

Centennial School opens with great expectations

To Principal Kate Creery, after a summer of construction, the exterior of Rockwood Centennial School now reflects the "tremendous care and pride we take in working with our students inside our building." In a welcome back message to the Centennial family, Creery said it promises to be an exciting fall and a great school year.

With approximately 640 students and eight portables, Creery said Centennial feels like a small school that just got big. "A lot of the traditions that we have at Centennial, we have maintained, and everybody is welcome. I'm glad so many people want

to come to here," she said.

The exterior work at the school includes the paving Pasmore Street and installation of wider sidewalks at the front of the school. The prone-to-flooding front walkway was replaced, and work continues on the Kinder area at the front of the school which will include a Butterfly Garden.

"The children in Grades one and two designed the lines and games that have been painted on our new hard top," Creery said on Tuesday morning as students and parents swirled around the side entrance and headed off to class with their new teachers.

Rockwood mom Shelly Patterson, who has two students at Centennial, is concerned about the traffic with the major construction along Highway 7. "I think they need another crossing guard near the end of Pasmore (Street) because most people won't walk up to Inkerman (Street) or the new crossing at Falls Street," Patterson said. "It is super busy and people are in a rush to get to work," she said, adding they'd have a better idea of how the construction affects Centennial students on the second day of school, when many kids would not be walked to school by their parents, unlike the first day.

Eden Mills gears up for Writers Festival

A stellar line-up of over 40 authors will read on the grassy banks of the Eramosa River at the annual EMWF. There will be Children's and young adult programs, a Guelph Poetry Slam, a Sylvia Tyson reading and singing.

Three great events are slated for the festival, beginning with a look at the Arctic's fragile environment and will it survive the battle for Arctic sovereignty?

On Thursday, September 15, at 7:30 p.m. Shelagh D. Grant, Canada's leading Arctic historian will give

a talk focusing on Polar Imperative and Beyond. After touching on highlights from her award-winning book Polar Imperative: A History of Arctic Sovereignty in North America, Grant will discuss more recent developments and their implications for Canada's Arctic sovereignty. Her talk is at the Science Complex Atrium, University of Guelph.

The Eden Mills Writers' Festival also presents Notes & Letters - an evening of great jazz and literary performances on Fri-

day, September 16, at 8 p.m. There will be scintillating jazz with the Mike Malone Quartet, and extreme literary performances by Terry Fallis, Erika Ritter and Matthew Dryden.

The evening begins with a tribute to Dave McMurdo, internationally renowned trombonist, resident of Eden Mills, and dear friend and supporter of the Eden Mills Writers' Festival.

The show is at the Eden Mills Community Hall, on York Street, Eden Mills.

On Sunday, September 18, from noon until 6 p.m., authors will read from their works.

For ticket information visit www.edenmills-writersfestival.ca

The ROCKWOOD Miller



SAFE CROSSING: Rockwood's Zoha Majidy, a Grade two student at Rockwood Centennial School, crossed through construction on Alma Street at the new crossing at Falls Street with her dad, Saeed Majidy on Tuesday morning. Former crossing guard Pat Cernick will fill in until a permanent, temporary guard can be hired until the constructions season wraps up November 30. — Frances Niblock photo

Student safety prompts second crossing guard on Highway 7

Guelph/Eramosa Township Council will pick up the cost for a new, temporary school crossing guard to escort Rockwood Centennial School students across Alma Street at Falls Street during reconstruction of Highway 7. Worried about student safety with the ongoing reconstruction through the village, councillors agreed to add the second crossing guard who began work on Tuesday.

"We don't want a single child to be harmed, frightened or confused by the construction activity or impatient drivers," Prin-

icipal Kate Creery wrote on the school's website. Using paint and traffic pylons, a temporary pedestrian sidewalk was created at the Alma/Falls intersection, and "SLOW SCHOOL AHEAD"

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Principal Kate Creery

warnings will be painted on the asphalt of Falls and Mary Streets.

A report to Guelph/Eramosa Township Council on Tuesday said at the existing Alma Street crossing, just east of Inkerman Street, the "permanent, experienced guard" received specified training for construction area and new painted outlines created a designated waiting areas for crossing students. At both pedestrian crossings, the construction company must reduce noise levels on school days from

8 to 9 a.m. and from 3 to 4 p.m.

Mark Robertson, the Township's Manager of Public Works said with the construction vehicles, equipment and traffic movement, the temporary guard is "necessary" until construction ceases for the season, no later than November 30. The Township's cost for the temporary guard is \$2,000.

On Tuesday morning, experienced crossing guard Pat Cernick was on duty at the new crossing, a temporary guard until the position can be filled. She had fewer than 10 children cross Highway 7 in the morning on the first day of school.

Robertson told councillors that after observing the first morning of school, it was "a good move" to add the guard, even though negotiations with the school board and Ministry of Transportation to help with the cost were unsuccessful.

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