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Co-Curricular Involvement

By Superintendent David Ackerman

I have come to the realization that my parents were really quite wise. I remember sitting at the supper table about twenty five years ago. As part of our nightly conversations, I was asked how basketball was going. I started to complain about the hard practices and the “unreasonable” demands of my coach. About midway through my speech, my father stopped me. He said, “Playing basketball is optional. If you are going to play, then be prepared to sacrifice, but don’t ever complain to me about something you’ve chosen to do again.” My mother concurred. My father isn’t a man of many words, but those words stuck with me. My parents knew that you don’t always get what you want, but they knew that sometimes in order to grow, you have to struggle back from life’s setbacks and learn to work hard. As a parent myself, I find it difficult, even excruciating, to watch when our children suffer any kind of failure. We all want things better for our kids than we had. But it is my opinion that our children will be better off suffering some failure now and learning to rebound with our guidance than to learn it

the hard way later in the “real” world.

Both parenting and teaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to know what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication. I have included tips for communicating with school sponsors/coaches on page four of this newsletter.

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities and programs has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this newsletter makes both your child’s and your experience with the co-curricular activities less stressful and more enjoyable.

Purple and Gold Spirit

By Eldon Maxwell, Athletic Director

Where has the season gone? It seems as if yesterday we were hosting our first basketball game or wrestling match. After observing many games and matches, I have come to a conclusion—we have a great student body supporting our team sports. It doesn’t matter if we’re home or away, our student body is there in numbers and spirit. What a thrill for me as an athletic director! Our students have fun at matches and ballgames. They exhibit what I would call “purple and gold spirit.” They go to games and matches to get involved and to cheer on our teams. I can tell you that our players and wrestlers appreciate the spirit these young fans bring into the gym. My compliments to our student body. Keep up the great job.



Fans cheer on the Lions.

May Term

By Curt Busch, Secondary (High School) Principal

It is hard to believe that at the time of this writing we are approaching the end of our third quarter. February 23 will be the last day of our third quarter. As we look ahead, we are planning for our May Term schedule. May Term has been in existence for approximately ten years at Central Lyon High School. During the month of February students in grades nine through twelve registered for May Term classes. There are a handful of classes that continue from the previous curriculum into the May Term schedule; however, most classes offered present an entirely different course structure. Staff and students who have participated in this schedule in the past look forward to the change of schedule. May Term allows for many hands-on types of projects that would not be possible under our current schedule. The May Term schedule will begin on April 28 and conclude on our last day of school, May 25.

“The value of efficient readers cannot be emphasized enough ...”

READING PROGRAM

The faculty advisory committee at Central Lyon High School is recommending a reading program to be implemented during the 2006-2007 school year. The committee submitted three proposals to the staff and school board for their review. A committee of teachers has prepared guidelines for the program next year. The name for the program will be DEAR. This acronym stands for Drop Everything And Read. The committee of teachers includes Cindy DeWandel, Jan Meester, Sadie Solem and Darcy Bye.

The faculty advisory has recommended a week-long trial schedule to prepare the students for this program during the early part of March. The length of the reading time will be approximately 13 minutes each day. Students will be required to take a recreational reading book to class during their reading time. The value of efficient readers cannot be emphasized enough for the success of students across the curriculum.

FEBRUARY IN-SERVICE

On February 6 the Central Lyon High School staff participated in a follow up in-service program presented by our Area Education Association. The topic was nonlinguistic representation.

During the morning hours of February 6, the staff observed neighboring schools implementing best practice strategies in their classrooms. In the afternoon the staff revisited the five areas of nonlinguistic representation and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of this approach in their classrooms.



Jazz Band Successful in New Class

By Sherwin Langholdt, High School Band Director

Congratulations to the Central Lyon High School Jazz Band I. They placed second at the Northwest Iowa District Jazz Band Contest held at Morning-side College in Sioux City on Thursday, February 2. This placing qualified the band for the State Jazz Championships for the fourth consecutive year. The competition was especially strong this year, as the band was competing in Class 2A for the first time. They will compete at the State Jazz Championships in Des Moines on April 18.



The jazz band relaxes after their state-qualifying performance.

Books, Books, Books

By Dwayne Postma, FFA Advisor

In October Rock Rapids Public Library board member Rhoda Lange—also a teacher at Central Lyon—approached Central Lyon FFA members to check our interest in assisting the library with re-carpeting their floor. What the library board was in need of was a bunch of eager and energetic young people to relocate between 33,000-36,000 books from the main floor of the library to the basement floor while the carpet was installed on the main floor. A large quantity of library furniture also needed to be relocated. After a

great deal of planning and organizing, the FFA began the project on November 4 and continued through November 16. Throughout this time period during after school hours, Saturdays, and no school days, 22 FFA members, along with Mr. Postma, logged over 180 man hours and relocated well over 30,000 books plus furniture to the basement and back again. According to Dwayne Postma, the CL FFA advisor, “It was a great display of leadership, organization, commitment, teamwork, and work ethic by the Central Lyon FFA members.” He also added how refreshing it was to see a group of young people step up and assist the local library. A special thanks from the Central Lyon FFA goes out to librarians Linda McCormack and Glenda Hellenga and to board members/teachers Mrs. Lange and Mrs. DeJongh.



FFA students moved thousands of books for the public library.

Marketing Class on the Radio

By Christina Hagggar, Business Marketing Student

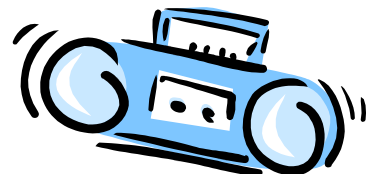
This year Mrs. Snyders’ first semester marketing class worked on a project to promote the remodeling of Pizza Ranch. The class, which was divided into groups, created flyers to distribute to customers promoting the new ranch. Pizza Ranch manager Schyuler Noteboom visited school several times to talk with the class (throughout the semester.) He used every flyer and individual idea that the class created.

The class also wrote and recorded radio spots for the Pizza Ranch. The radio ads were very enlightening to do. Jackie Jenkins, Dani Snyders, Christina Hagggar, and Karli McDonald wrote the ads and worked with Sarah Swartz to perfect them. Christina, Dani, and Karli then recorded the radio spots under the guidance of Sarah. These ads informing of the remodeling and promoting a weekend special at the Pizza Ranch were aired throughout the month of January on KQAD radio.

Congratulations to the marketing class on a great semester and to Pizza Ranch for an exciting new ranch!



Sara Swartz helps student Christina Hagggar record a radio spot, as Dani Snyders and Karli McDonald wait their turn.



HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Financial Aid

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



For the third consecutive year, the College Planning Center in West Des Moines came to Central Lyon to assist parents with filing the FAFSA online. Families of ten seniors utilized this free service on Monday, February 13.

Now available from the guidance office is the paper application for the 2006-2007 FAFSA. For those who will file the FAFSA online, there is a new 2006-2007 FAFSA ON THE WEB WORKSHEET. Either of these items may be obtained from the guidance office.

ACT Notes

Juniors interested in taking the ACT test during the 05-06 school year were given registration material during the fall semester. They were encouraged to take the test on either April 8 or June 10—several of them choose to take it earlier. If your student is planning to take the test in April or June, mail the material by the early registration deadline, or there will be an \$18 late registration fee added to the \$29 basic fee. Please keep in mind that registration for the ACT can also take place online. There is a big push for students to do that. Online registration can have a faster turn around time in processing the application.

The ACT is generally used by four year colleges and some nursing schools as part of their entrance requirements. Students who plan 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.

Tips for Parent/School Communication

By Superintendent David Ackerman

Communication you should expect from your child's coach/sponsor:

- Philosophy of the coach/sponsor.
- Expectations for your child as well as for all the members on the squad.
- Locations and times of practices and contests.
- Team requirements i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
- Procedure, should your child become injured during participation.
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- Concern expressed directly to the coach/sponsor.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concerns in regard to philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the programs at the Central Lyon Community School District, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way a student would like. At those times discussion with the coach is encouraged. In order to promote open communications, the first step of the process is for the student to approach his or her coach/sponsor about concerns. This is important because not only will it open communication, but it also teaches students self reliance and promotes self determination. If this step does not accomplish the desired results, the next step is parent contact of the coach/sponsor.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches/sponsors:

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

Judgment decisions left to the discretion of the coach/sponsor:

- Student roles
- Participation/playing time
- Team strategy/play calling/casting

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach/sponsor and the parents. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach/sponsor, the procedure you should follow:

- Call the school to set up an appointment with the coach or sponsor.
- If the coach/sponsor cannot be reached, call the Activities Director, ElDon Maxwell (472-4051). He will set up the meeting for you.
- Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions.

The next step—what can a parent do if the meeting did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

- Call and set up an appointment with the Activities Director to discuss the situation.
- At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

Students Score Well on Standardized Tests

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

During the last weeks of October, 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 at the high school level, and were distributed at parent teacher conferences at the elementary/middle school level.. The table below contains the results by grade level.

Grade	IGE	NGE	IPR	NPR
2nd	2.5	2.8	77	92
3rd	4.0	4.6	98	99
4th	5.2	6.3	97	99
5th	5.6	6.8	73	92
6th	7.5	8.4	91	95
7th	8.2	9.8	88	93
8th	8.5	10.3	65	83
9th	10.8		92	
10th	12.4		95	
11th	11.8		74	

IGE stands for Iowa Grade Equivalent.

NGE stands for National Grade Equivalent.

These scores are useful when measuring individual grade growth. For example, our 6th grade students had an overall IGE of 7.5. This score is comparable to that of a typical student finishing the 5th month of 7th 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 6th grade students had an IPR of 91%. This means they scored as well or higher than 91% of the other 6th graders in the state of Iowa.

Our students' scores were awesome, with every grade scoring above average. Everyone at Central Lyon is extremely proud of our students and their efforts.

Central Lyon School Foundation

By M.R. Austin, Central Lyon Foundation Secretary

The Foundation held its Fourth Annual Fund-raising Campaign at the Forster Community Center on Saturday, October 29, 2005, with approximately 180 foundation supporters in attendance. The main speaker for the evening was Bruce Bruggmann of San Francisco, CA., a 1953 graduate of Rock Rapids High School. Bruce and his wife Jean founded the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, an independent alternative weekly paper, in 1966 and still operate the paper today. Tom Meester, a 2001 Central Lyon graduate, also addressed the foundation supporters. In 2005 Tom won his second straight NCAA Division II National Wrestling Championship for Augustana College of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

It was announced at the banquet that the fall 2005 fund-raising campaign had raised approximately \$38,000.00. The previous years' fund-raising campaigns had raised approximately

\$30,000.00. The Foundation Board decided that approximately half of the funds raised will be used for current needs at Central Lyon School and half will be set aside in the permanent endowment fund. In the next few weeks, the Foundation Board will be making decisions on how the funds for current Central Lyon needs will be allocated. In 2005, \$10,000 was contributed to Central Lyon to be used in an extensive project to upgrade technology, \$2,160 was expended for "Lion Grants" to individual teachers for special projects, and \$375 was provided to the school for the Title I Reading Program.

In the spring of 2004, the Foundation established a chapter of the National Dollars For Scholars Program under the name of Central Lyon Dollars for Scholars.

Scholarships awarded 2005-06 school year	<u>DGR Scholarship</u> Daniel Stewart \$2,000.00 Iowa State University	<u>Central Lyon School Foundation, Inc. Scholarship</u> Nick Mans \$500.00 University of Sioux Falls Kara Kooiker \$500.00 University of Sioux Falls
	<u>Stewart Family Scholarship</u> Chris Leuthold \$500.00 Minn. West Technical College	<u>Glascok - Benson Scholarship</u> Megan DeKam \$500.00 Des Moines University Sara Christians \$500.00 Southeast Technical Institute
	<u>Mary Ellen Roach Sinclair 4-H Scholarship</u> Jennifer Roemen \$200.00 Augustana College	<u>Rock Rapids Business Women Scholarship</u> Alissa Versteeg \$300.00 Augustana College Nathan Karash \$300.00 McNally Smith College of Music Danny Rockhill \$300.00 Morningside College
	<u>Arnold & Bernice Dickinson Memorial Scholarship</u> Andrea Hammer \$500.00 University of South Dakota	
	<u>Ellen O. Johnson Education Scholarship</u> Kate Boeve \$500.00 Morningside College Emily Vander Lee \$500.00 Wayne State College	<u>DeBerg Brothers Scholarship</u> Danny Rockhill \$500.00 Morningside College Amy Tuenge \$500.00 South Dakota State University

New Transitional Kindergarten

Greetings everyone from the elementary/middle school principal's office. Our third quarter is well underway. It's hard to believe, but we are already starting to make plans for the 2006-2007 school year.

One new program we plan to offer next year is transitional kindergarten. This program is designed for children who will be five years of age on or before September 15 whose parents have chosen not to send them to kindergarten. Some of the most common reasons for not sending a five year old to kindergarten are summer birthdays, behavior or social concerns, immaturity or ability, or recommendations from pre-school or day care staff. Transitional kindergarten, also known as "TK" will be held two full days a week. Normal school hours for elementary students are 8:20-3:15. The only costs involved with

By Dan Kruse, Elementary/Middle School Principal

a TK program will be school registration fees, which include lunch, milk, etc. Normal school transportation procedures will be followed. Current plans are to offer sites in Rock Rapids and Doon if numbers allow. A minimum of five is needed at each site.

The Central Lyon TK program will be implemented to assist children in developing emotionally, socially, physically, and intellectually. Our main goal of the program is maintain and extend a child's desire to learn. A certified teacher will be hired. Our current kindergarten teachers will be directly involved in the development of the curriculum. This program will provide a positive learning experience for your child. There will be a meeting for anyone interested in TK on March 16, the same day as Kindergarten Round Up. If you have questions or want to enroll your child in the program, please call me at 472-4041.

Recycling for Rocket Project

By Jerry Pytleski,
Middle School Science Teacher



Middle school students sort cans.

In September of 2005, the seventh and eighth grade students conducted a can drive to raise funds for rockets that would be used during an aerodynamics unit in the spring. The idea for the recycling project came from students two years ago. While the students in eighth grade earth science class studied a unit on conservation, we decided to help conserve some of earth's resources by holding a can drive twice a year. We could then use the money from the can drive to offset the costs of the rockets we would need for the next unit on aerodynamics.

During the aerodynamics unit, the students studied topics such as Newton's Laws of Motion, how to reduce friction, velocity, and speed. The students learn how to find the speed of an object by using a mathematical formula. They work with computer simulations on some of the different aerodynamic topics as well. Building model rockets purchased with the funds raised by the can drive is the highlight of the unit. Most of the information the students learned during the aerodynamics unit was directly related to the rockets the students were to build. The unit ends with the launch of the rockets. Each of the rockets has a certain altitude it is able to fly. An altitude finder helps the students see how well their rockets were constructed in terms of aerodynamic quality. Using the approximate altitude and the time it took the rocket to reach its maximum altitude, the students are able to compute the approximate speed of their rocket.

The students learn a variety of things during both the conservation and aerodynamics units. From the gathering and counting of cans to the launch of the rockets, the students are engaged in cooperative, hands-on projects that were educational and fun.

The Magic of Reading

By Michelle Van Wyhe, Title I Reading Teacher

Last fall, the Title I students and their families were entertained by Mr. Twister. He performed a show called, "The Magic of Reading." After a meal of pizza and juice, Mr. Twister interacted with the students by performing an entertaining and educational show. The show was filled with twisted balloons, magic tricks, reading trivia and fun with a reading slant!



Mr. Twister kept the attention of students with balloons.

Persuasive Writing

By Geneva Grooters, Fourth Grade Teacher

Representative Dwayne Alons visited the Central Lyon School District on Friday, January 20. The fourth grade students invited him to their classroom. They have been studying the three branches of our government. Before his visit the students brainstormed ideas for new laws to make Iowa a better state. After the discussion, the students wrote letters persuading Mr. Alons to work on topics such as more funding for public schools, children with special needs, improvements on roads, recycling in the rural areas, smoke free establishments, anti-bullying laws,

boating regulations, animal control, and the legal smoking age. Mr. Alons talked to the class about his experiences as a legislator and gave the students an opportunity to ask questions.

The fourth grade students received a response letter from Mr. Alons. He addressed their concerns and assured them that when these important issues arise, he will remember their views. He encouraged them to continue involvement in the political process.

We Don't Monkey Around—We Read!

By Nancy DeJongh, Elementary/Middle School Media Specialist



The theme of the February reading program in the elementary classes was based on the movie *Curious George*, which debuted February 10. The program was kicked off on February 7 with an assembly featuring Curious George and “the man in the yellow hat.” Students viewed a video and enjoyed “banana” treats. The cooks joined in the celebration by serving a lunch based on the book *Curious George Makes Pancakes*.

During the month students were encouraged to read and record those minutes on balloons that were displayed on a special bulletin board in each classroom. At the program's end everyone was encouraged to dress up relating to Curious George stories. All students that met their reading goals enjoyed ice cream or banana split treats. Students with total reading time in the top third for their grade were entered into a drawing for a free ticket to *Curious George-the Movie*.

Students enjoyed the month and went “bananas” reading.



Principal Kruse introduces Curious George to elementary students.

Clip, Shop, & Charge

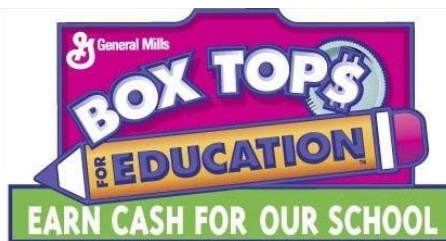
Clip

1. Clip Box Tops

Clip Box Tops from hundreds of General Mills food and grocery products.

2. Bring Box Tops to School

We receive 10 cents for every Box Top redeemed. We earned almost \$800 last year!



All of the proceeds from these programs go directly back into the classroom to purchase supplies.

Shop Online

1. **Join the Box Tops Booster Club** at the General Mills website: boxtops4education.com

It's so simple. It's free and has lots of rewards! Be sure to designate **Central Lyon Elementary** as your school.

2. **Start every Online shopping Trip at boxtops4education.com**

Click on SHOP or MARKETPLACE link; choose where you'd like to shop from over **200 merchants**; you will automatically be connected to the merchant's website...from then on it's like normal online shopping!

We automatically receive up to 8% of your online purchase - at no additional cost to you!

Charge

Visit boxtops4education.com to apply for the Box Tops for Education Visa Card. A full 1% of every purchase you make with this VISA card goes back to our school.

SAVE the caps from gallons of LAND O LAKES Milk, Orange Juice and Chocolate Milk with the **Save Five For Schools** sticker on them. (Do not remove the sticker.) You can drop off the caps at either the elementary or high school office. We earn 5 cents for every cap we send in!



Note Worthy Dates

- ✓ PTC Soup & Academic Fair 3/9
- ✓ Kindergarten & TK Roundup 3/16
- ✓ **No School (spring break)** 4/14-17
- ✓ **No School** (staff development) 4/24
- ✓ Prom 4/28
- ✓ 5-8 Fine Arts Festival/Concert 5/11
- ✓ Baccalaureate 5/14
- ✓ Awards Day (last day for seniors) 5/17
- ✓ High School Fine Arts Festival 5/16
- ✓ Commencement 5/21
- ✓ All-School Play 5/23
- ✓ Elementary Track & Field Day 5/23
- ✓ **Last Day of School—1:00 dismissal 5/25**

new!

Transitional Kindergarten

Classrooms in Doon and Rock Rapids

Students must be 5 years old by Sept. 15

2006-07 Kindergarten & TK Round-Up

Thursday, March 16, 1:00 P.M.

Central Lyon Elementary/MS Media Center



Historical Plaza Update

Phase I and Phase II of the Historical Plaza located on the grounds of the Central Lyon Activities Center have been completed. As soon as the funds are available, the final phase of the project's construction, Phase III, will begin. Phase III consists of erecting the limestone door surrounds, which were salvaged from the original high school building, to create an archway at the entrance of the plaza.

The Historical Plaza committee continues to sell engraved bricks, pavers, and benches which will be placed at the site to fund the project. To date, one hundred seventy five bricks, ninety-nine 8x8 pavers, nineteen 8x12 pavers, six 8x16 pavers, and two benches have been sold to the community and alumni. If you are interested in making a purchase or donation for this project, contact a committee member—Tom Gaspar, Karen Heitshusen, Judy Gacke, Sue Boogerd, Pam Tille, or Marla Freese. For further information, please contact Central Lyon School's central office at 472-2664.