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Financial Update

By David Ackerman, High School Principal

On Monday, April 11, 2005, the Central Lyon School Board approved the budget for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. What is particularly significant about this annual ritual is that for the upcoming fiscal year, property taxes will decrease in the Central Lyon School District by approximately \$.98 per \$1000 of taxable valuation. The approved budget for the 2004-2005 fiscal year was \$15.51081 per \$1000 of valuation while the rate for the 2005-2006 fiscal year is estimated at \$14.5254 per \$1000.

The major contributor to the reduction in property taxes is the implementation of the voter approved one cent sales tax or SILO (School Infrastructure Local Option Sales Tax) which is in place county-wide. During the current fiscal year, the revenue from the SILO generated approximately \$190,000, which is funneled directly to debt service. The debt service account is the fund which makes payment on the bonds that paid for the construction of the new high school building.

Revenues from the SILO tax will continue to come to the district for a total of ten years, but due to variances in sales, the amount will also vary from year to year. As indicated on the referendum ballot, Central Lyon will continue to utilize these funds exclusively for debt service reduction.

On another financial note, Central Lyon was the fortunate recipient of more than \$64,000 from the Harold and Edna Jongewaard Estate. This generous gift was given with the provision that it be used for the benefit of the students. Our plan for this monetary gift is to apply it to the purchase of computers and technology over the next four years. The equipment purchased with this endowment will be utilized by all students K-12. The entire Central Lyon community wishes to publicly thank the Jongewaard family for their generous contribution to the students of Central Lyon.

Website's New Look

By Denise Snyders, High School Business Teacher



Our school's website is created by students in a semester class called Web Page Design. Students who exhibit talent and are highly interested in web design

have the opportunity to serve as student webmasters. Webmasters are entrusted with a variety of responsibilities, including proofing, editing, and uploading student-created web pages.

The current webmasters, Matt Stewart and Tyler Lupkes, have been working on redesigning the look and navigation of the website. Although it was a combined effort, Tyler was primarily responsible for the navigation and Matt for the design, or look, of the page.

These student webmasters have exhibited superior leadership and talent in these roles. Look for their work and Central Lyon's website's new look at www.central-lyon.k12.ia.us. The updated design will be available in mid-May.



Matt Stewart and Tyler Lupkes are webmasters the second semester.

Secondary Thoughts

By David Ackerman, Secondary (High School) Principal

HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

This is the last article that I write as the secondary principal of Central Lyon. Next year, I will be writing from the desk of the superintendent. I find it hard to believe that four years have passed so quickly. So much has been accomplished, yet so much remains to be done. As we all know, education is not a destination, but a journey.

There are two statements I wish to make as I vacate this position. First of all, Central Lyon has great kids. Sometimes as principal, I am viewed as the person who is the disciplinarian of the district. Some might even argue that I enjoy doling out the disciplinary

measures. In truth, I don't enjoy discipline situations, but I do enjoy seeing students making good decisions, and succeeding. Discipline issues are truly rare in the high school, and I like to think it is because our culture is "to do the right thing because it is right, rather than out of fear of the punishment." We have great kids doing great things every day for which they

"...the school district exists for them."

don't always get credit. Every day I witness many acts of kindness and courtesy from our students. I am proud of them, and it is with great pride that I tell people I am the principal at Central Lyon. One thing I know I will miss as superintendent is the amount of contact I have with the students. It will be a goal of mine to keep as much contact as I can with

the students, because the school district exists for them.

The second statement I wish to make is that we have a great school system. Central Lyon has a culture of high expectations on all levels. This was the tradition long before I arrived, and it is critical that we continue this tradition. I believe that many dedicated staff members and community people had, and still continue to have a large role in this. Every year, the new freshmen come in from the middle school, and we are always pleased at their level of preparation. We are committed to being a K-12 educational example of best educational practices. Our goal continues to be to provide an education and the opportunity for all students to become productive, life-long learners.

As always, please contact us anytime. We are the Central Lyon COMMUNITY School.

Individual Speech

By Jan Meester, Individual Speech Advisor



Jennifer performed at All-State

On Saturday, March 5, the Central Lyon speech students performed at the district contest at Hartley, Iowa. Fourteen students in eighteen entries advanced to state competition. They traveled to Fort Dodge, Iowa, on March 19 to participate in the state contest held on the

Iowa Central Community College Campus.

Central Lyon came home from the very competitive event with seven 'P' ratings. On Monday, March 21, Jennifer Roemen was named an outstanding performer for her prose selection "The Garage Sale" by Erma Bombeck. She performed at the All-State Festival on the UNI campus on Monday, April 4.

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the speech program this year. The future looks bright for Central Lyon "Speechies."



A group of individual speech participants pose for a picture.

Jazz Band Competes

By Sherwin Langholdt, High School Band Director



The Central Lyon High School Jazz Band I had an excellent competitive season for the 2004-2005 school year, showing great improvement with each performance. Their first competition was held on January 26 at Iowa Lakes Community College in Estherville. The jazz band competed in Class 1A along with eight other area schools. They placed second in their class and also received many individual outstanding soloist awards.

The band participated in their second performance on February 7 at Morningside College in Sioux City. They were judged in two categories for this contest. Overall awards



Mr. Langholdt and Nathan Karasch pose with the band's state trophy.

were given for each class, and the top two bands were also chosen from each class for the Northwest Iowa District. Our jazz band finished first overall in their class, and first in the Northwest Iowa District class. This first place finish allowed them to qualify for participation in the Iowa Jazz Championships.

The jazz band just returned from the Iowa State Jazz Championships with a fifth place finish. In addition, two individuals received outstanding musician awards—Nathan Karasch on trumpet and René Riewer on bass guitar. This is only the third year of competition for the jazz band, and they have qualified for the state championships all three years. The band also finished fifth at the Jazz Championships last year and seventh in 2003.

To end the season, the Jazz Band I was featured at the Central Lyon High School Swing Show on April 22. Also performing at the Swing Show were the high school Jazz Choir, Swing Choir, and the Jazz Band II. Congratulations to all of the band members for an outstanding season!



Seniors Nathan Karasch and Brandon Bloemendaal were frequent soloists.



Booster Club News

This year the Frontier Bank formed the Century Club with the Central Lyon Booster Club. This club was formed to monetarily reward the booster club for athletic success. If any week's scores of the varsity boys' and girls' basketball games plus the varsity wrestling dual score totaled 100 points or more, Frontier Bank donated \$100 to the Central Lyon Booster Club.

On Tuesday, February 22, Frontier Bank presented the Central Lyon Booster Club a season total check of \$1200. We want to thank Frontier Bank for the donation and for their continuing help in supporting the Central Lyon Booster Club.

Another Successful Whopper Feed

The Central Lyon Education Association would like to thank everyone who attended our annual Whopper Feed in January. We had a successful fundraiser again this year, and our organization has donated \$500 to the Central Lyon Foundation.

Without community support, this donation would not be possible. We appreciate the continued support that we have received for this event and look forward to seeing you at our fundraiser again next year. Again, thanks for everything that you, the community, do for our school district.

Financial Aid Notes

By Terry Tausz, High School Guidance Counselor

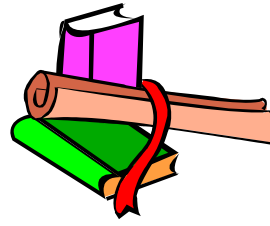
Eleven families recently took advantage of the free service provided by the representatives from College Planning Center in West Des Moines. On Monday, February 14, these families received help filing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). We hope to bring the College Planning Center back next year to again provide this service.

PLAN & PSAT

Current freshmen and sophomore students should consider taking a college-preparation test next year. Parents should encourage their son/daughter to take the PLAN Test as a sophomore and the PSAT Test as a junior. Both tests are excellent preparation for the college-bound student who will be taking the ACT Test for college entrance.

The tests are typically given on a Saturday morning in either October or early November. These tests are optional and will incur a cost to the student. The guidance office will provide more information to the students as it is received.

Final Transcripts & Scholarships



In preparation for college, seniors should provide the guidance office with the following information:

1. **Name of post-secondary school attending.**
2. **Scholarship awards received.**

Final transcripts for seniors will be sent out the first week of June to the college he/she plans to attend. If the college has not received the final transcript by June 10, please give Mr. Tausz a call at 712-472-4051.

So that the scholarship recipients may be recognized at the Awards Assembly, the guidance office would like seniors to inform them of any post-secondary scholarships they have been awarded. These scholarships will also be listed on the insert to the graduation program. We can't acknowledge scholarships that we don't know about!

Mentors Making a Difference

By Toby Lorenzen, Elem/MS Success Coordinator

This year the Elementary-Middle School Guidance Department has begun a mentoring program that is off to a great start. We have students in our elementary grades that could use a big brother or big sister to spend a little time with them each week. To get the program going, we decided to use our greatest resource—our high school students.

This year we have seven pairs (one high school student with an elementary student) working together. Each pair has spent the past eight weeks getting to know each other, participating in partner activities and challenges, and just talking about things going on in their lives. Throughout this time, they have formed unique bonds with each other. The mentors meet with the students once a week for about 30 minutes. I know this seems like a short period of time, but we must work around both students' schedules and find times that will not adversely affect their class work. It has been a very positive experience for both the mentors and the younger kids.



Senior Nick Mans takes time to mentor a young student.

As we want to do with any positive program, we hope to add to it each year. We would love to have the mentors meet twice a week and expand our activities. I feel, from a guidance standpoint, that this is a program that can become valuable in the growth of our young people that are struggling in or out of school.



Principal's Perspective

By Dan Kruse, Elementary/Middle School Principal

Greetings everyone from the elementary/middle school principal's office. "Where has the school year gone?" is a comment made quite often this time of year. I have said it myself more than once. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as principal. I've learned a lot and made my share of mistakes. Every day I have new challenges. There's never a dull moment.

Central Lyon is a wonderful place to work for several reasons. First of all, we have a dedicated caring staff. Everyone works so hard to do what's right for kids. I'm talking about all school employees. They are special people. I don't tell them often enough how much I appreciate what they do.

Another reason I love coming to work is the students. Central Lyon students are the best. They care about each other. There are disagreements and issues now and then, but these minor problems don't come close to outweighing all the positive things kids do for each other in our school. Make one trip down the hallway, any time of the day, and I bet you'll see kids helping each other in some way. I get to witness this on a daily basis. It's awesome.

Parent support at our school is another reason Central Lyon is so great. We have active parental involvement. No matter what the event is, it is well attended.

Our parents know the importance of education. We have high expectations for our students. Maintaining these expectations could not happen without solid support from parents.

Our community is another reason why we have a successful school system. You are so supportive of all our endeavors. A great example was our PTC Academic Fair. The turnout was fantastic, and it was not just parents. I was amazed at the number of people from our community that attended. We do not take for granted what the community does for our school. We appreciate each and every thing you do.

I could go on and on, but time doesn't allow me. The next time I write we'll be getting set to start the 2005-2006 school year. I can't wait.

NHS Asking for Donations to Help Troops

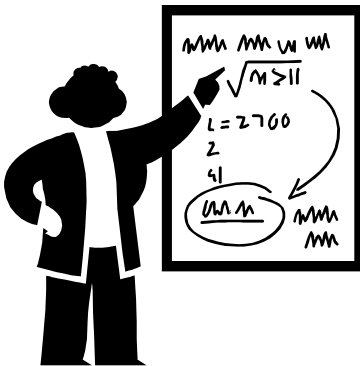
For one of its service projects the National Honor Society has chosen to help Tracy Post of SALUTE collect items for soldiers deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are challenging all students in the district to donate at least one item to this worthy cause. Several local business have donated money to help with postage and to purchase additional items.

Drop-off boxes and lists of needed items are located in the school offices, Sunshine (Jubilee), and several local churches and banks. The deadline for donations is May 13.



Staff Development

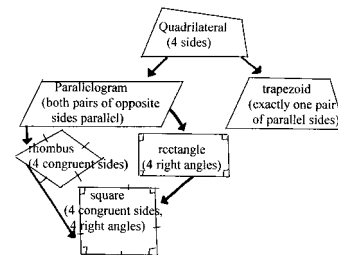
By Amy Sieperda, Middle School Teacher



Quite often teachers are asked what actually takes place on staff development days. To answer this question, here's an explanation on what the middle and high school staff have been doing this year.

Two staff members from AEA 4 designed a program based on Marzano's book entitled *Classroom Instruction That Works*. This program was chosen because it benefits students and correlates with national standards. The staff then studied and practiced non-linguistic representation that will help students learn and organize information better. Listed below are strategies of this representation and an example of each.

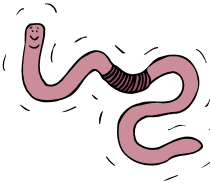
1. **Physical models**—using toothpicks to build geometric shapes.
2. **Kinesthetic activities**—picking a word card, running to, then standing on its "part of speech" category.
3. **Pictographs**—using Pictionary to review vocabulary words.
4. **Mental pictures**—closing one's eyes, listening to a passage, or visualizing a scene.
5. **Graphic organizers**—see diagram below.



Teachers recognized benefits from Marzano's techniques and are continuing to use them in the classroom. This is one way the staff at Central Lyon is striving to improve students' education.

Cutting Into Science

By Jerry Pytleski, Middle School Science Teacher



In early March, the seventh grade life science classes had their first dissection experience. The classes were studying different annelids (segmented worms), and some of the topics we discussed dealt with the internal processes of worms. For the students to better understand the circulatory, digestive, and reproductive parts of the worm, I felt it was important for them to see these structures first hand.

The earthworm dissection is a lab which gives the students an opportunity to experience what you can learn from dissections. The information gained from the earthworm dissection can be related to other organisms, such as a bird. Even though an earthworm and a bird are very different in terms of their external appearance, the digestive systems of these two organisms have many similarities. The path food material must take to be digested and the names and functions of the digestive structures are similar. Did you

know earthworms and birds need gravel to grind their food in what is called the gizzard? The gizzard and other digestive organs are observed, drawn, and defined throughout the two-day dissection lab. The circulatory system of earthworms is also unique. In class, we discuss how the blood moves through the worm. The worm has five “hearts.” They are not truly hearts, but five larger vessels, which expand and contract to make blood throughout the body of the worm. These are just some of the lab topics discussed during the dissection.

From the first cut to the last lab drawing assignment, the students were engaged in a different method of learning about organisms. This dissection lab exposed the students to the dissection process, which will be explored more in future science classes. The students paid attention to details, cooperated with one another, and fully concentrated during the entire dissection lab to make this an enjoyable, educational, and worthwhile experience.

NCAA Basketball Tournament

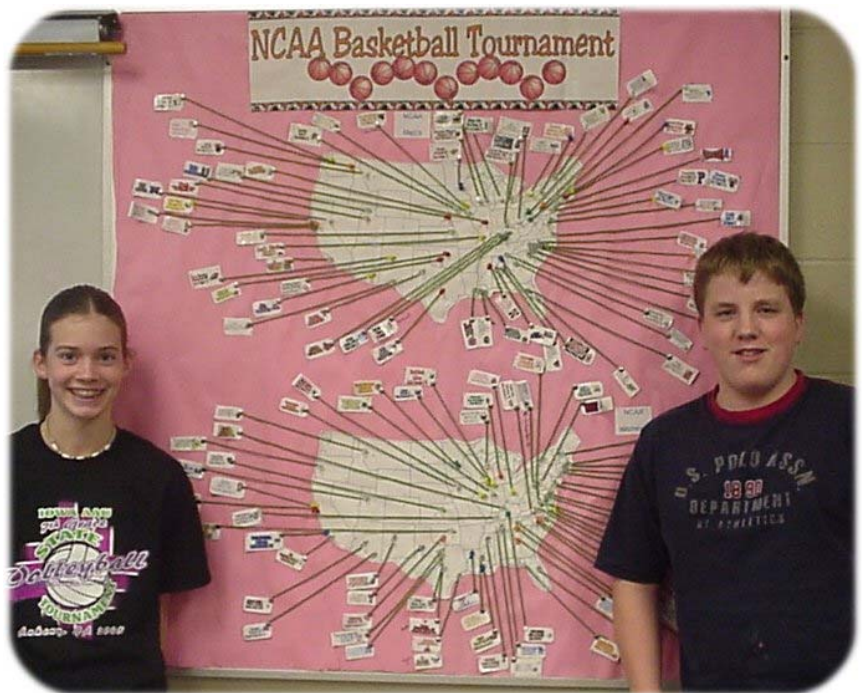
By Bruce Eckenrod, Middle School Teacher

How many miles of travel does it take for the NCAA men’s and women’s basketball tourney? That’s the question the seventh grade students tried to figure out. Each student was assigned one to three teams. They identified the location of the schools and the cities in which games were played.

The students then used a map to measure the distance between the cities. In math class the students used this measurement and created a conversion formula to estimate the miles it took to get the teams to their game sites and return home.

Finally, the students created team identification cards which were placed on a map of the United States. The students copied the map and created their own map in computer class. This activity is a great way to review states and cities of the United States.

By the way, last year it took 288,960 miles of total travel compared to this year’s 231,810. The teachers involved in this project were Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Van Wyhe, and Mr. Eckenrod.



Middle school students mapped the NCAA travel.

Fourth Grade Field Trips

By Angie Keizer, Fourth Grade Teacher



The fourth grade students had the pleasure of taking two field trips in April. Their first field trip took them to the Northwestern chapel in Orange City for Young Authors' Day. On April 5 fourth grade students in the entire AEA 4 region listened to an author explain how she started writing. The author for this year was Mary Casanova from northern Minnesota. She told the students that after she started writing, she received over 200 rejection letters from various publishers. Through continued rewriting and revising, she has finally reached her goal of becoming a successful author. Her message to the students was "Never give up!" The kids also had the pleasure of purchasing some of her books and having them autographed by her.

On April 21 the students attended the Shrine Circus in Sioux Falls, SD. Thanks to many of our local businesses, students enjoyed what was a first-time experience for some. The class first ate at McDonald's and then attended the 1:00 p.m. performance.



The smiles on their faces demonstrated the great time they had as they watched the various circus acts. To add to the fun, they were also allowed to take money to purchase a souvenir. The kids returned to the school around 3:50 p.m. where most of them excitedly met their parents.



ELEMENTARY EDITION

Summertime and the Clipping is Easy!

By Jackie McCarty, PTC Representative



Throughout the year, students have been participating in the General Mills Box Tops for Education program. This year our school earned \$798 to purchase classroom supplies.

Just because the school year is nearly over, it doesn't mean that box tops collecting has to stop. You can clip and save box tops all summer long and then drop them off at the elementary school office in the fall. You can find box top coupons on hundreds of Pillsbury, Green Giant, Totino's, Progresso, Old El Paso, and Gold Medal products, in addition to General Mills' Big G cereals, fruit snacks, Betty Crocker products, Yoplait yogurt, and many others. (For a full list, see www.boxtops4education.com). Our school receives ten cents for each box top redeemed.

If you shop online, now you can also support our school by shopping through the Box Tops for Education Marketplace at www.boxtops4education.com. Up to ten percent of qualifying purchases will go to our school. Designate "Central Lyon Elem Sch" as your school of choice, and shop at over 100 participating stores such as Barnes & Noble.com, Eddie Bauer.com, and PET'sMART.com.

"Munsch" Something Good

By Nancy DeJongh,
Elem/MS Media Specialist


Central Lyon elementary students celebrated National Library Week (April 11-15) by learning more about one of their favorite authors, Robert Munsch. One interesting fact they discovered was that Robert Munsch is never paid to visit a school; he just drops in for free. The students plan to write him letters in the hope that some day he might surprise Central Lyon with a visit!



Students enjoyed *Mud Puddle*, the first book he had published back in 1982. They also listened to his newest book *Smelly Socks* and his personal favorite, *I Have to Go*. Mr. Munsch has 42 published books and has written another 115 that may be published in the future. Students also received a National Library Week bookmark.

Note Worthy Dates

✓ 5-8 Fine Arts Festival/Concert	5/12
✓ Baccalaureate	5/15
✓ Awards Day (last day for seniors)	5/19
✓ High School Fine Arts Festival	5/17
✓ Commencement	5/22
✓ All-School Play	5/24
✓ Elementary Track & Field Day	5/26
✓ Last Day of School —1:00 dismissal	5/27
✓ Heritage Days	6/16-19
✓ Lyon County Fair	7/24-28
✓ Registration for 2005-06 school year	8/9
✓ First Day of School	8/24



School Board Recognition Week

May 8-14, 2005

Your school board is making a difference for students. Take time to say thanks.

Iowa Association of School Boards
700 Second Avenue, Ste. 100
Des Moines, IA 50309-1731
1-800-795-4272
www.ia-sb.org