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## Superintendent's Report

By Superintendent Dave Ackerman

A colleague of mine once said to me that if a school's three main focuses are the three R's (reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic), the superintendent's main focus is the three B's, **buses, buildings, and budgets**. Well, that is not entirely true, but those three items do take a significant amount of time and thought. As with most things, the three are certainly connected. The following is a brief synopsis of recent events in each of these categories.

In the category of buses, the Central Lyon Board of Education approved the purchase of a 77 passenger bus at the September board meeting. As with all things, our fleet was aging, and our newest bus was six years old. The buses are maintained regularly to achieve longer life and increased miles. In the past few years, the district purchased a minivan and a suburban. It is the intent of the board to get on a regular rotation of vehicle purchases in an effort to spread out the cost of purchasing vehicles and prevent the fleet from expiring all at once. To lessen the financial impact, three annual payments of approximately \$24,000 each will come out of the PPEL fund.

Another focus is certainly the buildings of the district. Maintaining the fantastic facilities and grounds we have is a major focus. It is imperative that we continue to strive to keep the buildings in the pristine condition they are today for use by future generations. This is not an easy task, however. Again, a rotation of maintenance and upkeep projects is an important, but unending task. The major task at hand is the reconstruction of the track. With the passage of the PERL Levy at the recent election, we will be able to apply the funds from this levy to the cost of repairing the track for the next six years.

Finally, budget analysis is a continuous process. Several bright spots for the Central Lyon district is that the new middle school and high school will be paid off in the year 2015 utilizing one cent sales tax revenue and debt service funds, and the Central Lyon Activities Center will be paid off in 2014 utilizing PPEL funds. Within the general fund, we continue to monitor expenses carefully to provide the best possible education for each student. The patrons of Central Lyon can be assured that the buses, buildings, and budgets continue to be a top priority.



FFA member Tyler DenBesten helps a future farmer, while Mitch Lupkes & TJ Loger assist Mr. Postma with a safety lesson.

## Farm & Home Safety

By Dwayne Postma, FFA Advisor

This past June, the Central Lyon FFA offered its ninth annual Farm and Home Safety Camp to over 70 youngsters from throughout Lyon County. On June 20 the FFA officer team worked with the 8-13 year olds, and on June 26 they worked with the 4-7 year olds. Sun safety, first aid, tractor/power equipment safety, water safety, fire safety, ATV safety, and lawn mower safety were just a few areas taught.

Special thanks to ISU Extension of Lyon County, Lyon County Farm Bureau, Lyon County Sheriff, Lyon County Conservation, Rapid Grow Lawn Care, Rock Rapids Fire Department, and Lyon County Health, among others.



## Positive Happenings

By Curt Busch, Secondary (High School) Principal

# SECONDARY THOUGHTS

The 2006-2007 school year is underway with many positive happenings. A new initiative for our students in grades nine through twelve is a program called D.E.A.R. D.E.A.R. is an acronym for Drop Everything And Read. The program was organized by a committee of teachers and brought to fruition with the approval of the school board. Each day students are involved in a reading class for fourteen minutes of silent sustained reading time. Research supports this type of program to improve vocabulary, spelling and reading comprehension. As the principal at the high school, I have had the opportunity to visit each of the D.E.A.R. classrooms, and staff and students both have worked hard to make this new initiative a success.

“The benefits of the silent sustained reading time will be numerous.”

The benefits of the silent sustained reading time will be numerous. We are looking forward to reviewing our future ITED, PLAN and ACT tests and plan to monitor our student growth in the reading portions of these exams. Our D.E.A.R. program starts at 11:24 a.m. and concludes at 11:38 a.m. each day. Students and

staff have supported the time placement of this program because it provides a nice variety in the middle of the day from the routine of the regular classroom.

Homecoming 2006 was a success. Our extracurricular programs, cross country, volleyball, and football teams enjoyed a very successful week.

Congratulations to this year’s Homecoming Queen Kayla Ross and King Scott Steurman. Numerous activities were planned by the student council for the week including dress up days and homecoming olympics. Thanks to our local businesses for supporting our homecoming by providing gifts to our dress-up days winners.

The homecoming activities concluded with a dance in the elementary/middle school gym on Friday night. Student behavior, which was very respectful throughout the week, has added to the start of a very successful school year.

On October 2, the staff participated in an in-service facilitated by A.E.A. The topic of this year’s staff development is differentiated instruction.

Brian Nelson and Katy Evanson provided the leadership for our morning session which was devoted to teaching the staff about the characteristics of differentiated instruction. The theme of differentiated instruction will be carried out over the course of the year during our future in-service days. One of the goals of this work will be for teachers to incorporate strategies for implementing differentiated instruction into the classroom.

The recently passed state legislature contains a new ruling called the scholarship rule on the standards for academic eligibility for all schools in the state of Iowa. Going into effect at the end of the first semester for the 2006-2007 school year are the guidelines for this rule. Students involved in extracurricular activities must be passing all classes at the end of both semesters in order to be eligible for co-curricular participation. A participant with an F at the end of the first semester would be ineligible for 20 school days in the contestant’s bona fide activity. A student in band, choir or speech would be ineligible for 30 consecutive school days if he/she received an F in any class at the end of a semester. Freshmen are exempt from the bona fide contestant rule. Students in grades ten through twelve will qualify for the bona fide activity rule. If you have questions in regards to this new scholarship rule, please call Mr. Busch or Mr. Maxwell at the high school for a clarification. They can be reached at 712-472-4051 during the school day.



Students read more than 51,000 pages in the month of September during D.E.A.R. time.



## Ninth Grade Takes Flight

By Shawn De Stigter, Physical Science Teacher

On Thursday, September 21, 65 physical science students took “flight” in the first annual paper airplane contest. In the weeks prior to the contest, physical science students discussed in class what speed is and the formula used to calculate speed. In preparation for the contest, each student researched paper airplane designs and then constructed a paper airplane in class.

Before the contest started, each student had five minutes to practice flying the plane and to make any needed adjustments. For the contest, each student had three flights that were recorded.

Students worked in lab groups and recorded the amount of time their planes were in the air and the distance they traveled. Using this information, students determined the top speeds of their paper airplanes. Tyler Morey was this year’s winner with a top speed of 11.1 meters per second. Overall, the students did a great job of using information learned in class and applying it in a non-classroom setting.

# Quilting Is New Again

By Jo Ann Sheldon,  
Family & Consumer Science Teacher

The sewing machines in Mrs. Sheldon's textiles class are humming with activity. Several students this semester have chosen to sew t-shirt quilts or photo memory quilts for their sewing project. T-shirts quilts make use of all those old t-shirts the kids have been collecting throughout high school, while the photo memory quilts are a wonderful fabric scrapbook.

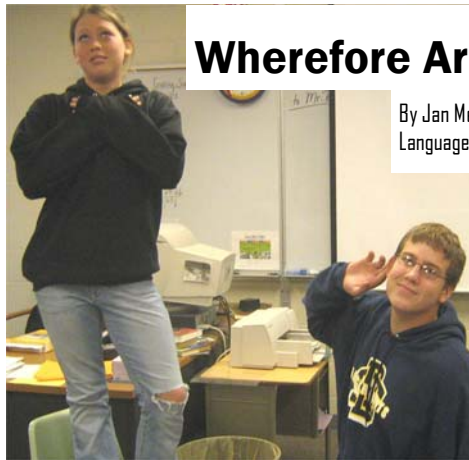
An added bonus is that the high school students are enthusiastic about coming to the FACS room to sew on their quilts during their study halls and free time. The increased interest and popularity of quilting surely has caught on nationally, and Central Lyon students are a testament to that.



Molly Meester, Beth DeKam, and Brooke Peterson created a variety of quilts.

**American Education Week**  
Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility  
November 12-18, 2006

During American Education Week, November 12-18, 2006, Americans nationwide will join the National Education Association (NEA) in raising awareness about the need to provide every child with a quality public education. This year's theme, "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility," highlights the importance of bringing together educators, parents, students, and communities in a unified effort to build great public schools.



Katie Kroon and Matthew DeGroot reenact the famous balcony scene.

## Wherefore Art Thou?

By Jan Meester, High School Language Arts Teacher

The English I students have completed the short story unit and are now enjoying the wonderful world of Shakespeare. They are reading *Romeo and Juliet* in class. All students will complete three projects to increase their understanding of Shakespeare and his world. In addition, they enhance their reading and demonstrate understanding by acting out various scenes.

## Target Market

By Denise Snyders, Business Teacher

When the business marketing students created a new mock product, they didn't have to look far to test it on their target market. The second grade students, along with teachers Mrs. Snyders and Mrs. Block, became the target audience.

The marketing students worked in small groups to create a new cereal that appealed to young children. They created a name for their cereal, designed the cereal box, and created an advertisement. Each of the seven groups presented its cereal to the second grade classes, who they voted for their favorites.

The *All-Star Cereal* created by John Hanson and Joel DeJongh received the highest praise from our target market. *Rainbow Stars* and *Reggio O's* were a close second and third.



Business Marketing students used cereal boxes, props, and advertisements to appeal to their target market of second grade students.

HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

## Financial Aid

By Terry Tausz, High School Guidance Counselor [ttausz@central-lyon.k12.ia.us](mailto:ttausz@central-lyon.k12.ia.us)

On Tuesday, October 31, 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 very 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 aid programs. It will be conducted by the College Planning Center of Des Moines. It is a division of the 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](http://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, especially the juniors and seniors. 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.

Seniors will receive a booklet entitled *Your Course to College*, made available by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. For anyone planning to enroll in post-secondary education in Iowa, there will be important information concerning several Iowa schools. School contact information, costs, aid filing deadlines, enrollment, minimum admission requirements, etc., can be found in *Your Course to College*.

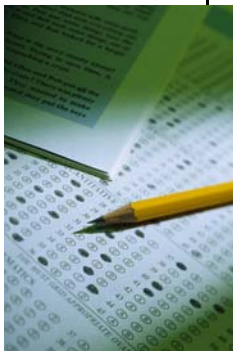
## ACT Prep Session

On Thursday, November 2, West Lyon will be hosting an *ACT for You* prep session at 7:00 pm. This session is for any high school student planning to take the ACT within the

next year. Two presenters from USD will be there to share ACT test-taking information and hints and to provide information on what to expect on each of the ACT subject area tests. The one hour session is free to all participants.

## Iowa Tests of Education

On the mornings of October 31 & November 1, the Iowa Test of Education Development will be given to students in grades nine, ten, and eleven. These tests are a continuation of the Iowa Basic Skills Tests taken in the elementary and middle school. Please encourage your children to put forth their best efforts.



## Time for Freshmen Conferences

If you are the parent/guardian of a freshman, please plan to come the guidance office to meet with your student and the guidance counselor to develop a four year plan of study. These meetings are by appointment and will be held from late October to December 6. Please call Terry Tausz to make your appointment.



Several students indicated an interest in taking the PLAN or PSAT test. Each student who indicated interest was given a guide/bulletin to help him/her better understand the test and was encouraged to share this with his/her parents. These tests will help give the students excellent exposure into what a college entrance test (ACT or SAT) is like.

The PLAN test was given at the high school on Saturday, October 7. The PLAN is actually a preliminary ACT, developed by the American College Testing program, who also created the ACT. The PSAT was held at the school on Wednesday, October 18. This test is a preliminary SAT developed by The College Board, who also made the SAT. The PSAT is connected to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which offers scholarships to the top scoring students throughout the U.S.

## Success

By Toby Lorenzen, Success Coordinator  
[tlorenze@central-lyon.k12.ia.us](mailto:tlorenze@central-lyon.k12.ia.us)

The school year is once again off to a quick and exciting start. We have 13 new students walking the halls of our elementary/middle school this year, and all of them seem to be enjoying their new school. We also have a new face helping in our guidance department this semester. Counseling intern Tosha Vogel is spending the first part of the year helping with individual tutoring, mentoring, and teaching the second grade character education curriculum.

Our mentoring program is in full swing with 12 juniors and seniors working with some of our younger students on a weekly basis.

We oftentimes take for granted how good we have it. After talking to all of our new students, they all spoke highly of their fun classmates, caring teachers, and comfortable feeling they had from the first day they walked into the school. I strongly feel that we have a great thing going, and we will work hard to make our school even a greater place to be.

Parents, please understand that my office door is always open if there is a problem or concern with your son or daughter. We want your child's school experience to be a positive one for both your student and for you as parents.

## Central Lyon School Foundation Banquet

By Dave Foltz, Foundation President

The Central Lyon School Foundation, Inc., will hold its fifth annual fundraising banquet Saturday, October 28, 2006, at the Forster Community Center. The banquet is the centerpiece of its fall fundraising campaign, and the Foundation Board is looking forward to the evening.



Jamey Grafiing is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Art Grafiing of Rock Rapids.

This year the featured speaker is Jamey Grafiing of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Jamey is a 1982 graduate of Central Lyon. Jamey also holds a degree from Iowa State University in Agricultural Business and an MBA in Finance from the University of Iowa's Tippie School of Management. He has over seventeen years of experience in banking and finance, with an industry focus on food, beverage, and agribusiness. He currently is the Senior

Vice President for the Farm Credit Services Commercial Finance Group in Minneapolis. Jamey also is a published author and a frequent public speaker on topics typically focusing on agriculture and rural America.

The Foundation is dedicated to enhancing quality education through educational opportunities, school facilities, technology, and service. Last year's campaign raised approximately \$35,000.00. Donors designated a portion of the money for scholarships. These dollars are disbursed according to the donor's wishes. Of the remainder, \$10,000.00 was spent on a project to update technology; approximately \$4,500.00 was spent on Lion Grants to teachers for special projects; and the balance was put into the Permanent Endowment Fund.

Ticket price for the evening is \$25.00 per person. They can be purchased at the Central Lyon School office, the CAC office, or any of the local banks. Central Lyon students will be providing entertainment for the evening. Put this night on your schedule and plan to attend and take part in an enjoyable evening.

## School Nurse Notes

By Mel De Jong, R.N.

We are seeing a fair amount of illness this fall. Please remind your children to wash their hands before eating, after using the restroom, and when dirty. Central Lyon and Health Services of Lyon County are working together to track illnesses more closely this year. To assist in this tracking, parents may be asked to describe symptoms of a home-bound, ill child. Feel free to contact Mel De Jong with questions or concerns.

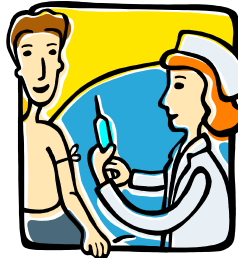
**Vaccinations:** Students in eighth grade recently received the tetanus and pertussis vaccinations. Their next booster will be due in ten years. We will be offering this same vaccination to sixth grade students later this year.

**Chicken Pox Vaccine:** If your child received the Varicella or varivax vaccine for chicken pox, please be aware that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is now encouraging that your child has a second dose of this vaccine. Because of temperature sensitivity with this vaccine, it will not be provided in the school setting.

**Meningitis Vaccine:** This vaccine is recommended for seniors planning to attend college next fall. Please be aware that the cost goes up considerably once they are 19 years old. This vaccine covers the A.C.4 and W135 strains, but not the B strain.

**HPV Vaccine:** Several parents have inquired about the HPV vaccine. This vaccine prevents girls from contracting the sexually transmitted disease human papillomavirus, which can cause cervical cancer. This vaccine, called Gardasil, is approved for girls ages 9 to 26. It requires three injections in the upper arm given over six months, at a cost of over \$100 per dose. Not all insurance companies are paying for this as of yet.

If you have more questions about these or other vaccines, please talk to school nurse Mel De Jong, your health provider, or call Health Services of Lyon County at 472-4081.



## A Great Place To Be

By Dan Kruse, Elementary/Middle School Principal

Greetings from the elementary/middle school office. The 2006-2007 school year is well underway. I can't believe the first quarter is over. October has been a busy month.

During the month of October the students had their school pictures taken. I visited with the photographer on the day he was finished. One of the first things he commented on was the behavior of our students. He was impressed. They were good listeners. He also was very complimentary of the teachers. He commented on how cooperative and flexible they were. The last thing he said to me was, "I hope you appreciate them, and I hope you tell them that they are appreciated." He's absolutely correct. I work with an awesome staff. Everyone is willing to pitch in and do whatever it takes to help students succeed.

The students are also great. I enjoy working with every single one of them. Central Lyon is a great place to be. Stop and visit sometime. You'll see what I mean.

PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

## “...The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music.”

By Tom Gaspar, Director Of All-School Musical

The Central Lyon Drama and Music departments will be presenting the classic musical *Sound of Music* on November 3 and 4, 2006, in the Forster Auditorium located in the Central Lyon High School.

The final collaboration between Rodgers & Hammerstein was destined to become the world's most beloved musical. When a postulant proves too high-spirited for the religious life, she is dispatched to serve as a governess for the seven children of a widowed naval Captain. Her growing rapport with the youngsters, coupled with her generosity of spirit gradually captures the heart of the stern Captain von Trapp. They marry, and upon the return from their honeymoon they discover that their beloved Austria has been invaded

by the Nazis, who demand that the Captain immediately serve in their Navy. The family's narrow escape over the mountains to Switzerland on the eve of World War II provides one of the most thrilling and inspirational finales ever presented in theater. Loosely based on the real life story of the von Trapp family's escape from Austria, the motion picture version remains the most popular movie musical of all time. The von Trapp family ultimately settled in Vermont, and descendants of the Captain and Maria travel the country entertaining audiences to this day. The great grandchildren of Maria and the Captain performed in Sioux City on September 30 of this year.



Cast members Collin Campbell, Jacob Karasch, and Cassie Ring practice their songs with Mrs. Langholdt.

Central Lyon's production will feature a cast of 35 and a crew of 12. The role of Maria will be played by Abby Trei, and the Captain will be portrayed by Jacob Karasch. The roles of the children will be played by Allie Ladd, Brecken Roths, Adam Leuthold, Brenda Hofer, Luke DeJong, Angel Rasmussen and Carly Snyder. Other lead roles are portrayed by Collin Campbell, Hannah Drewes, Cassie Ring, and Josh Rockhill. The show will be directed by Tom Gaspar and Ann Langholdt.



Students cast as Maria and the von Trapp children range in age from second to twelfth grade.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL MEMOIRS

## Massed Band Show

By Mark Swartz, Middle School Band Director



Ready to take the field are senior brass players Kip Borman, Philip Rozeboom, Daniel Unekis, Chris Winegar, John Hommes, & Matt Halse.

On Friday night, October 13, the Central Lyon and George-Little Rock bands met on Dick Null Field for the annual massed band halftime show. There was a total of five bands and approximately 250 musicians participating—the Central Lyon High School Band, the George-Little Rock High School Band, the Central Lyon Middle School Band, the George-Little Rock Middle School Band, and the Central Lyon Fifth Grade Band. The show featured an opener by the combined high school bands, a number by each of the middle school bands, and another combined number featuring all of the high school and middle school bands. The fifth grade band then joined the rest of the group for the school songs.

Central Lyon has been performing a massed band show for over 25 years. The George-Little Rock bands joined the show shortly after the start of the Central Lyon-George-Little Rock football sharing agreement. The Central Lyon directors are Sherwin Langholdt and Mark Swartz, and the George-Little Rock director is Jay Downie.

# Spotlight on New Foster Grandmas

By Jill Pytleski, T.K. Teacher and Deb Snyders, Second Grade Teacher

Claretta Van Sloten (pictured below) began her volunteer duties as a foster grandparent in March of 2006. She is currently working in the second grade classrooms.



Claretta and the late Bill Van Sloten, who have five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter, have lived in Rock Rapids throughout their married lives. Claretta retired in 1999 after working for more than 40 years as a certified nurse at Merrill Pioneer Community Hospital. In her free time, she volunteers at dinner date and plays pinochle with the residents at Lyon Manor.

Claretta volunteers at school three days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She says she looks forward to coming to school because she likes to be around children. Claretta enjoys staying busy and loves the hugs that she receives from the kids. The second graders feel very fortunate to have such a fun grandma to help them with their work and brighten their day with her smiles!

**NOTE:** We plan to feature Foster Grandmas JoAnn Douglas and Iona Van Dyke in the spring newsletter.



The transitional kindergarten class is proud to have Renee Hasche (pictured above with T.K. students) for their foster grandma this year. This is the first year that she has volunteered for the Foster Grandparent Program. Renee works with the T.K. students Monday through Thursday. On Fridays Renee works in the first grade classrooms with Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Metzger.

Renee and the late Mervin Hasche have five grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and three great-granddaughters. They moved to Rock Rapids in 1995 when Mervin retired from farming. Renee then served in the Central Lyon High School kitchen for ten years until she retired last spring.

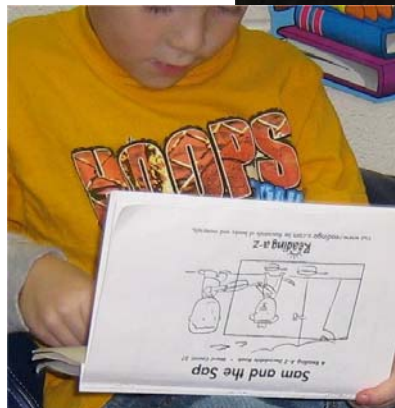
Renee volunteers every day from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.. Renee loves working with the kids, and we love having her in our classroom. Renee is very willing to help out with whatever we're doing. She is truly a wonderful asset to our classroom!

# Students Share Love of Reading

By Laureen Schram, Title I Reading Teacher

Fifth grade Title I reading students, along with junior first grade students, read together throughout the school year to become book buddies. Students are paired with their buddies during reading time, enhancing reading ability as well as motivating students to become life-long readers.

The book buddies benefit from the interaction of this program. Through the course of students' reading together, the teachers have observed these students growing in self esteem and positive attitudes. Big buddies gain confidence in themselves as readers, while little buddies have a chance to try out their reading skills. The three teachers involved in this program believe literacy skills will grow throughout the year.



Book buddies spend time together fostering a love for reading.

### Note-Worthy Dates

✓CL Foundation Banquet	10/28
✓ <b>Parent-Teacher Conferences</b>	10/30 & 11/2
✓ <b>No School</b>	11/3
✓NHS Induction Ceremony	11/22
✓ <b>No School</b> —Thanksgiving break	11/23-24
✓Int'l Club Taco Supper	12/8
✓School Board Meeting	12/11
✓ <b>No School</b> —Winter break	12/25-1/1
✓WAC Tailgate Supper	1/5
✓School Board Meeting	1/8
✓ <b>No School</b> —Staff Development	1/15
✓CLEA Burger Feed	1/26
✓School Board Meeting	2/12

### Music Events

By Ann Langholdt, Vocal Music Teacher

It's time to fall into music. Since the beginning of the school year, the vocal department has been buzzing with the sounds of music. During the first few days of school we had auditions for our fall musical, *The Sound of Music*, which will be performed on **November 3 and 4**.

Along with the musical, our other big event was the third annual Pops Concert, which featured soloists, small groups and the larger ensembles of the jazz choir, the newly formed women's jazz choir, and the concert choir. It's always fun to hear students performing the hits of today along with the classic oldies. Some of the songs featured on the concert were "Inside Your Heaven," "Only Hope," "Where the Girls Are"—a medley of oldies tunes, "Come Go With Me," "I Can Only Imagine," and "Joyful, Joyful" from the movie *Sister Act 2*.

The next upcoming event for the Concert Choir will be the Christmas concert which will be held on **Sunday, December 10, at 2:30 p.m.** Hope to see you there!

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Central Lyon will be hosting the Missoula Children's Theater sponsored by the River Valley Players. Auditions will be held May 14, 2007, and the production will be May 18, 2007.