Changes at Centennial
New Principal, New Policies, New Teachers, New Year

FreeFest and Sunday in the Country
Which one do you prefer?

Centennial Football opens season 3-1
Varsity team starts off the season with the best record in over a decade

Photo: Martha Hutzell.
FACE PAINT NOW PERMITTED IN SPIRIT WEEK

According to Principal Claire Hafets, students will be permitted to wear face paint during this year’s spirit week.

The SGA will be demonstrating what is acceptable use of paint, and if the privilege is abused it will once again be revoked, according to Hafets.

UNBLOCKED WEBSITES GIVE ACCESS TO SOCIAL MEDIA

Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, Howard County students can now access websites that were previously blocked. Among these sites are YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

According to Principal Claire Hafets, Policy 8080, which focuses on giving students access to technology and social media, caused the sites to become available.

BYOD TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN HOWARD COUNTY

Selected Howard County high schools will be piloting the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program for the 2013-2014 school year. Centennial was not selected to pilot the BYOD policy, but Principal Claire Hafets has put in a request for Centennial to be added to the program later on in the year.

The three high schools selected to test out this program are Long Reach, River Hill and Mount Hebron. According to the Howard County Public School System website, whether or not this program will be put into place permanently depends on the success BYOD plays in improving learning, the ability of the students to adhere to the guidelines and the impact BYOD has on the network infrastructure.

CENTENNIAL CLASSROOMS REORGANIZED

Teachers switched classrooms in order to have similar departments next to each other.

According to social studies teacher Patricia Reese, having teachers in each department closer together makes it more convenient for them to be able to share resources and ideas.
After another short summer break, it's time to return to school and back to work. After the six weeks we have taken off from our rigorous studies, we are welcomed back with major changes to our Centennial community. In the past, we have been introduced to a new parking lot, dance studio, assemblies, and much more. On August 26, we found more innovations to our school.

One crucial change at Centennial occurred in the administrative staff. Last year, Dr. Carl Perkins retired as principal and a new face has stepped up to take his place. After being a principal at Burleigh Manor Middle School for five years, Claire Hafets is now the new principal. In addition to a new principal, several new staff members have been added for the 2013-2014 school year (see pages 4 and 6).

In addition to new teachers comes the reorganization of the classrooms. Remember the freshmen wing? It is now the social studies wing, and those who taught there previously have been shifted around the school to be neighbored with others that teach the same subject (see page 2).

To the students, the most important of these modifications is the change in the cell phone policy. Starting this year, all students are now allowed to use their phones during the five-minute class change and lunch. Instead of concealing phones in pockets or behind books, students can walk the halls, phone visibly in hand, and not have to worry about it being confiscated (see page 5).

After the initial shock subsided that cell phones could be open to the eye during school hours, students seemed zealous about the compromise in policy. Having this advantage, as well as unblocking social media sites, has kept students content and willing to obey the rules, in order to keep them.

However, the good news does not stop there. This year's Spirit Week will be even more exciting with two additions to our traditions: face paint and a carnival. Ironically enough, these two seem to go hand-in-hand.

To students, allowing face paint during Spirit Week and Centennial events has been a long-missed privilege. And it is available once again under a few conditions (see page 2).

This year, Centennial students have numerous occasions to take advantage of the new privileges given to us, but they must remember that this is a give-and-take system. We do not have the right to these activities, and if we abuse them, we will not have such opportunities in future school years.
Principal Hafets: Still Cheering for Her School

On July 1, Claire Hafets walked across the parking lot from her Burleigh Manor principal office and took the helm of Centennial High School as our new principal.

While many CHS students knew Hafets from their time at Burleigh Manor, this year the entire student body is getting acquainted with Mrs. Hafets and learning what a great asset she is to lead our school.

Recently, I had the opportunity to sit down with Hafets to better understand her plans for the school, year, her life as a high school student, and what she does outside of school.

Her vision for the school is a simple three-point plan. “I want to provide instructional leadership, improve communication, and increase Centennial spirit,” Hafets explained.

Hafets is adding more advanced placement class choices to increase instructional leadership. To foster better communication, she has created a new weekly parent e-newsletter, a SSIT news team and an improved school website.

The school will soon be red with pride when the “Protect this House” banners Hafets ordered are hung in both of the school entrances. The banners will be nice complements to the free, red-colored “Centennial Pride” t-shirts every freshman student received at orientation.

On a personal note, Mrs. Hafets has been married to her high school sweetheart of 41 years and has two married daughters ages 31 and 33 who live in Park City, Utah.

She believes her experience being a parent of high school students has helped her in her current position. “As an educator, I always taught and respected my students as if they were my children!”

Outside of school, our principal loves to ski, follow Hopkins lacrosse and cheer on her Ravens team.

Growing up in Long Beach, New York, Hafets attended high school in the 1960’s. “I was an A student. However, when I was in high school, sports for girls did not exist. The only athletic team was cheerleading.”

Today, Hafets is still a cheerleader for her school team but just in a different uniform.

Will the New Snacks Really Make a Difference?

The next time you go to buy a snack or drink at the vending machines after school, you may notice some changes in the selection of snacks. Rather than bags of chips, cookies, and other desserts in the vending machines, there are bags of baked chips, various granola bars, and a lot of empty space. Instead of sodas and soft drinks in the other vending machines, there is only bottled water, conveniently sold right next to drinking fountains.

Despite the efforts at Centennial to make the food choices healthier, the process is not complete.

The fries at lunch no longer come with salt, but are still served with every meal. If a student wants unhealthy food, a variety of snacks are still available to choose from at lunch including cookies, pretzels (still covered in salt), and ice cream. The school has removed the unhealthy items from the vending machines, but the exact same kind of food is still served every day during lunch.

Although Centennial has started to change some food options, the school should change the major unhealthy foods at lunch or not change the vending machines at all.
Red-orange leaves and a distinctive chill in the air are the first signs of change. As students everywhere prepare for the new academic year, they begin to feel excited for new friends and new classes, homecoming and sports games. The back-to-school season inspires nostalgic ideas of what school should be, but these romanticized hopes seem more and more dated as technology advances. This year, Howard County officials have opened themselves to more than just a change in season: for the first time ever, students are allowed to use their cell phones throughout the school day. This move, far from a simple policy change, speaks volumes about administrators’ willingness to work with their students on a previously divisive issue. In allowing students to use their cell phones during the day, administrators are giving up traditional notion of what school should be. They are beginning again, though, in their approachability to students and compatibility with the new ideal. Between students and staff, and experience has shown that teenagers are reluctant to part with their technology. Allowing students to have cell phones in school, administrators reasoned, would help to curb clandestine texting in class. Besides that, the technology would be practical as a learning aid when used under the supervision of a teacher.

“We want to treat kids as adults, we want to show kids we respect them, we want to give them the opportunity to prove themselves, and we hope to institute a “Bring Your Own Device” policy allowing students to use technology to aid them in class sometime this January. The updated cell phone policy may have been born of a frenzy to keep on top of technology, but it reflects so much more than that. Howard County has proven itself willing to compromise with its students and trust their maturity and self-control. In response, students will be more respectful of the rules and will use technology to its full advantage. Though administrators have sacrificed old standards of what a school environment should be, the gains are already momentous.

This new policy, instituted by Howard County for the 2013-14 school year, coincided with a presentation given by a group from Centennial’s Student School Improvement Team (SSIT) in a leadership meeting last January in support of using technology during instructional time- not in the halls or at lunch. The administrators carefully considered their suggestions. Cell phones have long been an issue of contention between students and staff, and experience has shown that teenagers are reluctant to part with their technology. Allowing students to have cell phones in school, administrators reasoned, would help to curb clandestine texting in class. Besides that, the technology would be practical as a learning aid when used under the supervision of a teacher.

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Sophomores meet in the hall to chat and text. Photo: Martha Hutzell.

Students take advantage of the new cell phone policy. Photo: Martha Hutzell.
Centennial Welcomes New Staff

Although Centennial High School lost many great educators and staff members due to retirement and transfers, their spots filled with new teachers, ready for the next chapter of their lives.

One new member of the staff includes computer science teacher, Robert While. Fresh out of Towson University last year, his first time teaching is here at CHS. However, this is not his first time attending a Howard County high school. While graduated from Reservoir High School and was an honor roll athlete where he was captain of the football and lacrosse teams. Now he is giving back to the school and returning as a coach for football and lacrosse.

Attached to the subject of computer science from an early age, While knew his future would follow this study since his freshman year of high school. Thank-fully, he has followed this dream into the doors of Centennial.

There is also first-time paraeducator, Chris Ashcraft. Like While, Ashcraft did not grow up far from Centennial. Ashcraft graduated from South Carroll High School in Carroll County, but traveled all the way to North Carolina to attend Guilford College, where he graduated just this previous year. At South Carroll, Ashcraft played soccer and lacrosse all four years and was even on the all-county team twice. He even continued his lacrosse career into his years at Guilford. Ashcraft aspires to be an adaptive physical education teacher in the future. “I always knew that I wanted to be an educator; it runs in my family,” said Ashcraft.

The language department welcomes Nange Lu as a new Chinese teacher. Growing up in China, Lu was an “A” student and graduated from Peking University in Beijing. She moved to the United States 10 years ago with her husband and two sons. As a native Chinese speaker, Lu has been teaching the language for 15 years, her students ranging in age from toddlers to adults. She has taught the Startalk program, a summer program that teaches world languages, at Howard Community College. “I find that teaching is a very creative, meaningful, and fun job to do,” said Lu.

The last of our new cast is the Special Education teacher, Lizz Seen. Another Howard County graduate, Seen attended Mount Hebron High School where she became the president of a club similar to her interest, Best Buddies, and was even a paraeducator assistant for two years. After graduating from Towson University, Seen rejoins the Howard County community with us.
Howard County Reviews
Graduation Requirements

Four Years of Math May Soon Be Mandatory

The Howard County School Board is reviewing policy 8030 and will take into consideration Senate Bill 740, which states that students have to enroll in a math course each year in high school, as well as to successfully complete Algebra II before they graduate.

According to the Howard County Public School System website, the purpose of policy 8030 is to reestablish requirements for graduation for high school. This policy includes graduation requirements, elective programs, alternative sources of credit, alternatives to four-year enrollment, transfer students and diplomas and certificates.

The Howard County Public School System is concerned that students are unprepared for college. Howard County Superintendent, Dr. Renee Foose, has recently outlined her wish to ensure that all students from Howard County schools graduate successfully and are ready for college and the workforce.

“I think that students and families have a right to a high-quality education,” said Coordinator of Secondary Mathematics for the Howard County Public School System Bill Barnes. “If we can adjust policy to help more students confidently express that statement, then we will do so.”

According to Foose, over the years, there have been growing concerns that high school students are not ready for college-level math courses. Nationally about 42% of high school students leave high school unprepared for college math, according to Barnes.

In Howard County, it is 20%. This is because those students did not take a math course their senior year. Without that course, these students developed “skill gaps” that prevented them from being ready in college.

Changes that would be made by the Howard County Public School System will help ensure that all students graduate from Howard County schools ready for success later on in life.

Barnes stated that he thinks a high school diploma should mean something; it should show that a student is prepared for success in the real world.

The most recent require-

FIGURE 1: Percent of Students Unprepared for College-Level Math Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nationally</th>
<th>Howard County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>20</td>
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* According to Coordinator of Secondary Mathematics for the Howard County Public School System Bill Barnes

ment change at the national level was that students have to pass the Algebra/Data Analysis HSA in order to graduate.

On a college level, the University System of Maryland’s Colleges and Universities previously accepted three math credits as long as those credits reflected appropriate coursework and as long as the SAT scores confirmed the readiness of students. Now, four math credits in high school are required for classes 2015 and beyond.

The Maryland State Department of Education’s Board of Education will also review state policy to see if a formal change is warranted. If the Maryland State Board of Education comes to a different decision than Howard County, then the State Board decision will take precedence.
Concerts in a Contest

Tips on how to prepare for a Concert:

The Sights:
After scavenging through the parking lot to find an open space, you’ll venture your way up to the hills of Merriweather. Don’t be alarmed by the various vendors selling overpriced merchandise to crazed fans. Now for location, don’t worry about getting lost because as soon as the music starts the crowd will migrate to the stage.

The Sounds:
There’s a reason you’re here to begin with. Obviously, it’s for the artist making those lovable sounds. Don’t be afraid to pull out your phone and record your favorite songs (and don’t be too shy, so sing along). Not only will you love the music but also hearing everyone around you sing in unison will be just as satisfying. Caution: after the concert your ears will be ringing for the next hour or so. Just accept it, this is one of the side effects to an awesome concert.

The Touch:
Personal space will definitely be violated. You will be surrounded by loud, enthusiastic people who all share the same love as you do. Don’t mind being elbowed or shoved because that is more than likely expected from the crowd. Now if you’re a really flamboyant crowd, you’ll be lucky enough to experience crowd surfing. Just be careful, with all of the commotion, but don’t be afraid to sing your heart out.
Yehaw! The initial reaction of a country lover who was lucky enough to grab the sold out tickets to Sunday in the Country before it was too late.

As you’re walking up the hill of Merriweather, imagine an overcrowded area filled with over excited country lovers. You can’t look left or right without avoiding a plaid shirt, cowboy hats and boots. All you see are swarms of people finding the best view to their idols. Drinks, food, and loud music add to the excitement. Whether it’s a sunny or rainy day crazed fans will stop at nothing to see these performances.

If you’re a country music fan in the Baltimore area, chances are you’ve been to the popular concert hosted by 93.1 WPOC. This annual country music extravaganza has brought some of the biggest names in country music together for a thrilling live show. The sweet, southern, sounds make ending summer that much easier.

This year, Sunday in the Country is to be held at our very own Merriweather Post Pavilion, on Sunday, September 29th. Performers this year seemed to be a huge hit because the actual concert sold out within seven minutes according to WPOC. For those of you who aren’t as familiar with the performers here are some facts you should know:

**Gary Allan:** An all American country artist who is signed to Decca Records. Allan has produced 26 singles on the Billboard Hot Country Charts including, “Every Storm Runs Out of Rain,” “Man to Man,” “Tough Little Boys,” “Nothing on the Radio” and much more.

**Brantley Gilbert:** An American country singer/songwriter who has released two albums, *Modern Day Prodigal Son* and *Halfway to Heaven*. Other popular sounds by Gilbert are his singles, “Country Must Be Country Wide,” “You Don’t Know Her Like I Do,” and “Kick It in the Sticks.”

**Florida Georgia Line (FGL):** Signed with Republic Nashville, is a country-pop duo composed of Brian Kelley and Tyler Hubbard. With popular radio hits, “Round Here,” “Cruise,” and “Get Your Shine On.”

**Randy Houser:** Signed to Universal South Records, this popular country artist’s hit songs include: “Runnin’ Outta Moonlight,” “How Country Feels,” “Goodnight Kiss” and many more.

**Maggie Rose:** One of Maryland’s own, Rose is an American country singer signed to RPM Entertainment. (Fun fact: she’s associated with Kings of Leon.) Her popular songs include: “Use Somebody,” “Mississippi’s Crying,” and more.

**The Henningsens:** Are an American country music trio who have produced, “American Beautiful,” and “I Miss You.”

It is evident that frequent customers at Merriweather, you know the odds of getting free tickets especially when it comes to Virgin Mobile’s Free-Fest. On August 9th, at 12:00 pm the “freemium” tickets went on sale, leaving those unlucky concert-goers spending all too much money on what should have been free tickets.

What makes free-fest “free?”

Virgin Mobile has always been about giving back to the community. For the past four years, they’ve wanted to make things better in a not-so-great economy. Thanks to all the caring volunteers, last year Virgin Mobile has raised nearly $800,000. Generating more than 75,000 hours of volunteer time according to Merriweather. The support of the fans from the past two years has been phenomenal. In 2011 and 2012, donations helped build the Virgin Mobile RE*Generation House, a living facility for the homeless youth in Washington, D.C.

Bringing all kinds of sounds to the stages are performances by, Vampire Weekend, Robin Thicke, The Avett Brothers, Pretty Lights, MGMT, Kaskade, City and Colour, Icona Pop, CHVRCHES, The Knocks, Black Joe Lewis, Sky Ferreira, Little Green Cars, Madeon, Gareth Emery, Washed Out, Manufactured Superstars Congorock, TJR, and Ghost Beach.

Whether you are going to Sunday in the Country or Virgin Mobile’s Free Fest, after reading these tips you should be prepared for anything. Merriweather has tons to offer during all the seasons, so get your tickets, and use your tips.

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**Sunday in the Country**

**Free Fest**
**Katiee Boodon**

**Middle Name:** Marie  
**Nickname:** Kboods  
**Major:** Education & Theatre  
**Relationship Status:** Single  

Favorite Book: Harry Potter/ John Green  
Favorite Store: Forever 21 because I'm basic  
Best part about being a senior: Senior Skip Days  
Worst part: When you have to go to school  
Favorite Food: All food =D  
Favorite Musician: Eminem  

**Nick Smith**

**Middle Name:** Flint  
**Nickname:** Firearms  
**Future plans:** Make bank and move to rack city  
**Relationship Status:** Single, Ladies..  

Favorite color: purple  
Fun fact: I take a ball room dance class  
**TV Show:** Adventure Time  
Best part about being a senior: The ladies  
Best word to describe you: Flavor-blasted  
Favorite Store: CVS  
**Hero:** Hot rod Mccaslin  

**Tyler Boettcher**

**Siblings:** Rebecca (19)  
**Nickname:** Big Bear  
**College picks:** Bridgewater / Salisbury  
**Relationship Status:** Dating Erin claus  

Favorite Food: Anything my mom cooks  
**Sports Team:** Baltimore Ravens  
Best part about being a senior: Graduating  
Worst Part: Waiting to Graduate  
Best word to describe you: Big  
Favorite Store: CVS  
**Hero:** Mom  

**Matt Dunn**

**Birthday:** January 1  
**Nickname:** Big Bear  
**College picks:** UMBC  
**Relationship Status:** Single  

Favorite Food: Fried Chicken  
**Favorite Sports Team:** Miami Heat  
**Favorite TV show:** The X factor  
**Hero:** My Grandfather  
Best part about being a senior: Not much homework  
Worst Part: Applying for college  

Jorge Maldonado

Middle Name: Elias
Nickname: Big Bear
Major: Music Performance
Relationship status: Single
Future Plans: Play music for movie

Favorite Food: Sakura Fried Rice
Best part about being a senior: Being in charge and not being told what to do
Worst Part: College apps & auditions
Best word to describe you: Humble

Favorite Store: Costco
Hobbies: Baseball, basketball

Maria Ayoub

Birthday: July 23
Siblings: Joseph & Robert
Nickname: Mia
College picks: College Park
Intended Major: Kinesiology

Fun Fact: I’m fluent in Arabic
Worst Part about being a senior: College apps
Best Part: We’re almost done
What would you do with a million dollars: Buy Kanye West
Dream Vacation: Paris <3

Jessica Hughes

Middle Name: Lynn
Hometown: Arbutus
Major: Criminal Law
College picks: UNCW
Relationship Status: Single

Favorite Food: Hot Fries
Best Part about being a Senior: Finally being able to graduate
Worst Part: Annoying underclassmen
What would you do with a million dollars: Buy a house for my mom & dad
Favorite Teacher: Mr. Whitaker

Sammie Albornoz

Nickname: Bam Bam
Siblings: Maddie (my twin)
Major: Nursing
Relationship Status: Taken
College Picks: JMU, Towson, University of Florida & USC

Favorite Class: Anatomy
Best Part about being a Senior: Being able to take classes that interest you
Worst Part: You actually have to work for the first part of the year
Favorite Movie: Up
Favorite Sports Team: Ravens

Photos: Gabe Lewman, Martha Hutzell, and Corey Grable.
Freshmen on Varsity

First-Year Students Make an Impact

Playing a varsity sport in high school takes a lot of skill. And while most varsity sports are filled with upperclassmen, some rosters include very talented freshmen that already have high skill levels in their sport, are helping their teams to success this season.

In the fall of this school year, there are six freshmen playing varsity sports. The Eagles’ volleyball team, who is recognized as one of the best in the county, has one freshman, Camryn Allen, playing on the varsity team. The girls’ varsity soccer team has three freshmen, Jasmine McCree, Cristina Narron, and Madison Griffin on varsity, while field hockey has two freshmen on varsity, Mary Baldy, and Maggie Sullivan. These six student-athletes showed their respective coaches that they have the skills they need to not only succeed on an individual level but also help the team succeed as well.

Schofield is the varsity volleyball coach at Centennial. “[Allen is] very athletic and strong. She jumps well and hits the ball hard,” Schofield said. He also pointed out how she plays on a high-level travel team, which helps her improve her skills; he also said that Allen is really athletic, which allows her to play in different positions.

Schofield thinks that freshmen on varsity are “rare to a degree,” but that there are things to look for. “You look for at their experience and strength, then you make that determination.” Schofield also explained that Allen is on a high-level travel team, which means that she is playing at a high level throughout the year. With the added experience of playing at that high club level in the offseason, she can improve even more in the offseason to prepare for the seasons ahead.

Girls soccer coach Steve Baxter described why he thought his three freshmen were ready for varsity, “Our three freshmen were all deemed ready because they have the right combination of physical assets and soccer ability to positively impact the games now. Having a positive impact on the games is the most important factor when you look at the big picture and these girls are considered to be in our top 15.”

Baxter looks for specific qualities in his freshmen to make sure they’re ready for the varsity level. “The most important question is can the freshman athlete handle the physical side of the game, given that they have to play against players that may be 2-3 years older than them? So, we look at their speed, endurance, and agility as key factors. Also, they must have the skills and composure to play under pressure with skill. Freshmen do not make varsity to sit on the bench. Otherwise, they would be on JV.”

These athletes have shown that they can hold their own at the high level, and based on the coaches’ comments, these players will be key in their team’s success.
The Centennial soccer team is trying to repeat the success of last year after going undefeated in the regular season. They will have the help from foreign exchange student, senior Martin Lenweter from Switzerland.

Lenweter, a senior, plays midfield for the Eagles, and is adjusting to the differences between soccer in America and soccer in Switzerland. As an exchange student, Martin has the added tasks of adjusting to a new culture, going to a different school, and meeting new people. This can be a tall task with the added commitment of playing a sport at a high level, and keeping up with the high academic standards of Centennial, but Lenweter makes it all work. Lenweter described soccer in America as being faster than in Switzerland.

"You have to be faster and stronger," he said when asked what adjustments he had to make to his game. He describes the game in America as being more physical, having less finesse and having players who are "more aggressive."

As a midfielder, he has to be able to play multiple positions on the field. Most soccer midfielders play both offense and defense, and Lenweter is no exception. "As a mid(fielder) you have to be offensive and defensive. However, there are some defensive and some offensive mids, but I can play both." This skill gives Lenweter the ability to help the Eagles in multiple ways.
The Centennial football team welcomed a new face on the coaching staff for the 2013 season.

Standing at 6’5”, Damion Cook is easy to spot on the field and walking through the halls. He brings both his smile and his experience to a program looking to make it to the playoffs for the first time since 1980, according to the Baltimore Sun. Cook helps to bring a different perspective of the game to the team. Originally from Nashville, Tennessee, he played at a small Division I school, Bethune-Cook University.

“While I was there, I had the opportunity to play for the NFL,” said Cook. He played for the Baltimore Ravens from 2002 to 2004. As a journeyman, he bounced around and played for the Detroit Lions and the Cleveland Browns.

After playing his last season in 2008 with the Cleveland Browns, Cook retired from playing professional football and turned to coaching.

“There are parallels to life in football,” said Cook, “I wanted to give back to the students what I have learned.”

He started coaching in Bell Glades, Florida at Piper High School where he gained experience as an offensive coach.

In 2013, Cook became an offensive and defensive line coach for the Centennial Eagles after moving to Maryland to be with his family. He decided that Centennial had a program where he could help make a difference.

“I definitely like the desire I see in the seniors,” said Cook. “It’s different with guys who already have a state title than with those who are hungry to do something before they leave high school. [They’re] willing to play for their coach, their school, and [themselves].”

And those players have plenty to say about Coach Cook.

“[Cook] brings a lot of experience to the team because he played in the NFL for a number of years,” said senior Tyler Morris, the quarterback for the Eagles. “He knows how to relate to us. He has passion,” said senior Connor Marcinek, a lineman.

“He can motivate you to do anything,” senior John Kolp, another lineman, said. “[Cook] is everything a coach needs to be and more,” said senior lineman Carlos Lucero.

Cook worked with the football team in the weight room during the summer, and he has worked with them on the field since the August 14 try-outs.

“I want to go to playoffs. Right now, that’s a realistic goal. I just hope they play with maximum effort and passion so that, no matter what the score, they can rest easy,” said Cook.
Centennial students have been buzzing with anticipation because, for the first time in a decade, Centennial football has started the season strong, with a 3-0 start.

On Sept. 21, Mt. Hebron had its homecoming game against Centennial. The game was close, but the Eagles emerged the victors with a 28-21 win. The Eagles’ record improved to 3-0.

The game against Oakland Mills on Sept. 16 provided the win that would make the Eagles’ record 2-0, which was also a record that hadn’t been met for a decade. 2002 was the last season that the Eagles made either of these records, with a 4-0 start. The Oakland Mills game was also the first time in at least 12 years that they had scored 59 points.

Centennial football has already matched last year’s total number of wins, after having had a losing season of 3-7.

In the past ten years, the Eagles’ have only had one winning season. In 2007, they went 8-2. The next best records were the 2006, 2009, and 2010 seasons where they went 4-6.

The amount of points the Eagles put on the board had not exceeded 48 points since 2001, until they scored 59 points this year in the Oakland Mills game. It was also the first time that the current head coach, Todd Kriner, had ever had a team score so high.

“The kids were excited,” said Kriner about the Oakland Mills game. “That’s a fair amount of points against a pretty good opponent.”

Kade Connor, a senior captain, was not surprised by these results.

“We’re happy, but we kind of expected it because we worked hard the entire summer,” said Connor.

So, what brought about these changes?

The general consensus seems to be the significant amount of seniors on the team, eight of which have been on varsity since sophomore year. Third-year varsity players mean lots of experience.

“We [the seniors] have been playing together for years,” said Connor.

The Eagles also have a new coach on the staff, Damon Cook, who has helped the team to improve.

“Coach Cook came in and totally changed the way we worked out, the way we trained. He changed our minds and our bodies and raised our football IQs,” said Connor.

Luc Chausse, another senior on the team, said, “We knew before preseason, since summer workouts, that this season would be different. And we got a new coach who changed our whole mentality.”

“The players and the coaches have been working hard, getting ready for the season,” Kriner added.

Both the school and the players are excited about this turn of events.

“For the first time in a long time, we have the back of the student body,” said Chausse.

However, Kriner wants to make sure that these wins don’t go to their heads.

“I want them to feel good about their accomplishments, but not to the point that they aren’t trying to get better.” No matter how well they do, he wants them to keep looking to improve and to get as far as they possibly can.

Connor shares this belief with Kriner.

“We’re viewing each game as just another team, a way to get to the championship. We’re not taking any team lightly; we’re trying our hardest at every game.”

The Eagles are now 3-1, after a loss to River Hill on Sept. 27. They will play Long Reach this Friday, Oct. 4.

Centennial started off the season with a win against Reservoir. Photo: Martha Hutzell.
Back At Centennial

Photos: Eric Eichhorn, Corey Grable, Giana Han, Martha Hutzell, Guan Le.