

By William Hutchinson,
Superintendent

approximately 100 students. Now our thirteen grades average only 48 students, with the largest class being 61 and the smallest 27. In the early 1960's our district had more than twice as many students as today.

We are hopeful that we are experiencing a leveling or increasing enrollment for the viability of the district. Demographic factors relating to the number of farms, local birth rates, and regional economic development will, to a great extent, determine the future of the Central Lyon Community School District.

TATU



By Mel DeJong, School Nurse

Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) is at work again this year. We presently have seventeen members. In November, the students put up posters around Rock Rapids and Doon reminding people of The Great American Smoke-Out. They will be doing classroom presentations to the elementary in late winter/early spring with the help of Mel De Jong.

You can still make that New Year's resolution to quit smoking. For assistance you can call Health Services of Lyon County at 472-4081 to receive free nicotine patches or Quitline Iowa at 1-866-822-6879 for advice and support.

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Increasing Enrollment

For the first time in several years, the Central Lyon fall enrollment was higher than that of the previous year. On the third Friday of September in 2004 our enrollment was 620 for school age students provided instructional programs by our district. This is an increase of six students over the 2003 fall count of 614. Because Iowa school budgets are driven by student headcount, a stable or increasing enrollment is beneficial to the maintenance of adequate funding.

Veteran residents of our district may remember graduating classes of



The student group, Teens Against Tobacco Use.

Secondary Thoughts

By David Ackerman, Secondary (High School) Principal

I came across an old high school report card of mine the other day. It seems that back in the 1970's and 1980's, my high school gave out a citizenship grade every quarter along with the regular academic grades. Much to my dismay, I discovered that one particular quarter during my sophomore year, I was given a C- for citizenship. My first reaction was – what were those teachers thinking to have given me such a grade? I remember myself as a much better person than someone who would earn a C- in citizenship. How unfair of them!

Upon further reflection however, I came to remember that there were times in high school when I was not necessarily a model student; in fact there may have been a time when that C- in citizenship was a generous gift. Fortunately for me, I had great parents at home. I didn't realize it at the time, of course, but they were adamant reinforcers of acceptable be-

“Young people make mistakes and like to test the limits and boundaries.”

havior, and I do mean adamant. I specifically remember arriving home one day, after a phone call describing my actions had arrived home before I did. My father was lacing his boots to haul me back into town to correct my mistake. There was no “Well, I'm sure you didn't mean to do that”, or “All the other kids get away with it so it's ok” talk. There was just “You'll be making this right, and wait till we get back home; we have several barns that need to be cleaned.” It seems to me I cleaned a few barns by hand in those days.

Flash ahead twenty years and I'm a high school principal; perhaps it's hard to imagine for those who knew me when I was younger. Now it is my job to work with high school students and help them become good citizens.

After many years of working with young people, I have come to realize that they all are great kids with tremendous potential. Young people

make mistakes and like to test the limits and boundaries; it's what kids do. From my principal's chair, I observe students doing great things and students making mistakes. Sometimes it is my job to dole out the punishment for the mistakes, but more important to me than the punishment is taking appropriate steps to see that the student understands why a behavior is wrong and not to repeat it. The real difference, **every time**, is how the parents react to the situation. We all love our kids and we all want them to be treated fairly, but if we get in the habit of bailing out our kids every time they get into trouble, it is my observation that we had better get used to doing it because it will happen often. The most difficult thing we have to do as parents is to make our kids accountable for their mistakes. It is neither popular nor fun, but in the end the results are better.

I know my day is coming. I have four children approaching high school, too, so that is probably enough preaching from me! As always, if you have a concern, feel free to contact us at school.

NHS

By Peggy Groves, NHS Advisor

On November 22, 2004, the National Honor Society held its induction ceremony. Juniors and seniors with a GPA of 3.0 or above were given the opportunity to complete application/information forms. The students who handed in the completed form by the deadline were considered for membership.

Next, a faculty committee chose the new members on the basis of the four National Honor Society qualities: Scholarship, Character, Leadership and Service. Their decision is based on the information provided by the student, along with input from the entire faculty. Four seniors* and fourteen juniors were inducted as new members, joining the nine members that were inducted in 2003.

Current senior members of NHS are Brandon Bloemendaal, Sara Christians*, Drew De Groot*, Andrea Hammer*, Nathan Karasch, Kara Kooiker, Sara Leuthold*, Nick Mans, Jessica Rozeboom, Amy Tuenge, Rachel Unekis, Alisha Ver Steeg and Amanda Word.

*new senior members



New members were announced during this NHS assembly.

The new junior members are Christina Haggar, Andrea Knobloch, Nate Knobloch, Stacey Kracht, Jessa Menning, Miranda Meyer, Caitlin Payne, Natalie Schleusner, Dani Snyders, Diana Steven, Matt Warner, Erin Wibben, Katie Van Wyhe, and Andrew Zachow.

Textiles Class Donates Quilt

By Joann Sheldon, Family & Consumer Science Teacher

Mrs. Sheldon's Textiles class knows the true meaning of giving of themselves. Meah Knight, Melissa Mammenga, Lana Patton, Kim Bos and Rachel Unekis worked together to sew a quilt for a child in need. They all felt that a colorful, homemade quilt could brighten a child's hospital stay. The quilt was made of brightly colored squares surrounded with a blue border. The students chose to embroider the lines from the book *Goodnight Moon* around the border, followed by their names and Central Lyon.

The class took the quilt to the Sioux Valley Hospital's pediatrics department on Dec. 14th. The nurses and staff at Sioux Valley were very impressed with the students' beautiful quilt and their generosity.



The class donated their quilt to the Sioux Valley pediatric department.



Kim Bos and Meah Knight work on the quilt.

JMC Online

By Terry Tausz, High School Guidance Counselor

We are excited to announce that Central Lyon has begun using an online access module with our grade book program, JMC. This module will allow you to keep current on your student's progress in grades 3-12. The parent access module will allow you to check your student's attendance, report cards, and current scores in the grade book. The module will also allow the teacher to post assignments for parents to view and will allow parents to check their information, such as telephone number, address, etc., and to give online notification to the office of needed changes.

Several parents already have filled out a form with the following information:

Parent/guardian name
Student(s) name(s)
Desired password

Please select a password carefully. It should be private enough to be secure. It needs to be at least four digits, and may be letters, numbers, or a combination of the two. You will need to notify the school with your password before we can set up your parent access. To submit your

password, contact Terry Tausz at the high school (472-4051) or e-mail it to him at ttausz@central-lyon.k12.ia.us.

Once we have your password and establish your parent access, you may go to www.central-lyon.k12.ia.us/jmc. Select the appropriate link, either HS or K-8 Access. Log on using your last name as "user name," use the password you have given us and click on "sign-in." At this point you will see your name and address, and you can access any of the links listed below it. If you would like to give us your e-mail address, you may enter it on the parent information page. You can also make other needed changes here. If you make changes or additions, please hit the "submit" button.

If you have already given us your password, it has been entered into the system, and you may go ahead and enter the parent access module of the JMC program. If there is a problem accessing your student's information, please contact us.

We hope you will find this parent module helpful as you monitor your student's grades, progress, and attendance.



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ACT Notes By Terry Tausz,
High School Guidance Counselor

Juniors who are considering taking the ACT test were given registration materials prior to the winter break. They were encouraged to take the test on either April 9 or June 11. Check the early registration deadlines.

The ACT is generally used by four-year colleges and some nursing schools as part of the entrance requirements. Students planning to attend a vocational/technical program or specialty school usually will not be required to take the ACT. Please call or email me if you have any questions concerning the ACT test.

Financial Aid Notes



In December, juniors were offered a book by Peterson's Guides called *Get a Jump! The Financial Aid Answer Book*. This is a great resource for parents and students who will be applying for financial aid next year. The cost would be \$14.95 if purchased at a bookstore, but several copies are available to our students FREE OF CHARGE! If you are a parent of a junior student, have you seen this book? If not, ask your student about it.

For the second year we have made arrangements for the College Planning Center in Des Moines to come to Central Lyon to provide a FREE service to senior parents and students. They will be assisting seniors in filing the FAFSA online. Information was given to seniors in December, and their parents were sent letters in January informing them of this free opportunity which will take place on February 14.

Students Score Well on Standardized Tests

By Terry Tausz, High School Guidance Counselor
& Toby Lorenzen, Elem/MS Success Coordinator

During the months of October and November, students in grades two through eleven took the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (grades 2-8) and the Iowa Tests of Educational Development (grades 9-11.) Individual results were sent home to parents/guardians. The table below contains the results by grade level.

Grade	IGE	NGE	IPR	NPR
2nd	2.3	2.7	66	86
3rd	3.6	4.3	87	98
4th	4.5	5.5	73	94
5th	5.8	7.2	86	96
6th	6.9	7.9	76	89
7th	8.2	9.7	86	92
8th	9.7	11.4	89	93
9th	10.8		92	
10th	11.4		88	
11th	12.7		88	

IGE stands for Iowa Grade Equivalent.

NGE stands for National Grade Equivalent.

These scores are useful when measuring individual grade growth. For example, our 8th grade students had an overall IGE of 9.7. This score is comparable to that of a typical student finishing the 7th month of 9th grade.

IPR stands for Iowa Percentile Rank.

NPR stands for National Percentile Rank.

These scores show the standing or rank order of the Central Lyon grade groups compared with similar grade groups throughout Iowa and the nation. For example, our 9th grade students had an IPR of 92%. This means they scored as well or higher than 92% of the other 9th graders in the state of Iowa.

Our students' scores were awesome. As a group, every grade scored above average. Everyone at Central Lyon is extremely proud of these results.



Point, Click, & WHAT?

Do you realize that your child can purchase beer, wine, and liquor over the Internet by using three simple steps—point, click, and drink? Incredible as it sounds, minors are easily purchasing alcohol online.

There are countless web sites that sell alcohol without checking the age of the buyer, thus giving young people an easy way to obtain alcohol. Recent enforcement actions at



the state level have documented online alcohol sellers and overnight delivery companies selling and delivering alcohol to kids.

You can help protect your children from these web sites by signing a petition we will have available at parent-teacher conferences on February 16 and 17. We will then forward your signatures to the appropriate state lawmakers.

Principal's Perspective

By Dan Kruse, Elementary/Middle School Principal

Greetings from the elementary/middle school principal's office. The third nine weeks of the school year is in full swing. When you look at the school calendar, it's hard to find a night when there isn't something going on. We really appreciate your support of all school activities.

By now all of you have read or heard something about the tsunami disaster. Several of our school personnel were having a discussion recently about what we as a school could do to help in the relief effort. It was decided to let the K-12 students wear hats in school for a day. The cost for wearing a hat



Students participated in the fundraiser by paying \$1 to wear a hat.



was one dollar. The response we got from our students and staff members was overwhelming. The amount raised in the elementary and middle school was \$750.00. Donations from the high school and community totaled over \$600.00. The response was awesome. The students enjoyed wearing hats, and, as you can see in the pictures, some were quite unique. The money was donated to the Red Cross.

This effort shows again what can happen when the school and community work together. Thanks for all of your support. This was a proud day for everyone involved in the Central Lyon Community School District.

What's Happening in Eighth Grade Science?

By Jerry Pytleski, Middle School Science Teacher

The eighth grade earth science students are studying information on why many countries around the Indian Ocean are dealing with the disaster caused by the tsunami.

An earthquake in the Indian Ocean sent out seismic waves in all directions causing water molecules to bump into each other, and causing a chain reaction that created a huge tidal wave. The word tsunami is a Japanese word meaning "harbor wave." Some, but not all, earthquakes that occur on the ocean floor create tsunamis. Earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanoes are similar in that they are all very hard to predict.

The earth is broken up into many different pieces called plates that fit together like pieces of a puzzle. These plates move in relationship to each other on a partially melted layer of rock called the asthenosphere. These plates come into contact with each other to create tectonic plate boundaries. It is at

these plate boundaries that most of the volcanic and earthquake activity occurs.

In our unit on plate tectonics, the students will be working individually and cooperatively on different projects dealing with earthquakes, volcanoes, and tectonic plate movement. The students will be able to locate an earthquake's epicenter, to build a scale model of a volcano, and to simulate the speed at which a plate moves. To end the unit, the students will put together a hyperstudio presentation that will include researched information, pictures, animations, and even downloaded videos about how plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanoes are related to each other. Working on the computer and on different hands-on projects stimulates learning that otherwise is not achieved. This unit places the students in many different educational situations that the students not only learn from, but also enjoy.

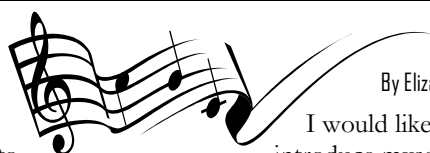


New Ceramic Kiln

By Rhoda Lange, Elem/MS Art Teacher

Hats off to the Parent-Teacher Council (PTC). During the past five years, the PTC has awarded money to a continuing fund for the purchase of a new kiln and ceramic supplies for the elementary/middle school art program. Their effort and the public's support during the academic fair suppers have made this goal a reality.

Elementary and middle school art students are now enjoying a new, automatic ceramic kiln. They are learning various methods of constructing ceramics and experimenting with glazing. What enthusiasm when the students see their glazed projects for the first time! It was certainly worth the wait.



Music

By Elizabeth Nebelsick, Elem Music Teacher

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the Rock Rapids community as a new teacher in the Central Lyon School District. I am Elizabeth Nebelsick, and I teach general music to the kindergarten through fourth grade students. I graduated from the University of Sioux Falls. My husband Dan works at DeWild, Grant, Reckert, and Associates. We absolutely love our new town and home, Rock Rapids. It has been a pleasure to work with the staff and students of this school.

Music at Central Lyon Elementary is thriving. The year began with the keyboard unit where each student gets to play his or her

own keyboard for six weeks. Students in kindergarten began to learn to read rhythms and play melodies! First and second grade students learned to play melodies such as "Merrily We Roll Along" and "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas." Third and fourth grade students got a taste of solo recital performance by playing a selected piece for their class on the grand piano. The recital turned out to be the favorite event for many students.

On December 7, 2004, Central Lyon third, fourth, and fifth grade students performed a wonderful holiday concert in the high school auditorium. Students displayed performance skills with singing, instruments, and a little choreography. The kindergarten through second grade students will get to "show their stuff" on May 10, 2005. They will have a short concert in the high school auditorium at 10:00 a.m. Please take note of the date and plan to come. It is sure to be a charming performance!

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

The one thing that goes along with Christmas in second grade is Santa BINGO. Now this isn't just any BINGO; it's very special because it teaches students all about Christmas. It's a rousing, educational game for young and old...and of course reindeer.

Each card is filled with many Christmas traditions like ornaments, the three wise men, Santa Claus, and Bethlehem, just to name a few. The students not only learn about our traditions but also about the traditions of other countries. One of the squares on the BINGO card is the mistletoe square, but maybe the second graders will have to learn about that when they're older! This year the second grade students wanted to share this fun, yet educational, Santa BINGO game with their friends in kindergarten.

Currently, the kindergarten and second grade students are reading to each other from their favorite books. It's just another way they get to learn from each other.

By Linda DeBoer, Second Grade Teacher



Second graders play Santa BINGO.

Fourth Grade Science News

By Geneva Grooters, Fourth Grade Teacher

In our first science unit we investigated animals; we learned about their basic needs, their behaviors, and body parts, which help them meet those needs. Rochelle Ebel, Lyon County Naturalist, brought a sample of fur skins from mammals in Northwest Iowa. She taught us about their special adaptations and survival skills. We also toured the Prairie Heights Bison Ranch north of Luverne and the Brandenburg Art Gallery. We learned many interesting features of the bison at the ranch and the arctic wolves at the art gallery.



We recently did a unit on the weather and observed weather elements such as air pressure, wind velocity, relative humidity, temperature, and cloud formation. Jerrid Sebesta, a meteorologist from the KDLT First Alert Storm Team, was invited to visit our classroom. He explained the process of preparing a forecast and the techniques used in giving it.



Jerrid Sebesta entertained and informed fourth grade students about his career.

In our next unit we will study the properties of matter. Following that we will explore electricity and magnetism. We'll be making electric circuits (parallel and series), testing materials to determine which ones conduct electricity, and learning about electrical safety. We are planning to have the Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative give a demonstration on safety issues. We will also tour the Rock Rapids Utilities building and learn how electricity is produced and brought to our area.

We Love Our Nursery Rhymes!

By Julie Boekhout,
Kindergarten Teacher



Mrs. Boekhout's students are dressed as their favorite nursery rhymes.

One of the many fun units that we are able to share with our students in kindergarten is our nursery rhyme unit. For two weeks in October, we coordinated activities for several nursery rhymes and completed our unit by encouraging the students to memorize their rhyme and dress-up for the annual Halloween parade. This activity is an exciting, educational replacement for traditional Halloween costumes that were worn in past years.

As you can see by all the smiles, everyone enjoyed the character he or she portrayed. We are always impressed with how creative and helpful the parents are with this activity. Mother Goose even manages to make her appearance at the parade every year to see all of her darling little nursery rhymes.

Note Worthy Dates

✓ End of Third Quarter—high school	2/25
✓ Wrestling Banquet	3/1
✓ Parade of Bands Concert	3/3
✓ IE District Speech	3/5
✓ PTC Soup/Academic Fair	3/10
✓ HS Mock Trial Regional	3/12
✓ Kindergarten Round-Up	3/17
✓ Vocal Concert 6-12	3/17
✓ State IE Speech Contest	3/19
✓ FFA Banquet	3/21
✓ Boys' Basketball Banquet	3/22
✓ Prom	4/1
✓ Swing Show	4/22

Parent Teacher Conferences



Wednesday, February 16
Thursday, February 17
5:30—8:30 p.m.



No School

on the following dates:

Staff Development Days

2/7, 3/7, 4/18

Presidents' Day 2/18-21

Spring Break 3/25– 28