



May/June 2018

Veterans honored by elementary students

More than 300 cards prepared by Centerville-Abington Elementary School students recently were mailed to local Vietnam veterans to thank and honor them for their service. The project was organized by Centerville Loves Our Veterans, or C-LOV. The act of service was described in the *Palladium-Item* on May 29, National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Beth Treaster, director of the Centerville-Center Township Public Library, said the library sent cards to Centerville veterans, and the rest of the cards were given to the Richmond Veterans of Foreign Wars to be distributed to other veterans in the county.

“Most of the Vietnam vets in Wayne County got a card,” said Ms. Treaster. Part of one of the cards is shown in the background below.

“My dad is in the military and I know it is hard for him to go away if he gets deployed,” reads the card. “You had to leave your family for a long time, and I know you weren’t appreciated when you first came back from being deployed, but I am telling you now that you are being appreciated for all you did for this country.”



Rose Hamilton Art Fair



Kindergarten, first, and second grade students worked hard to prepare their artwork for our families this year. They tried it all: oil pastels, tempera and watercolor paints; modern Cobra art and old-fashioned landscapes; and sculpture and prints. Annelies Sizelove, art teacher, said students co-authored learning statements to go with their art projects this year.

“This helped them review concepts and hopefully helped visitors to this year’s art fair better understand the artwork,” said Ms. Sizelove. She appreciates each family that supported their child’s art education by attending this year’s art fair.

“It was a pleasure to meet with many of you,” she said.



Hands-on learning



Students in Diane Luken's and Betsey Moore's fourth grade classrooms hatch chicken eggs every year.

“This compliments the Life Cycles unit in our science standards as we study embryology,” said Mrs. Moore. This year’s chicks hatched May 7 after developing in an incubator in the classroom for 21 days. The teachers live-streamed the fun on YouTube.

Retirements



Suzette Powell retires after 50½ years in education, 45 of them at Centerville. She has taught Reading Recovery for the past 20 years at Rose Hamilton Elementary School. She also has taught at the first and second grade level.

Ms. Powell leaves with many fond memories. She recalls one year that her class was made up of 18 boys and only two girls.

“Kayla Lawler and Courtney Ecker helped keep those boys in line,” she joked. “It was a fun year.” She also recalls a boy cutting off a girl’s hair and the hard crying that followed.

She admitted that the blizzard of ‘78 was the best year; school was closed for almost three weeks and there were no make up days.

In Reading Recovery, a girl from Viet Nam looked at her one day and said, “You just an old lady!”

“Guess it was time to think about retiring,” said Ms. Powell. “However, I love Reading Recovery and have been blessed to be able to teach it with so many wonderful teachers. I will miss it!” She considers it an honor to have been a part of so many children’s lives – probably more than 1,250.

Ms. Powell plans to move to a Del Webb community in Plainfield next summer. She is also looking forward to traveling and seeing family.

Carla Bryant retires after 34 years in education, all but five at the Centerville-Abington Community Schools. She teaches high school health education. (Health and Wellness, Current Health Issues and Advanced Health) She taught physical education for nearly 20 years prior to her current positions. She coached varsity volleyball, basketball, and track and field until the late 90s. She hopes she will be remembered as someone who worked hard and brought energy to her profession.

What does Ms. Bryant have planned for her retirement?

“Quality time with family and friends, work on my golf game and possibly create some little opportunities to work with teachers or kids, or find a little job to occupy a few hours a month,” she said.

Ms. Bryant feels lucky to be able to say she has loved teaching and coaching.

“The relationships and meaningful work I hope I’ve done mean the world to me,” she said, adding that she has worked with good colleagues and administrators. “If I’d have spent almost three decades teaching elsewhere, I likely wouldn’t have loved it this much, but Centerville is extraordinary and our community, the parents, kids and my Bulldog family have made me absolutely love being part of this rewarding occupation!”

Ms. Bryant considers her time as a teacher an honor and hopes she made a gigantic difference in her students’ lives.



Julie Charlton has taught elementary physical education for 34 years. She also taught the IU East physical education class for elementary teachers for five years and basic math at Ivy Tech in Richmond during one school year.

One of Mrs. Charlton’s fondest memories is of 1997 when she, Paula Honeycutt and Debbie Stapleton took sixth-graders to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, for the day to experience college life.

Mrs. Charlton said she has had a great career, with great kids and families.

“Hopefully I’ve been a positive influence in kids’ lives and made an impact on them,” she said.

She said she also has good staff friends with which she has shared wonderful experiences.

Mrs. Charlton’s plans for retirement include spending time with family, traveling, and competing in more out-of-state horseshoe tournaments.

“I am proud of what I have accomplished, but it is time to relax and enjoy life to its fullest,” she said.



Paula Honeycutt taught art in the Centerville-Abington Community Schools for 31 years. She and her husband will auction their home on June 20 to move to their 3,000-foot home/warehouse in Madison, Indiana, which is near her hometown and one of Indiana's seven cultural art districts and home to many artists and art.

"We are relocating and opening a cart tour business, Madtown Hoppers," she said. "We have an eight-passenger golf cart and are now official Madison tour guides." During the winter months, they will travel and camp in their small RV. She would also like to learn how to Skype, take up running, and try her hand at being an artist.

Mrs. Honeycutt said she will miss her students and work family. She recalled with fondness the same trip to Miami University that Mrs. Charlton recalled. She said some of their fun included trying out all kinds of gymnastic equipment, touring the art building, and roller skating in Richmond on the way home.

Michelle Moore has been the high school chemistry teacher, academic coordinator, science team coach, interdisciplinary team coach, and science department chairperson over the past 30 years.

Her fondest memories of her time at Centerville are of the science academic team's performance last year that earned them the top score in the state in the regional competition (which determines who advances to state) and when the science team got second place in the state competition two years ago.

"I treasure hearing back from former students who are using their knowledge and skills in chemistry to be successful in college and beyond," she said. "I will not miss grading lab notebooks, but I will miss all the great students who I have been lucky to work with."

Mrs. Moore appreciates the opportunity she has had to work with so many wonderful people who all support each other in and out of the classroom.

"Centerville is a special place because of the many caring people," she said. "As my first principal stated, 'Centerville is a family.'"

Mrs. Moore's plans for retirement include spending more time with her children, grandchildren, and real estate business.



Janice Scheffler taught kindergarten this year and music and special education in the past. She taught 16 years at Centerville, one year in Richmond and 12 years in Memphis, Tennessee.

"I have always placed a high value on hands-on learning in the classroom, and I would like to carry similar learning experiences into my retirement," said Ms. Scheffler. "Visiting National Parks and being an outdoor volunteer are a couple of things on my list."

Ms. Scheffler said it is always special to witness each kindergartner's growth from August to May. She recalls one year that she received a cooking grant, which enabled her students to prepare something healthy each month. This type of learning provided exposure to meaningful real world skills, she said.

"They particularly enjoyed getting to crack eggs, making ice cream in a baggie, crock pot applesauce, and funny fruit faces," she said. "I enjoyed their excitement over these cooking activities."

Jan Dunham retires after 38 years in education, 15 as the director of special education for Centerville-Abington and Fayette County school corporations and three years as assistant director. Prior to that, she spent 20 years as a general and special education teacher.

Mrs. Dunham's fondest memories are of her co-workers.

"Over the years I've been fortunate to work with some wonderful teachers and administrators who care very much for children with special needs," she said.

Mrs. Dunham and her husband plan to move to Noblesville in June, and they hope to do some traveling.



Minecraft in the classroom

Fourth-grade teacher Betsey Moore was looking for a more exciting way to teach Indiana History four years ago. She ran across an article about a California high school that used MineCraft.edu in a history class.

“My brain gears started turning, and I approached Mrs. VanWinkle about trying this program in my classroom,” said Mrs. Moore. “Luckily, Mrs. VanWinkle loved the idea and helped to purchase the software.”

Students choose a notable Indiana person, item, or place and complete a "building permit" for it. Once the permit is completed, they must get it peer edited by their "foreman," or designated group leader, and return for editing until the foreman signs off on the corrections. Next, they see Mrs. Moore, the "supervisor," for her final approval after any corrections are made that were missed by the foreman. After her approval, students may begin construction using Minecraft (like Legos on the computer, explained Mrs. Moore). When the building is completed, the students type the historical information on Google Docs, share it with peers for additional editing, and turn it in to Mrs. Moore. Finally, student work is shared with the class and posted on the bulletin board outside our classroom. Students complete one historical period each nine weeks, and each item can only be researched once in the classroom. That way they end up with over 90 research projects by the end of the year. Mrs. Moore said her students beg for History Minecraft time.

“They don't even whine when it comes time to do the research or building permit because they know that they have some freedom to choose something that interests them,” she said. “This is what I call disguised learning.”



At left, fourth-graders' Minecraft history projects are displayed with a number that corresponds with a number on the map of Indiana. Above, left, is one of the written reports that accompany the Minecraft projects and above, right, is a close-up of one of the Minecraft projects (Lucas Oil Stadium).

Senior named Academic All-Star

Senior **Antonio “Nico” Wankerl** is a 2018 Indiana Academic All-Star. He was one of 275 nominees statewide and one of only 40 students honored statewide by the Indiana Association of School Principals. He, Principal Mikel McCoy and Benjamin Snyder, Nico’s choice as an influential educator, attended the All-Stars Awards Luncheon in Indianapolis on April 27.

Indiana high schools may nominate one student for consideration as an Academic All-Star, considering the following:

- ACT and/or SAT scores and grade point average
- extra-curricular activities
- leadership and community service and involvement.

