

By William Hutchinson,
Superintendent

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Professional Development

The Central Lyon professional staff recently completed the first of its staff development days and also completed the planning for the use of the remaining days that have been scheduled for in-service during the 2004-2005 school year. The district set aside eight days in the school calendar for professional development, five of which are during the school year when the students stay home and the teachers become students. The professional staff members take this investment of time and money very seriously. In an article by Peter Negroni in the October 2003 *School Administrator*, he states that, according to many studies, the investment in a teacher's education is the most productive for schools in terms of improved student achievement, exceeding other variables such as class size, teacher experience, or salary increases. "Teachers

who engaged in sustained, collaborative professional development around specific concerns in their curriculum were more likely to change their teaching practice in ways associated with greater student achievement, even after taking student and school conditions into account..."

During our staff development day on October 4, time was used to prepare for a site visit from the Iowa Department of Education, to complete an item analysis of our most recent Iowa Tests of Educational Development scores, to explore topics for staff development for the remainder of the school year, and to hear an update on technology. Three future in-service days will allow for the study of Marzano's *Classroom Instruction That Works*. Other time during this school year will be used to study *Seven Traits of Writing*.

Sports Complex Gets New Sign

Last year the football field (formerly *A.O. Voogd Field*) was renamed *Dick Null Field* and the new complex is now known as the *A.O. Voogd Sports Complex*.

On Tuesday, September 7, Central Lyon Athletic Director El Don Maxwell and several community volunteers erected a new sign on the football field. Tami Hoppe constructed and painted the sign. Volunteers were Ron Boogerd, Don Hoppe, Jeff Schram, Dave Schleusner, Loren Top, and Larry Wibben.



Community volunteers stand by the new sign.

Secondary Thoughts

By David Ackerman, Secondary (High School) Principal

I was among some adults the other day, when one of them told a story of how he had been to a store, had given the teenage cashier a twenty dollar bill in payment for some items, and then received the incorrect change in return. This of course ignited a lively conversation by the rest of the group on how “today’s kids just don’t know the basics like making the correct change.” This was followed by the pointed question to me – “Don’t you teach things like that at school anymore?” and an even livelier conversation broke out on how scary the future is going to be when the “kids of today” become adults.

Well, the answer to the question of whether we teach the basics is a resounding “Yes we do!”

“Don’t you teach things like that at school anymore?”

Along with the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic, we also teach about character, responsibility, science, computer skills, history, government, psychology, all the vocational arts, music education, physical education, sex education, driver education, etc., etc.,

etc. We take great pride in knowing that our curriculum flows from one grade to the next without gaps or redundancies, and that the topics we are teaching are relevant and useful today and in the future. I personally have four children in this school system, and you can be assured, we are teaching what we ought to be teaching!

One point from the opening paragraph I do wish to make, however. Yes, unfortunately today’s kids will make mistakes in giving correct change, and they will make mistakes in their use of oral and written language, and yes, they will even make mistakes in judgment sometimes, but that’s what kids do. One thing I have learned from being in education is that no matter how adamant I am as a teacher about a topic, it will only become important to the kids at the time when the skill (making correct change, balancing checkbooks, or writing a perfect article) becomes important to them. Sometimes that doesn’t happen until adulthood. By then, there will be a new generation of “kids unable to make change.”

As always, if you have a concern, give us a call up here at the schools. We ARE the Central Lyon COMMUNITY Schools.

ACT Results

The **ACT** test is primarily designed for students who plan to attend a four-year college. It is usually used as part of the college admission requirements.

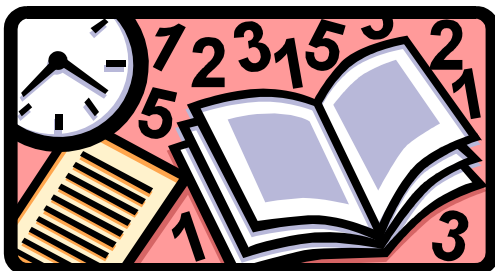
The table at top right contains the percentage of students scoring at or above the state’s identified college success indicator of an ACT score of 20. The LOCAL numbers represent 31 Central Lyon 2004 graduates who took the test.

The information in the table at bottom right indicates how well Central Lyon students have done when compared with other students in Iowa and the nation.

	ACT Composite Score	ACT English	ACT Math	ACT Reading	ACT Science
LOCAL	84%	74%	68%	81%	81%
IOWA	69%	63%	61%	67%	74%
NATION	59%	55%	51%	59%	62%

Average ACT Scores for all Graduates

	Number taking test	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
Local						
1999-2000	40	22.2	22.9	24.0	23.3	23.2
2000-2001	33	22.3	22.6	23.7	22.6	22.8
2001-2002	29	23.8	23.8	24.6	24.3	24.2
2002-2003	37	21.3	22.3	22.5	22.0	22.1
2003-2004	31	22.7	22.8	23.9	22.5	23.2
State						
2003-2004	23,591	21.4	21.8	22.4	22.1	22.0
National						
2003-2004	1,171,460	20.4	20.7	21.3	20.9	20.9



FFA Coop

By Dwayne Postma,
FFA Advisor

Last April, fifteen Central Lyon FFA members became involved with an investment opportunity which included the FFA and its farm just north of Rock Rapids. They became active members of what is now known as the Central Lyon FFA Coop. To join the coop, a member must meet the following criteria:

1. Be an active Central Lyon FFA member.
2. Have parental permission.
3. Agree to a share of the workload.
4. Pay \$150 per membership.
(6 memberships per person maximum)
5. Other criteria too numerous to mention.



FFA Coop member, Nate Knobloch, shares in the workload.

The first project consisted of nine calves, which started at 388 lbs. and sold at 800 lbs. With the completion of our first project, the \$150 membership is now worth \$165.21, an increase of \$15.21 since April 2004. The overall Central Lyon FFA chapter is supporting the coop in its beginning stages, both financially and otherwise. The coop members can't lose any of their original investment, plus it will draw a minimal interest rate for them. Members must maintain their investment for a minimum of one year and can remain a member for three years past graduation, keeping in mind that they must share equally in the workload. Workload might consist of daily chores, manure clean up, fencing, etc.

The coop has begun a new project involving fifteen 294 lb. calves located on the FFA farm north of Rock Rapids. There are currently 44 memberships from 20 FFA members, and more of both are expected before October 15 (the deadline for involvement in this project).

At this point, we are planning several different projects on our FFA farm. These projects are primarily aimed at improving the eye appeal of the property. These improvements include

- Burning and removal of the old building structure.
- Putting in a permanent gate at the north entrance.
- Landscaping the north entrance with a white fence, a sign, a rock garden, and a couple of trees.




Drew DeGroot, the new FFA President receives guidance from the FFA advisor, Mr. Postma.

Our new officer team, led by our president Drew DeGroot, has also set a goal of starting an associate membership program with the coop. As you can probably tell by now, this is an exciting venture for our FFA members.

All-School Musical

GREASE Cast List (in order of appearance)	
Miss Lynch	Kara Kooiker
Patty Simcox	Jen Roemen
Eugene Florczyk	Tim Molitor
Jan	Meah Knight
Marty	Sara Leuthold
Betty Rizzo	Julie Popkes
Doody	Jacob Karasch
Roger	Colin Campbell
Kenickie	Brandon Bloemendaal
Sonny LaTierre	Jon Markus
Frenchy	Alissa VerSteege
Sandy Dumbrowski	Natalie Schleusner
Danny Zuko	Nathan Karasch



On November 5 and 6, the all-school musical *Grease* will be presented.

A cast of 30 high school students is now rehearsing under the direction of Tom Gaspar and Ann Langholdt.

Vince Fontaine	Nick Gorter
Johnny Casino	Matt Warner
Cha Cha DeGregorio	Miranda Meyer
Teen Angel	Daniel Unekis

Students of Rydell High
Amanda Word, Caitlin Payne, Karli McDonald, Allie Ladd, Cassie Ring, Jackie Jenkins, Christina Haggar, Molly Meester, Hannah Drewes, Andrea Knobloch, Sawyer Vandenhueval, Ben Tomjack, Dustin Korkow



Nick Gorter, plays the part of Vince Fontaine, in the upcoming musical.

Financial Aid

By Terry Tausz,
High School Guidance Counselor
ttausz@central-lyon.k12.ia.us

On Monday, Nov. 1, at 7:00 pm there will be a financial aid meeting for parents in the high school vocal music room. This meeting should be especially helpful to parents of seniors and juniors. It will be beneficial to parents who have not been through the financial aid process before.

The meeting will focus on the financial aid process, including a detailed discussion of the FAFSA, and an overview of the state and federal financial aid programs. It will be conducted by the College Planning Center of Des Moines. The College Planning Center is a division of Iowa Student Loan Liquidity Corporation, a private, not-for-profit corporation. The center provides FREE information, assistance, counseling and support to college-bound students and their families as they plan for college and apply for financial aid. They can be contacted at 1-877-272-4692 or on the web at www.collegeplanning.org.

Note to Parents of Seniors

Throughout the year, the guidance office will be giving various handouts—magazines, brochures, and pamphlets—to the students. Much of the information given to them will be related to post-secondary schools, financial aid, or careers. Please ask your sons/daughters on occasion if they have received any information which might be of interest to you. Please do not hesitate to call with any questions you may have.

New Success Coordinator

I would like to introduce myself to all the parents; my name is Toby Lorenzen and I am the Success Coordinator at Central Lyon this year. Most of you know me as Coach Lorenzen, your child's physical education teacher. I now teach K-3 Physical Education and have expanded my duties working in the guidance office half days.

The first few weeks of school have been very exciting for me. I have been able to get into the classrooms and talk to the K-2-4 grades about topics like feelings and why each person is important in his/her own way. My job description ranges from working with new students making their transition easier, checking on academic progress of students, working in the elementary classrooms, and spending some quality time talking and dealing with kids who are struggling with feelings or having problems in school.

Freshmen Conferences

If you are the parent/guardian of a high school freshman, please plan to come to the guidance office to meet with your child/student and the guidance counselor to develop a four year plan of study. These meetings are by appointment and will be held from October 26 to November 24.

PLAN or PSAT?

Several students have indicated an interest in taking the PLAN or PSAT test. Each student who indicated an interest was given a guide/bulletin to help him/her better understand the test and was encouraged to share this with parents. Letters were also sent to the parents of these students. These tests give the student more exposure into what a college entrance exam (ACT or SAT) is all about.

The PLAN test will be given at Central Lyon to interested sophomores on Saturday, Oct. 23, at 8:45 a.m. The PLAN is actually a preliminary ACT, developed by the American College Testing program, who also makes the ACT.

The PSAT test will be offered to interested juniors on Saturday, Oct. 16, at 8:45 a.m. The PSAT is actually a preliminary SAT, developed by the College Board who also makes the SAT. The PSAT exam is also connected with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation which will offer scholarships to some of the top scoring students throughout the U.S. Some colleges will also offer scholarships to high scoring PSAT test takers.

By Toby Lorenzen,
Success Coordinator
tlorenze@central-lyon.k12.ia.us



I am very excited about expanding my duties as the year progresses and helping make your students' time at Central Lyon a great experience. If you have a concern or your child has a problem you wish to discuss, please feel free to contact me. I am available every morning. I will do what I can to help ease or eliminate the problem.

Central Lyon School Foundation Banquet

By Dave Foltz, Foundation President

The Central Lyon School Foundation, Inc., would like to announce its Third Annual Fundraising Banquet. The banquet, to be held October 30, 2004, at the Forster Community Center, is the centerpiece of the fall fundraising campaign.

This year, the speaker will be Carol Fitzgerald Leavitt of Las Vegas, Nevada. Carol, a 1964 Central Lyon graduate, is the daughter of Vi and the late "Babe" Fitzgerald.



She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wayne State College in 1967 and a Master of Arts degree in School Counseling and Administration from the University of Nevada Las Vegas in 1972. She retired in June 2002 after a 35 year career in education in Las

Vegas which included three years of teaching physical education, ten years of high school counseling and twenty-two years in secondary school administration, eight of which were spent in the position of high school principal. She has fond memories of Central Lyon and her years here. The Board is very pleased that Carol has accepted their invitation to be a part of this year's banquet. Central Lyon students will also be providing entertainment for the evening.

The cost of a ticket will \$25.00 per person. The catered dinner will be supplied and prepared as their donation by Central Lyon graduates Jon and Chuck Borman and their families. Their menu features Beef Tips in Peppercorn Cream, Chicken Cordon Bleu, or Herb Crusted Pork Loin, along with a wild rice blend, vegetable, salad, and dessert.

Purchase your tickets at the CAC office, Central Lyon School Central Office, or at any bank in Doon or Rock Rapids. Tickets should be purchased by October 20, 2004. Social time will start at 6:30 PM with dinner at 7:00 PM.

The Foundation, which was established in 2001, is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to the enhancement of quality education at Central Lyon. Recent distributions have been made to further the math curriculum and also to fund a mini grant program designed to allow teachers to expand opportunities for students to learn. All contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible. For more information please contact the Central Lyon School or any Foundation Board Member. Your consideration and support is appreciated.



Foundation Board of Directors

Seated

- Mike Austin, *Secretary*
- Dave Foltz, *President*
- Kendall DeGroot
- Judy Gacke, *School Board Liaison*
- Blair Metzger, *Treasurer*
- Kenneth Mellema

Standing

- Sue Vinson, *Vice President*
- Karen Heitshusen
- Jane Barker
- Cheryl Van Beek

Teacher Recipients of Foundation 2004 Mini-Grants

Bruce Eckenrod	\$680	Materials for biographical writing project
Don Liefeld	\$319	Electronic balance for chemistry lab
Jerry Pytleski	\$424	Water quality EQT for science class
Cindy DeWandel	\$507	High resolution digital camera



Historical Plaza Committee Report

By Jackie Hutchinson, Committee Member

BRICKS/PAVERS SOLD as of Sept. 2004

- 166 bricks
- 84 8x8 pavers
- 15 8x12 pavers
- 5 8x16 pavers
- 2 granite benches

The Historical Plaza is under construction on the site of the flagpole near the new Activities Center. It is hoped that the current phase of the Plaza will be completed this fall and will be on display for the public to enjoy. Expenditures for this phase have been met with the purchases of benches, pavers, and bricks, donations, and volunteer work.

To expand the vision for the plaza, the Historical Plaza Committee will continue to raise the funds needed to complete future phases of the project, including an entrance archway constructed with limestone door surrounds and a back wall which will display limestone quotes, all salvaged from the former high school. An additional \$12,500 is needed to complete the final two phases of the project and provide for other costs that may arise. The estimate for

the placement of the limestone door surround is \$8,165, and the estimate for the back wall is \$3,650. As the funds become available, these phases will be completed.

Persons, organizations, or businesses interested in making a contribution to the Historical Plaza by purchasing an engraved brick, paver, or bench may contact the superintendent's office at (712) 472-2664.

Thank you to those who have already contributed to the plaza. We invite others to participate in this worthwhile project as we continue the effort to pave a path from the past to the future.



Shrubs, grass, and painting the flagpole base are recent improvements at the Historical Plaza.

Are You Up To The Challenge?

A challenge grant of \$1,000 has been offered by an anonymous donor to go toward the completion of the Historical Plaza. When \$2,000 of disposable income is raised, the grant will be awarded. Individuals and business can accept the challenge by purchasing bricks/pavers or by making a cash donation to the plaza. Please note on your order form or donation that you are *Up to the Challenge*.

If you would like more information on the Historical Plaza or the challenge, please call the superintendent's office at 472-2664.

Principal's Perspective

By Dan Kruse, Elementary/Middle School Principal

The school year is well underway. There have been lots of activities and events going on the first few weeks. Keep that school calendar handy. It has a complete list of everything that's going on. We have extra copies in our office. Stop by and pick one up if you haven't received one yet.

Our enrollment for K-8 is going to be up from last year. We have had several new families move into our

community. The school district is extremely excited about this growth. Our student body has done a great job of welcoming the new students to Central Lyon. When I talk with the families that are new to our district, they have a lot of good things to say about our school. All of us should feel proud. School is important to our community. Thanks for all the support you give the school district. It is greatly appreciated.

Open Enrollment

The deadline to submit an application for open enrollment for the 2005-2006 school year is January 1, 2005.

Transportation financial assistance is also available for those families who meet income eligibility guidelines.

Mock Presidential Election

By Bruce Eckenrod and Sue Van Wyhe, Middle School Teachers

MIDDLE SCHOOL MEMOIRS

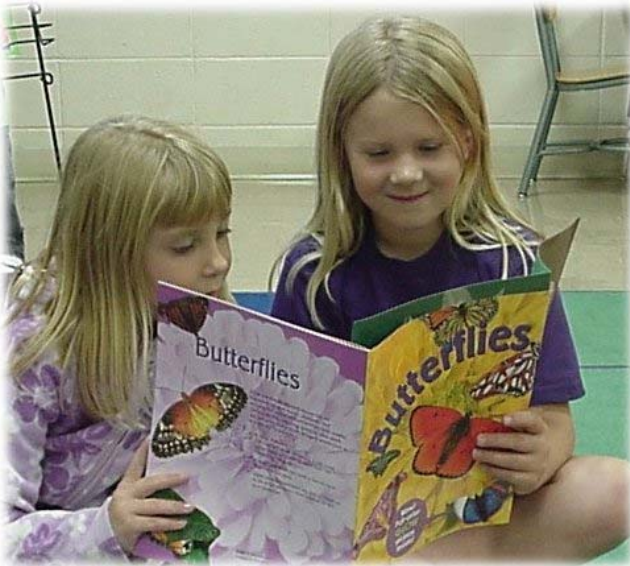
In the coming weeks the seventh and eighth grade Social Studies and Technology classes will be preparing presentations about the presidential candidates, the political issues, and the voting procedure. The eighth grade students will give their presentations to the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students. The seventh grade students will be creating an interactive computer presentation to be given to the lower elementary students (kindergarten, first, and second grade).

These presentations are also preparing each student for the mock election to be held in late October. All students will be given an opportunity to vote using a sample ballot and voting booth provided by the Lyon County Auditor's office. The eighth graders will act as the polling officials for the election.



Middle school students share their projects with elementary students.

Please encourage your sons or daughters to talk about the political process, issues, and voting. It is important that they realize involvement in the political process is very important!



Butterflies

By Lila Kennedy,
First Grade Teacher



Did you know that butterflies hear with their knees? This is one of the many interesting facts the first grade students learned from Rochelle Ebel, Lyon County Conservationist. Rochelle used props to show how a butterfly uses its senses. The first graders have been studying *The Life Cycle of a Butterfly* in science.

The class also enjoyed a story about the monarch's migration to Mexico and crafted a butterfly from tissue paper.

ELEMENTARY EDITION

Note-Worthy Dates

✓ Mass Band Show/Homecoming	10/8
✓ Junior Career/College Fair at NCC	10/11
✓ End of First Quarter—high school	10/21
✓ High School Vocal Fall Pops Concert	10/21
✓ Iowa Test of Basic Skills	10/25-29
✓ Parent Financial Aid Meeting	11/1
✓ Iowa Test of Education Development	11/1-2
✓ Parent Teacher Conferences	11/1-2
✓ No School	11/5
✓ All-School Musical	11/5-6
✓ HS Marching Band Concert	11/11
✓ NHS Induction Ceremony	11/22
✓ No School —Thanksgiving break	11/25-6
✓ HS Christmas Vocal Concert	12/12

Book Fair

The Central Lyon Elementary/Middle School Media Center will be hosting a

Book Fair

Oct. 11-15

in conjunction with

National Hot Lunch Week



The Book Fair will be open each day from 8:00 - 4:00.

Everyone is welcome!

Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 1 & 2, 2004

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.