” decisions that they made. We are now starting to explore career pathways and the skills they will need to be successful at their chosen career.

The 8th grade Consumer Media classes continue to work on marketing their inventions. The students have already created a logo and slogan for their product and will continue with projects such as flyers, billboards, and product packaging.

Our programming classes will soon be transitioning from 2-D to 3-D. This year our students have created animated commercials and animated drawings. Our students are learning to think systematically - a critical skill for the 21st century.
Thank You to everyone who supported our Magazine sale! If you do not receive a magazine you ordered within 8 weeks, please call 800-289-6247.

Student Council has been busy planning several school-wide activities. During the last week of October we organized theme days for Red Ribbon Week. In November, Student Council hosted a reception for the veteran’s and their families who attended the Veteran’s Day Assembly. Student Council judged the annual Door Decorating contest in December. Student Council members have also been busy making posters for the Toy for Tots toy drive, the box top contest, and the 7th grade gym and swim.

In February, Student Council will sponsor our annual “Pennies for Patients” fundraiser. As part of our fundraiser we will have our third annual LOG-a-thon. Mark your calendars – our LOG-a-thon is scheduled for February 22nd. All money collected will be donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Homerooms will be competing to raise the most money and prizes will be given to the winning homerooms from each grade level. Student council members are busy planning games and activities for the event.

Student Council is reaching out to local business as well as some national chains for prize donations for the LOG-a-thon. We are also looking for help from Log College families. In addition to big prizes for top donators and contest winners, we will be putting together raffle baskets to raise money. If you would like to make a donation for a prize, or donate items that could be included in raffle baskets, please contact Mrs. Ciliberto at cilimi@centennialsd.org. Spirit Days will be held on several Fridays each month. Spirit Days will encourage students to show school spirit by wearing a Log College shirt or, on selected days, wearing a theme shirt. Be sure to look at the announcements for more information about theme days and spirit days.

Other events planned for the spring include the Operation Helping Hand Food Drive and Teacher Appreciation Week activities.

TOYS FOR TOTS

This year the Log College kids stepped up and donated over 200 toys to the marines and their noble cause, Toys for Tots. Bins were delivered in late November and rapidly began to fill to the brim. Seventh grade students were assigned the task of monitoring the bins and making sure the toys were delivered with care when the day came to help fill an enormous military vehicle. Brenden McIlhenny, Malachi Generette, Owen Chickonsky and Chase Ralston volunteered to help the colonel and for that they need to be recognized. These fine young men of Log have a bright future as responsible, socially aware, productive citizens.
GREETINGS FROM THE HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT!

A warm and happy hello from the Health and Physical Education Department!

As we write this newsletter item, it is hard to believe that the year is half over. We thank all the students for your positive efforts in the gym, and health classes. This means we also thank the parents for encouraging your child to put forth their best efforts. A student’s success depends on family and school working together. However, it is mostly up to the student to make the effort to perform at their best.

Our 2nd and 3rd marking period provides each student with 15 Health curriculum days and 30 days in gym. Currently as approach the third marking period, we have the 6th graders completing their health and handball/volleyball/fitness testing curriculums. The 7th & 8th graders will be completing their health and fitness testing/volleyball/basketball/recreational games curriculums.

As February and March approach, we look forward to continuing our yearly Hoops for Heart 3 on 3 March Madness tournament. All proceeds will go to the American Heart Association as we create awareness for this important cause. Each year or tournament participation has increased and we look forward to continue that growth.

As we enter the 4th marking period, we will set up our yearly fitness circuit which will lead into the very popular obstacle course. The fitness circuit and obstacle course are designed to challenge the students to improve their strength, balance, endurance and confidence. Students that put forth an honest effort will see improvement and develop pride in their abilities.

Please remember to send a note with your child if they are to be excused. If your child is to be excused for an extended period of time please provide a note from a doctor.

If you have any questions for concerns about your child’s progress or about our program at Log College please contact us at the following email addresses:

- Mr. Rogers – rogeja@centennialsd.org
- Ms. Kelly – kellas@centennialsd.org
- Mr. Weisensale - weisma@centennialsd.org
Log College’s tradition of supporting organizations, which assists our nation’s Veterans, proudly continues. During the first week of November, Log College students and staff donated 235lbs of Halloween candy to Operation Gratitude (www.operationgratitude.com). This organization sends Care Packages filled with entertainment, hygiene, and handmade items, non-perishable snacks, and personal letters of appreciation to U.S. Troops, First Responders, Veterans, Military Families, and Wounded Heroes & their Care Givers.

Throughout November and December, the students and staff have been participating in various fundraisers to support the Honor and Courage Program through Operation Ward 57 (http://www.operationward57.org/programs/honor-courage/). The mission of their program is to provide continued support to our Heroes recovering in the hospital as well as continue that support once they leave and go home for as long as they and their families need us. This year Log College is proud to announce we are donating over $500 to this well-deserved cause!

Log College Middle School 2017-2018 Musical

This year’s musical, Disney’s Peter Pan Jr. is off to a spectacular start! We have such an amazing cast and we are looking forward to the next few months of practice and fun! We are in need of parent volunteers to help with set building, advertising, ticket sales, costumes and props, and concession stands. Please let Ms. Lenox (lenogi@centennialsd.org), Mrs. Schenfelt (schela@centennialsd.org) or Mrs. Catalano (cataan@centennialsd.org) know if you are interested.

Students in Advanced Art created ceramic tiki sculptures symbolic of who they are or who they wish to become. After learning about ancient Hawaiian and Polynesian cultures, the spread of cultures through oral traditions and current practice of various ancient beliefs, students developed a plan for and built their personal sculptures using a variety of clay techniques. Students incorporated ancient symbols into their work after identifying traits they currently embody or wish to possess. Archaeologists and historians believe that each tiki, both ancient and current, has a unique story to tell and the Advanced Art students created unique tikis, personalized to narrate his/her own story. Once the tikis have been fired and glazed, they will be colorful representations of these talented 8th graders!

**Parent Chromebook Tips**

1. Although we have a Chromebook Help Desk each morning and afternoon, we have a limited number of "loaners" and need them returned each afternoon. The intent is to borrow a Chromebook just for the day when their assigned Chromebook was forgotten.
2. Please do not allow your children to place stickers on the Chromebooks - these units are leased to the district and may be reassigned to another student at some point.
3. Please encourage the students to have their name on both the sleeves and the power bricks.

**Encourage your student to charge their Chromebook at home each evening so they are set to go during the school day!**
On Wednesday, December 13th, Log College's musicians performed for family and friends at our annual Winter Concert. Everyone worked extremely hard in preparation and our music teachers are so proud of their performances!