

# Welcome to *Lion Tracks*!

March, 2002

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We welcome you as a reader of our first edition of *Lion Tracks*, a district newsletter, which we hope to publish on a regular basis. In *Lion Tracks* we will feature news about curriculum, class activities, students, teachers, and extracurricular events and will often have pictures to accompany our articles.

In addition, there will be regular articles from various school departments. We will tell the good news about our school district and our high-achieving students and welcome any reactions you have to the information presented in the newsletter, along with any suggestions you may have to make it better. If you are reading this edition and are not on our mailing list but would like to be, or know of someone who would benefit from receiving this mailing, please call Marla Freese at 472-2664.

We are pleased that you have an interest in Central Lyon Activities and hope that you will continue to read *Lion Tracks*.

William Hutchinson  
Superintendent



Nathan Karasch designed the Lion Tracks logo.

## Decisions...

The decision was made.

We would start a district newsletter. But many questions followed and many more decisions had to be made.

What would we name the newsletter? The faculty was asked to help answer this question. Everyone was given the opportunity to submit a suggested name. A committee narrowed it down to four choices and those were voted on by the faculty. Dwayne Postma, Vo-Ag teacher, and Evan DeBoer, Math teacher, both submitted the winning entry, *Lion Tracks*. They were awarded CAC gift certificates.

What would the newsletter title look like? Again, faculty was asked to help out. Roger VanRoekel, Art teacher, turned to his students for help designing the *Lion Tracks* logo. Nathan Karasch designed the chosen logo, which is featured in color at the top of this page. The only prize awarded to Nathan was, hopefully, a good grade for his efforts.

The funding for the publication of this newsletter is made available through a Success4 grant. Thanks to our faculty and students for pitching in when a little creativity was needed in making decisions!



Superintendent William Hutchinson congratulates teachers, Dwayne Postma & Evan DeBoer on their winning entry.

# Secondary Thoughts

By David Ackerman, Secondary (High School) Principal

## HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

**Impressive.** That's the word I would use to describe the Central Lyon Community Schools. Obviously at first glance, the foremost impressive thing you see when you come to this school is the remarkable structure of the building. This facility is second to none in the state for a school this size. I commend the patrons of this district for having the foresight to build such a structure to secure the future education of its students.

While I find the facilities to be extraordinary, it is important to realize that facilities alone do not make a school great. I have said many times that I am the fortunate recipient of a terrific job in a great school, but great schools do not come about by accident. As an educator who is now at his third school in thirteen years, I have seen and experienced several school cultures and I have come to some distinct conclusions about Central Lyon Schools. First, I have been

extremely pleased and impressed with the professional work ethic and scholarly attitude of the staff. Student academic and behavior expectations are very high here, and all staff members fulfill their role in that expectation. Staff members willingly take on duties to help in the smooth operation of the school, and I witness their care and concern for their students every day.

Another vital component of a good school is the community. My family and I have been very pleased with the services and support available in this community, and I recognize that there is a lot of community pride in this school. Northwest Iowa is known for its strong work ethic. It has been enjoyable for me to return to this area and find that this has not changed. I find that our students

work hard and have high expectations for themselves. These attributes, combined with respect and discipline make this an exceptional school. Our student test scores and student participation numbers in extra-curricular activities is unimaginable in some school systems. Our students exhibit extraordinary dependability and maturity, and for that I commend them.

Finally, I have found parent support of the school to be outstanding. Oh sure, there will sometimes be disagreements on the handling of situations, but I have again been impressed with parent involvement I have seen at this school. I am pleased and proud to be a part of Central Lyon Schools. This truly is a great school. If at any time you have any questions or issues you wish to discuss, feel free to contact myself, or anyone at the school. Go Lions!

“Great schools do not come about by accident. . . this truly is a great school.”

## Rube Goldberg Competition

By Don Liefeld, High School Physics Teacher

The physics class will once again compete in the Rube Goldberg competition to be held in Mankato, MN on Friday, March 8, 2002. Rube Goldberg was a cartoonist who liked to draw complicated looking devices that accomplished some simple task. Engineering departments at various colleges have developed Rube Goldberg competitions to challenge students to develop working machines that are as complex as possible, but accomplish some simple task.

In this year's competition, at Mankato, students must select and peel an apple in 20 steps or more. A team may consist of no more than five students. Central Lyon will send two teams this year.



Physics class preparing for Rube Goldberg competition.

**Team One** members are Charles Hagin (team leader), Paul Jennings, Natalie Steenhoven, and John Flier. **Team Two** members are Laura Bender (team leader), Jera Williams, Evan Metzger, Erin Kooiker, and Josh Drewes. Teams will be judged on the number of steps included, the presentation style, use of a theme, entertainment value, does it work, and use of common objects in unique ways.

## Speech Participants CL "Speechies" on the road....

By Jan Meester, High School Speech Coach

Since November, students rehearsed for large group speech competition. On Saturday, February 2, six groups participated in the state contest in Spencer, Iowa. Five of the six groups received 'I' ratings:

### Readers Theatre - "Report of the Weuns"

Chas Hagin, Sarah Hagin, John Flier, Irene Polets, Katrina Karasch, Jared Soroka, Brittany Van Berkum, Pam Berg, Justin Rust, Matt Snyders.

### Group Improv

Sarah Hagin, Chas Hagin, Matt Snyders

### Group Improv

Meghann Reifenrath, Laura Bender

### Ensemble Acting - "The Day Mother Left Home"

Meghann Reifenrath, Laura Bender

### Ensemble Acting - "The Ham Curing"

Katrina Karasch, Jared Soroka

The following **Freshman Improv Group** did a very nice job and received a rating of II - II - I for a final II rating.

Jennifer Roemen, Nathan Karasch

"Five groups received 'I' ratings at the state speech contest."

## Academics and Athletics Mix Well

By John McDonald, Athletic Director

Central Lyon's fall sports teams and cheerleaders excelled in both the sports they participated in, and in the classroom.

The volleyball team won more games than any other Central Lyon volleyball team has since the 1980's and earned an academic excellence award from the IGHS AU for a combined team grade point 3.51 (grades 9-12).

The football team moved into the second round of the playoffs and earned a distinguished academic achievement award from the IHSAA for a combined team grade point of 3.27 (grades 9-12).

The football cheerleaders earned a distinguished academic achievement award from the IHSAA for a combined GPA of 3.32.

On Monday, February 4, we received the great news that the Group Improv of Matt Snyders, Chas Hagin, and Sarah Hagin earned the opportunity to perform at the All-State Speech Festival at Ames, Iowa, on Saturday, February 16. To be named a performer at this prestigious event is an great accomplishment for any speech participant.

**SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM!!!**



All-Staters Chas, Sarah, & Matt.

### INDIVIDUAL SPEECH -*On the Road Again...*

Students performed at the district contest at Hartley on Saturday, January 23, and came home with 23 'I' ratings and 3 'II' ratings. Competition was tough, but the Central Lyon "speechies" did a great job.

Those who received a 'I' rating at the district contest will advance to state competition at Sibley, Iowa, on Saturday, March 16. These events are open to the public, and if you enjoy good student talent, try to attend one of these contests.

**Good Luck to all "Speechies"!**

## We Need Your Blood!!

By Hank Grant, High School Health Teacher

Central Lyon's Health Class, with the assistance of Sioux City and Sioux Falls bloodmobiles, will be sponsoring a blood drive held in the Central Lyon wrestling room on the east side of the high school. It will take place on Thursday, March 7, 2002 from the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Blood donations will be taken on a walk-in basis.

Our goal is to have at least 100 participants. In order to give blood, you must be at least 17 years old and weigh over 100 lbs. All donations and support are greatly appreciated.

## He'll be Back

By Terry Tausz, High School Guidance Counselor

Back on Friday, January 11, Russell Simon from Roseville, MN, spoke with students in grades 5 - 8 and grades 9 - 12. His talk was entitled "10 Seconds Can Change Your Life Forever".

There was a very positive response from students and staff concerning what Russell had to say. Because of that, we are having him back on Monday, April 11. He will be in the high school part of the day and in the middle school part of the day. In the evening, at 7:00 pm, he will be talking to any interested parents in the high school auditorium. **YOU ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO SET THIS NIGHT ASIDE TO HEAR WHAT RUSSELL HAS TO SAY.** He has a no-nonsense approach to family violence, peer pressure, use, abuse, and consequences. His message is one of choice, personal responsibility, empowerment, and hope.

## 2001-2002 Basic Skills Results

By Dan Kruse, Elementary/Middle School Counselor

The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills were taken by grades 2, 4, 6, 7 and 8 in November, the third month of the school year. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders only take the Reading part of the test. This is for our Goals 2000 project.

GRADE	IGE	NGE	IPR	NPR
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.4	2.7	65%	74%
4 <sup>th</sup>	4.5	5.3	58%	74%
6 <sup>th</sup>	7.3	8.0	66%	74%
7 <sup>th</sup>	7.6	8.4	56%	66%
8 <sup>th</sup>	8.8	10.4	57%	68%

IGE stands for Iowa Grade Equivalent. NGE stands for National Grade Equivalent. This score is useful when measuring individual or grade growth. For example, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade class had an overall IGE of 8.8. This score is comparable to a typical class finishing the 8<sup>th</sup> month of 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

IPR stands for Iowa Percentile Rank. NPR stands for National Percentile Rank. Percentile ranks show the position or rank of a group of students who are in the same grade and tested at the same time. (Fall, mid-year, spring) For example, our 6<sup>th</sup> grade had an IPR of 66%. This means they scored higher than 66% of the other 6<sup>th</sup> grades in the state of Iowa.

NOTES ON FINANCIAL AID.....If you have a senior who is going on to some type of schooling and have not filled out the FAFSA form yet, you need to get that process going.

If you need a copy of the FAFSA or have questions, please contact the high school guidance office. Parents of students in 11th grade or younger... it is not too early to start checking out what the financial aid process is all about. Feel free to call the high school guidance for more information.

REGISTRATION.....By the time this newsletter is published and sent out, parents should have received in the mail a copy of their son's or daughter's schedule for next year. Please give us a call with any questions you might have. At the time you are reading this, we hope to be working on the May Term schedule for this spring. Again, call us with questions/concerns you might have. The May Term schedules will not be mailed out to parents, so please ask them to see what they have signed up for, or contact us.

Ringworm has been a problem this winter in the schools. Ringworm is an infection of the scalp or skin caused by

By Mel De Jong, RN

a fungus. Symptoms include a pink, flat, round rash with red edges that may itch or sting. It may appear dry and scaly or be moist and crusted. This can be spread by direct contact with an infected person or animal or indirect contact with items such as combs, clothing and towels, floors and showers. A person with ringworm is contagious as long as the fungus is remains present in the skin lesion and when the rash starts to shrink, the fungus is no longer present.

If we suspect ringworm at school, we will cover the area with a band-aid and give you a call. Students should not return to school until the medication has been started. An anti-fungal cream can be purchased over - the -counter, or you may wish to see your physician for a proper diagnosis. The cream is usually applied twice daily and should continue for a week after the rash has disappeared to prevent it from coming back. If your pet has a skin problem, they also need to be treated. As always, please remind your child the importance of hand washing.

Welcome to our district newsletter. The principal's notes will be a way to inform you what is happening in our Elementary/Middle School during the year.

During the Month of March we have the following activities scheduled:

**March 15**—End of the 3rd Quarter

**March 22**—Reports will be going home with students. Parents will want to be watching for the report cards.

**April 4**—This a very important activity for our new Kindergarten parents and our Central Lyon Elementary School. The 2002-2003 Kindergarten Round Up is a time for the school to meet with you as parents and give you information about our program and services provided for Central Lyon Students. If you know of someone that has not contacted the school and has a child that will be 5 years of age on or before September 15, 2002 please ask them to contact the Elementary School office at 472-4041. We can't wait to see you on Thursday, April 4, at 1:00 P.M. in the Elementary/Middle School Library.

“The 2002-2003 Kindergarten Round Up is April 4.”

A question has been raised to me as to whether we will be having the Elementary/Middle School Newsletter now that we have the District Newsletter. The answer is yes. On the month opposite the District Newsletter, you will receive the Elementary/Middle School newsletter , giving information to you as parents on a monthly basis.

## Middle School Pride Trip

By Susan Van Wyhe, Middle School Technology Teacher

For the past several years the Central Lyon Middle school has used a Pride program that promotes responsibility for Central Lyon students. Each quarter students are expected to use an assignment book and exhibit responsible behavior. Students meeting the quarter goal qualify for an activity.

On Friday, Jan. 25, students in grades 6-8 who qualified for the pride activity, ventured to Sioux Falls Carousel Skate for an afternoon of exercise and socializing. Students spent their precious time skating, playing games and eating. Some students supplied their own roller blades, while others rented skates.

All the students risked looking "maybe not so cool" by giving skating their best shot. The teachers treasured the memories created by students trying to keep their balance. Unfortu-

nately, not all students stayed on their feet. Watching the students use their bodies versus their brains made for a memorable event for the students, as well as for the teachers.

The Central Lyon Pride program was adopted several years

ago. Many middle schools have implemented similar programs. Students who meet the Pride Point goals are eligible for each of the activities. The first quarter activity was bowling at Corral Lanes. The planned activity for the third quarter will be swimming at the Sheldon Community Pool. The final activity is divided by grade level.

The sixth grade will spend the day at the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls. The seventh grade will go to Karts West for a day riding go-carts, playing miniature golf and using the batting cages. The Omaha Zoo is the destination for the all-day trip for eighth grade.



Mrs. Sieperda and 7th grade girls show their excitement about skating.

## Our Fresh Water Ecosystem

By Shelley Kracht, Michael Haggar, Jaimee Lorenzen & Jeff Gacke, 5th Grade Students

This year Mr. Snyder's fifth grade science classes have a fresh water ecosystem in their classroom.

It is a pool filled with fresh water, duckweed, hornwort, rocks, sand, and organisms. The organisms include a water-dog, a painted turtle named "Shrek," two sun-fish, a baby bullhead, and some guppies that disappeared because of their order on the food chain. We feed the organisms meal worms and fish food.

Many students brought in the equipment and organisms that helped create our awesome ecosystem. We enjoy watching and relaxing around the ecosystem when our work is finished.

## 4th Grade News

By Angie Keizer, 4th Grade Teacher

The fourth grade welcomes Jacalyn Gacke as a student teacher from Dordt College. She may be familiar to you already, as she and her husband, John, live in Rock Rapids. They have one son, Austin, who is a 1st grader at Central Lyon.

"Connections to real-life situations, technology, and careers reinforce the concept that science has great value today and in their futures."

In Social Studies, the 4th grade has been learning about the South-east Region of the United States. The students are busy writing and organizing a travel brochure of their favorite state from this region.

In Science, we have completed our weather unit. We used weather instruments to chart the daily weather and studied cloud formations. We are hoping that Shawn Cable, a meteorologist from Channel 11, accepts our invitation visit our school. Currently we are studying matter, its physical and chemical properties, the three different states of matter, and changes in matter. We are also using Science Sleuths, CD-ROMs with interactive investigations. The students solve mysteries that combine life, earth, and physical science with a variety of problem-solving techniques. Connections to real-life situations, technology, and careers reinforce the concept that science has great value today and in their futures.

## Champions of Reading

By Angie Keizer, 4th Grade Teacher



Torch runners in grades 3, 4, & 5 pose with Kelly Grafing.

This year's reading incentive program is "Champions of Reading." To start off the Olympic theme reading program, the students were given a bowl of cereal---Breakfast of Champions. A torch run was also planned with the real torch that Kelly Grafing carried in her Olympic run. Runners were selected from each room according to who had the most accelerated reader points from the 1st semester/2nd quarter.

Torchbearers in grades K-8 were:

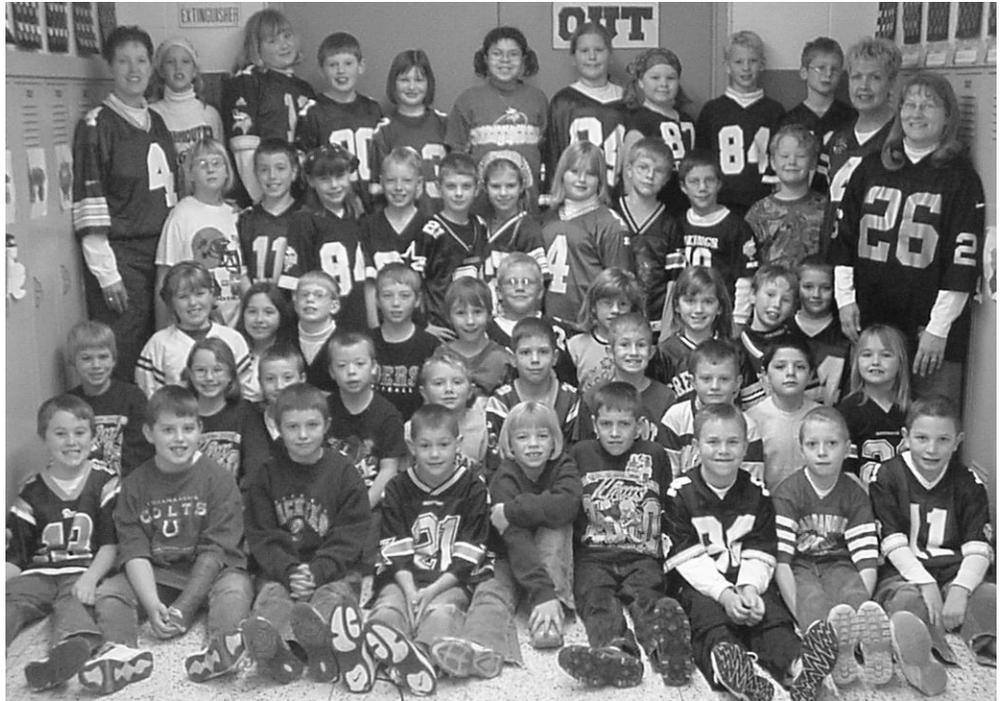
Alex Ohling, Jordan Bixenman, Nate Knoblock, Brady Spykeboer, Nedd Knobloch, Kyla Knoblock, Nick Bixenman, Brenda Hofer, Danielle Kruger-alternate, Amy Stump-alternate, Jill Estes, Cole Snyder, Josie Knobloch, Kyler Huisman, Bekki Kneip, Katie DeKam, David DeBoer and Austin Kilgore.

## Super Bowl Friday

By Lois Block, 2nd Grade Teacher

Football...hike...touchdown... Super Bowl Spellers! The first annual "Academic Super Bowl" was celebrated by the super stars in second grade on Friday, February 1st. It was a special day set aside to celebrate academic excellence in football terminology.

The students and teachers dressed in football jerseys, sweat-shirts and t-shirts in honor of their favorite teams. They enjoyed "Super Bowl" munchies while they teamed up for football word finds, ABC order, Super Bowl Bingo, and the challenge to be named the champion Super Bowl spellers. All students and teachers had a fun time participating and learning in a "Super" way.



Teachers and 2nd graders dress for Super Bowl Friday!

## Skeleton Bones Visit First Grade

By Stephanie Baker, 1st Grade Teacher

Dr. George Shurr is a geologist who has returned to his family farm after teaching for 30 years at a Minnesota State University. He visited Mrs. Baker's first grade classroom in January. During his visit he described what fossils are and where they can be found. He brought along some visual aides for the stu-

dents to look at and touch. Among the fossil bones were some dinosaur bones. The main attraction, however were the buffalo skulls.

Dr. Shurr explained to the students that a long time before white people settled in the area, buffalo and other animals were living on the tall prairie grass that is no longer seen. Many buffalo made their home along the Rock River. Some bones still remain as a reminder of this. As the river runs and cuts away at the dirt, buffalo bones may fall out from where they were buried many years ago. The bones are shaped differently than the bones of cattle or horses.

Sometimes people get "lucky" and find a skull

that is clearly from a buffalo.

After the discussion, students participated in working at three different centers. Dr. Shurr, his wife Margaret, and Miles Birkett headed the three groups. At one center, students got to handle the buffalo skull and other bones that were on display. Another center talked more about the dinosaur and how people are able to put their bones back together to create the whole skeleton. The last center allowed the students to feel many different pieces of small bones. The students then got to choose one to take home as a souvenir of the day.

The students were very excited about what Dr. Shurr had to say. They asked some very interesting questions, too. Of course, the best part of all for them was to be able to feel the bones for themselves and take a part home with them.



Dr. Shurr shares his fossil bones with enthusiastic 1st graders.

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## We're on the Web!

By Denise Snyders, High School Business Teacher



Students in second semester Web Page Design class.

In response to the ever-changing technology, a new class was created this year. It's called Web Page Design and it is taught by the high school business teachers.

During this semester, our student-created web page contains the work of students: Pam Berg, Ashley Huisman, Thersa Rust, Melinda Popkes, Mike Sonntagbauer, Amanda Warren, and Kyra Lupkes, with guidance from student webmaster, Alan Roeman.

Before this class was offered, Terry VanBerkum, TAG teacher, initially led the way in laying the foundation for our web page. He taught a May term class and worked with student webmasters, Paul Jennings, Chris Patton, and Alan Roeman to get things set up and off the ground.

Just as technology changes, our web page is also ever-changing. The look is currently being updated and should hit the web by the end of March. Watch for it at [www.central-lyon.k12.ia.us!](http://www.central-lyon.k12.ia.us!)