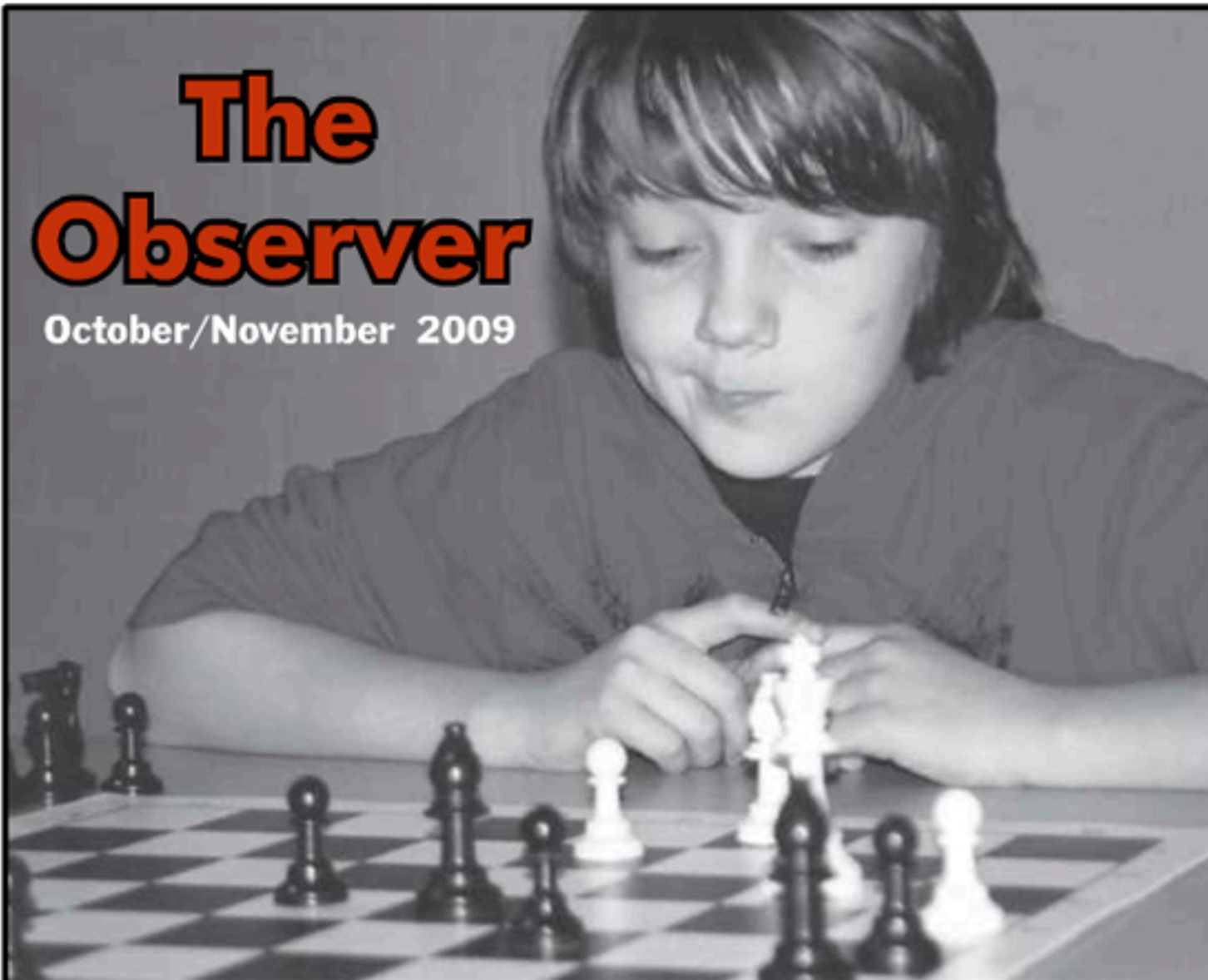


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The next move

Just as sixth grader contemplates a move in last year's chess club, residents will decide on a proposed school levy referendum in the Nov. 3 election. See pages 6-9 for details. (Photo by Centennial Communications)



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A Glance Back

Students reach out through H2O For Life in East Africa

by Mark Domschot, middle school English teacher

Nearly one billion people live without access to clean water, and more than two billion live without access to sanitation facilities. Because of this, an estimated two million people die every year from diarrhea-related diseases; the majority of them children under the age of five. The mission of H2O For Life is to partner an American school with a school in a developing country where there is a dire need for water and latrines.

The past two years, Centennial Middle and High Schools have raised more than \$20,000 to help schools in Kenya, Bangladesh, Nicaragua, and Bolivia. They, along with Golden Lake Elementary, will be raising funds to aid schools in Uganda and Kenya this year.

Students will be studying the global water crisis and the culture of East Africa, along with taking

action to raise funds to support their partner schools.

This August, I traveled with the H2O For Life founders to two East African countries—Uganda and Kenya. Our hosts were people from Africare and Waterlines, two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are planning and implementing the H2O For Life projects in schools. There were three objectives to the trip:

1. Learn about their (Africare and Waterlines) hygiene education program and how they sustain and upkeep our projects (water tanks, wells, and latrines).

2. Celebrate with students, staff, and community members at schools with completed projects.

3. Visit schools that are in need of development.

High school social studies teacher Chris Ripken, and his wife Lisa, joined me on the second leg of the trip in Kenya. While there, we got a tour of the new water storage tank

and latrines at Kwamalelu School, the first recipient of the funds raised by Centennial students. A local family was gracious enough to host six of us in their home where we were treated to delicious local food and enlightening discussions that went late into the night. Middle school science teacher Laurie Tangren, and her family, also stayed with this family in July and had a great adventure/vacation in Kenya.

Ugandan and Kenyan school officials were delighted to point out the improvement in attendance in their schools, the lower drop-out rate, and the overall health of their community because of fresh water, latrines, and hygiene education in their local schools.

Overall, it was an unforgettable experience to meet the welcoming, resourceful, and passionate East African people. They were so thankful for our students' efforts to help the children have fresh water and latrines.



Mark Domschot (left), Chris and Lisa Ripken (right) with students from Reberwet Primary School in Kenya, the 2009-10 partner school with Centennial High School.