

Budgets, Buildings, Buses—and High Expectations

By Superintendent Dave Ackerman

Welcome to the 2007-2008 school year. We are off to a great start, and I anticipate many great things happening this year. A good starting point for this month's newsletter is the budget. At the end of the fiscal year, we ended with a strong cash balance and an increased spending authority, which Central Lyon has not experienced in many years. This, in combination with a lower tax rate, is good news for the patrons of the district. I wish to thank the taxpayers of the Central Lyon district for your patience and trust as we worked steadily and cautiously to accomplish this. Just as in any business, however, we must be diligent in the future to stay on a strong financial course. Issues such as declining enrollment and rising costs have a distinct impact on the budget. Please know we will continue to monitor these concerns very closely.

The summer work is now complete. The buildings and grounds of the district are in great shape for the year. The roof work was successfully completed, the new water heaters are working nicely, the replacement bleachers in the activity center are much safer and more convenient, and the freshly painted doors look great. The track project is finished, and it adds greatly to our overall campus. Every year we tackle new projects to keep our facilities in top shape. When you see them, please acknowledge our maintenance staff for a job well done!

Our vehicle fleet is in improved condition. Recent vehicle updates and bus purchases have put us in a better position, but we still have more vehicles to bring up to date. We are confident in our fleet, however, and be assured that every bus is inspected every year and must pass rigorous specifications.

Finally, we are very pleased with our test results from last year, and we are using those results to set goals for improvement for the future. We study the data

we receive from test scores and surveys to continually analyze our progress and our methods of presenting the material to our students. An unmistakable quality of the Central Lyon Community School is high expectations. I noticed it immediately upon my arrival six years ago. Our teachers and staff **expect** high achievement from our students in all areas, and research proves that this makes all the difference. Our staff utilizes in-service days to learn better presentation methods and to study the newest research on improving instruction for student achievement. We take this responsibility very seriously, and the proof is in our students' performance.

To summarize, things are good at Central Lyon. Be assured, things are good. As always, call the school any time you have a concern or question.

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New Track Guidelines

With the completion of the new track surface, it is good to review the users' guidelines to help the track last as long as possible. The new polyurethane surface is durable but can be damaged if certain precautions are not followed. We appreciate the public's patience with the track facility during construction, and we welcome ALL patrons of the district to use the track as a safe exercise resource. Thank you for your cooperation.

When using the track, please follow these guidelines:

1. Please wear only soft-soled walking or exercise shoes - no heels.
2. No roller blades, skateboards, bicycles, or motorized vehicles are allowed on the track.
3. Please use outside lanes 4, 5, and 6 when exercising. The inside three lanes get the most use and therefore wear out the quickest.
4. No pets please.
5. No glass bottles or containers.



By Curt Busch, Secondary (High School) Principal

Central Lyon High School is in the second year of the new D.E.A.R. program. This silent sustained reading time accounts for fourteen minutes of uninterrupted reading time every day. Students select their own novel or book to read and have the opportunity to develop a life long skill of leisure reading. Results from the ACT test and the second assessments last year indicate student progress on both exams. The reading results on the ACT exam went from 22.9 in 2006 to 23.0 in 2007. In addition, the second assessments in English, math, and science all showed significant progress in student achievement last year. Although this is one piece of data which indicates improved student achievement in testing, our district will be monitoring our progress over time to help measure the value of our reading program.

The reading results on the ACT Exam went from 22.9 in 2006 to 23.0 in 2007.

ACT test results were improved last year. Annually, junior and senior college-bound students take the college entrance exam, and last year our students improved in all categories of the test. The ACT consists of four areas: English, math, reading and science. Congratulations to both students and teachers for a job well done. Educational research indicates the number one factor in student achievement is an effective teacher.

On Wednesday, September 19, eight students participated in the first annual Siouxland Conference Student Leadership meeting. The meeting was held at NCC in Sheldon and was lead by Alan Beste and Dave Anderson from the Iowa High School Athletic Association. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a conduct belief statement for all conference schools. In attendance at the meeting were students Sabrina Sieperda, Korey McDonald, Alex Ahders, Stephanie Wibben, Josie Knobloch, Brian Friedrichsen, Sadie Knobloch, and Max DeJong.

The Student Council worked hard to organize the Homecoming activities once again this year. The theme for this year's Homecoming was, "You will be in Homecoming Heaven in 2007." Congratulations to this year's Homecoming candidates: Sabrina Sieperda, Danielle Steven, Kristina Clasen, Brittany Klinkenborg, Molly Meester, Nate DeJong, Corey DeBey, Korey McDonald, Kevin McCarty, and Nate Herda. On behalf of the student council and Central Lyon Schools we would like to thank our business community again for your support of all of our activities.

Central Lyon Schools would like to thank the Kiwanis organization once again this year for your support for the STRIVE program. STRIVE, a mentoring program, has been financed through the Kiwanis organization. In addition, ten mentors have volunteered this year to provide positive adult role leadership for our students. Thank you once again to the Kiwanis organization for caring for our students.

Junior Cheerleading Camp

By Darcey Bast,
Cheerleading Advisor

During half-time of the football game versus Unity on September 14, cheers could be heard as the CL-GLR Junior Cheerleaders took to the field. Friday night's performance ended the week-long cheerleading camp. Fifty-five girls from kindergarten to fifth grade participated this year. During the camp the girls learned jumps, cheers, and a short dance. The girls showed their school spirit and put on an excellent performance! Go Lions!



Varsity football cheerleaders taught the cheers at camp, then led the girls' performance at the football game.

Once Upon A Mattress

By Tom Gaspar, All-School Musical Director

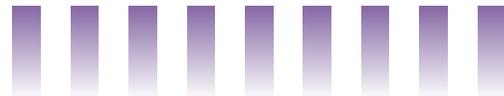
Will Prince Dauntless find a true princess? Will Sir Harry and Lady Larken make that long trip down the aisle? Is Princess Winifred a true princess? Will King Sextimus ever catch the girl, and will Queen Aggravain ever SHUT UP? For the answer to these and other life-changing questions, plan on attending the musical, *Once Upon A Mattress*, November 2 and 3 in the Forster Auditorium. Directed by Tom Gaspar and Ann Langholdt, this amusing retelling of the old story *The Princess And The Pea*, is full of humor and delightful music.



Cast members Sawyer, Abbie, Jeremy, Nate, and Jaime have principal parts.

Once Upon a Mattress takes place in a fictional medieval kingdom ruled by the devious Queen Aggravaine and the mute King Sextimus the Silent. King Sextimus suffers from a curse that can only be reversed "when the mouse devours the hawk." As the show opens, the populace of the castle complain about an unjust law levied by Queen Aggravaine. She is testing Princess #12; to the queen's delight, the princess misses the last question—"What was the middle name of the daughter-in-law of the best friend of the blacksmith who forged the sword that killed the beast [the dragon killed by St. George]?" and is given a dead bird. The law states that no one may wed until the Prince, Dauntless the Drab, first marries—"Throughout the land no one may wed, 'till Dauntless to the altar's led." However, every petitioning princess is sent away after failing an unfair test devised by the Queen. It seems that no one is good enough to marry Prince Dauntless.

Don't miss the curtain at 7:30 p.m. when a cast of 40 Central Lyon students will present this production.



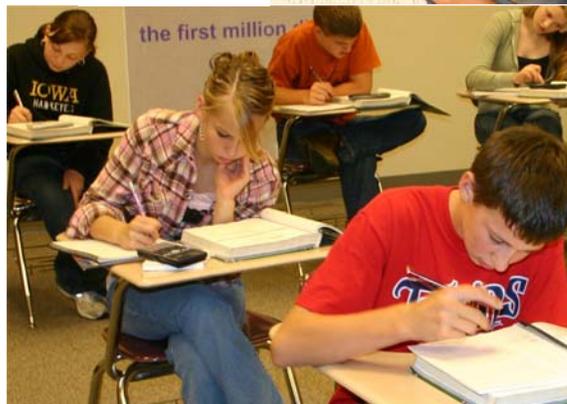
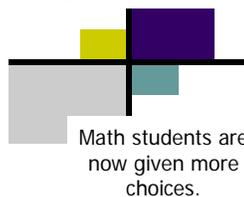
Math Curriculum Gets a Facelift

The Central Lyon math curriculum went through some renovations from the 2006 school year. While taking a closer look at what was being offered, we discovered some holes in the curriculum that needed to be filled.

First, we noticed a gap between juniors taking Algebra II and then enrolling in Calculus I. We decided to add an advanced math course to help any seniors not interested in Calculus I but still desiring a math class during their senior year. In this class we will be taking a look at numerous topics. Some of these include ACT/SAT review, pre-calculus, history of mathematics, and a college prep math course. We feel it is important to offer this class to seniors no matter what their goals are after high school.

The other class added is more of a renovation of a couple of old classes. In the past, as an alternative to Algebra I, Applied Math I and II have been offered to freshmen and sophomores. Combining both applied math classes, we now offer a Pre-Algebra I. This class is designed to get students ready for Algebra I or basic geometry. In implementing this class we have actually made more options for incoming freshmen as far as which classes they may take.

By Scott Palmer, High School Math Teacher



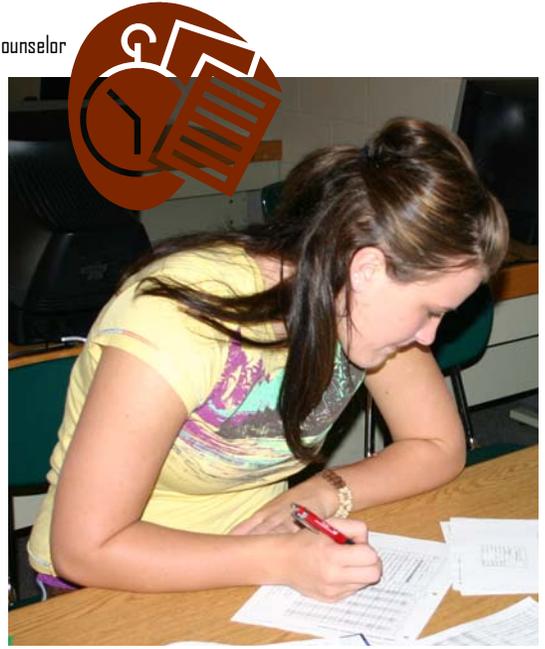
PLAN & PSAT Tests

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

Several students have 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 to the ACT and SAT, which are similar college entrance tests.

The PLAN test was given at the high school on Saturday, October 13. The PLAN is actually a preliminary ACT developed by The American College Testing program, who also created the ACT.

Students can take the PSAT on Saturday, October 20, also at the high school. This test is a preliminary SAT developed by The College Board, who also created the SAT. **The PSAT is connected to The National Merit Scholarship Corporation**, which offers scholarships to the top scoring students throughout the U.S.



Senior Kayla Grooters is preparing for college coursework.



Financial Aid

On Monday, October 29, 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.

The meeting will focus on the financial aid process, including a detailed discussion of the FAFSA and an overview of state and federal aid programs. It will be conducted by the College Planning Center of Des Moines, 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.

Note to Parents of Seniors

Throughout the year, the guidance office will be giving various handouts—magazines, brochures, and pamphlets—to high school 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 occasionally ask your sons or daughters 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, the pamphlet will contain important information concerning several Iowa schools. School contact information, costs, aid filing deadlines, enrollment, minimum admission requirements, etc., can also be found in *Your Course to College*.

ACT Prep Session

On Thursday, November 29, 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 Educational Development

On the mornings of October 30 and 31, 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.

Central Lyon Foundation Banquet

By Natalie Schneidermann, Foundation Member



Craig Lawrence is the featured speaker

The Central Lyon School Foundation, Inc., will hold its sixth annual fundraising banquet Saturday, October 20, 2007, 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.

The featured speaker is Craig Lawrence of Sioux Falls, SD. Craig, a 1965 graduate of Central

Lyon, grew up in rural Doon and is a member of the first group of freshmen to attend the consolidated Central Lyon School District.

His experiences are many. They include starting Lawrence & Schiller, the region's largest marketing and advertising firm in 1976 and founding the America Mongolia Foundation in 1991. This foundation is dedicated to expanding religious and personal freedom in Mongolia since the fall of communism. Craig recently received the Star of

Mongolia award from the nation's prime minister for service to democracy.

The Central Lyon Foundation is dedicated to enhancing quality education through educational opportunities, school facilities, technology, and service. Thirty-five to forty thousand dollars has been raised each of the past few years, and an increase has also been seen in dollars designated for scholarships. Dollars designated for scholarships are distributed according to the donor's wishes. The Permanent Endowment Fund is also increasing. A major renovation to the elementary/middle school library was finished this past summer with the help of a \$10,000 Foundation gift, and approximately \$4,500 was spent on Lion Grants, which aid teachers with special projects in the classroom.

Ticket price for the evening is \$30.00 per person and can be purchased at the Central Lyon School office, the CAC office, or any of the local banks. Included in the ticket price is a choice of meals—prime rib, bacon-wrapped chicken breast, or grilled boneless pork chop. Central Lyon students will be providing entertainment for the evening. Put this night on your schedule and plan to attend and an enjoyable evening.

Fruit and Vegetable Program a Hit

By Dan Kruse,
Elementary/Middle School Principal

PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

Greetings from the Elementary/Middle School principal's office! The 2007-08 school year is off to a great start. We are moving rapidly through the first quarter. The fall activities are well underway.

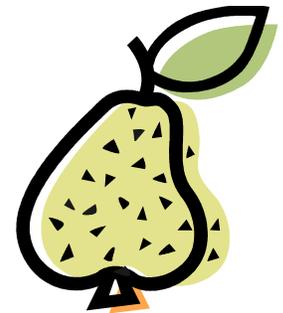
During the 2005-2006 school year, our school district was selected to participate in a project entitled "Pick a Better Snack" program. The Iowa Department of Health received funding from the United States Department of Agriculture for this four year project. We were one of the twelve school districts selected in the state of Iowa. During the first two years of the program, representatives of the IDPH came to our school and worked with students in grades three, four, and five. With parental permission, representatives measured the students' heights and weights, conducted surveys on their eating habits, and conducted 24 hour food recalls. All the information gathered was kept confidential.

Now in the third year of the program, our school district receives fresh fruit and vegetables daily for every student in the building. Throughout the day students in grades TK-12 have access to a fresh

fruit or vegetable snack, which includes apples, oranges, watermelon, cantaloupe, peaches, bananas, or raw vegetables. The student response has been excellent. We've also received several compliments from parents. It has been a great opportunity for our school system. Since the funding for the project spans four years, we will have fresh fruit and vegetables for the remainder of this school year and for the 2008-09 school year.

The project also has a parent component to it. Our TK-5 students have been given information cards that students and parents can work on together at home. The cards contain food and nutrition information and provide parents with healthy recipes. The students are given a new card each month.

This has been a great opportunity for our school. Everyone involved has been extremely cooperative. It's exciting to see the students' positive attitudes toward eating healthy snacks.



Elementary/ Middle School Book Fair

By Nancy DeJong,
Media Specialist



The Central Lyon E/MS, with the assistance of the Parent-Teacher Council, is hosting a book fair Oct. 8-12. It will be open each day from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Hundreds of titles from over 100 publishers will be available.

While attending the fair, be sure to take note of the newly remodeled library. A generous grant from the Central Lyon Foundation enabled the library to obtain a "new look" over the summer with new paint, carpeting, furniture, signage, etc. The students love it!

Raise Funds for Children's Miracle Network

On Friday, September 14, the Central Lyon students and staff raised \$607.60 for Children's Miracle Network. A fourth grade student, Alison Wright, promoted the event on the KTWB Raiders for Loose Change radiothon that same morning.

Students at Central Lyon were encouraged to donate a dollar to wear a hat, while staff members donated five dollars to wear jeans. Thanks to all who supported the medical needs of children through this fundraising event.



Alison Wright enjoyed her guest host duties with Chris Carter and Jillian Brothen on KTWB.



CENTRAL LYON 2007-2008 CALENDAR															
August 07 M T W T F 1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 13 14 15 16 17 <20 21> 22 23 24 27 28 29 30 31				August 7 High School & EL/MS Registration 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. 8 High School & EL/MS Registration 12:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. 20-21 Staff Development 22 First Day of School				January 1 New Years Day 3 School Resumes 21 No School-Staff Development				January 08 M T W T F 1 2 3 4 7 8 9 10 11 14 15 16 17 18 <21> 22 23 24 25 28 29 30 31			
September 07 M T W T F 3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13 14 17 18 19 20 21 24 25 26 27 28				September 3 No School—Labor Day School Board Election				February 18 No School President's Day 26 HS End of 3rd Quarter 27 No School-Staff Development				February 08 M T W T F 1 4 5 6 7 8 11 12 13 14 15 18 19 20 21 22 25 26 <27> 28 29			
October 07 M T W T F <1 2 3 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26 29 30 31				October 1 No School-Staff Development 18 HS and EL/MS End of 1st Quarter 29 5:30-8:30 Parent/Teacher Conferences – Grades K-12				March 3 5:30-8:30 Parent/Teacher Conferences-K-12 5 5:30-8:30 Parent/Teacher Conferences-K-12 7 No School 14 EL/MS End of 3rd Quarter 21 No School Spring Break 24 No School Spring Break				March 08 M T W T F 3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13 14 17 18 19 20 21 24 25 26 27 28 31			
November 07 M T W T F 1 2 5 6 7 8 9 <12> 13 14 15 16 19 20 <21 22 23 26 27 28 29 30				November 1 5:30-8:30 Parent/Teacher Conferences – Grades K-12 2 No School 12 No School - Weather Make-Up Day if Needed. Staff Development if There are No Weather Related Cancellations. 21 Early Dismissal 2:20 p.m. 22 23 Thanksgiving Break				April 7 No School - Staff Development 28 No School Staff Development 29 HS End of 4th Quarter 29 HS End of 2nd Semester 30 HS May Term Begins				April 08 M T W T F 1 2 3 4 <7 8 9 10 11 14 15 16 17 18 21 22 23 24 25 <28 29 30			
December 07 M T W T F 3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13 14 17 18 19 20 <21 24 25 26 27 28 31				December 18 HS End of 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester 21 EL/MS End of 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester 21 Early Dismissal 2:20 p.m. 24 No School Dec. 24 - Jan. 2 Winter Break 25 Christmas Day				May 18 Baccalaureate 21 Last Day For Seniors 25 Commencement 26 Memorial Day 28 Last Day of School - 1:00 p.m. Dismissal Staff Development 28 EL/MS End of 4th Quarter 28 HS End of May Term				May 08 M T W T F 1 2 5 6 7 8 9 12 13 14 15 16 19 20 21 22 23 26 27 <28 29 30			
Any School Days Cancelled Will Be Made Up After May 28 Seniors May Be Excused From Bad Weather Make-Up Days.															
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacation/No School Day <input type="circle"/> Holiday <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Dismissal <> Staff Development Day <input type="checkbox"/> Begin Quarter/Semester <input type="checkbox"/> End Quarter/Semester <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Teacher Conferences															
School Days180 Holidays6 Staff Development Days8 Contract Days194															
Approved by the Board of Education February 12, 2007 Printed on February 14, 2007															

School Nurse Notes

By Mel DeJong, R.N.

Greetings from the nurse's office! A few quick things to note:

- My schedule this year finds me at Central Lyon on Mondays & Thursdays.
- We've already seen quite a bit of illness, so remember good hand washing practices.
- Immunizations for students planning to attend college are much cheaper for individuals under age 19, so schedule your appointment soon. Please contact me if you have any questions about immunizations
- I'm happy to see students and staff enjoying the free fruits and vegetables we have available this year because a grant from the state.
- Any student paper work that requires updating or signatures will be handed out at parent/teacher conferences on October 29 or November 1.
- My door is always open, so feel free to stop in with any suggestions or concerns that you may have.



Students wearing their "100" glasses are pictured with Coach Lorenzen.

CL's Biggest Little Fans Surprise Coach

By Julie Boekhout, Kindergarten Teacher

Head football coach Toby Lorenzen achieved his 100th win Friday, September 14, 2007, as the Central Lyon-George-Little Rock Lions defeated Unity Christian 36-0. This is Coach Lorenzen's 13th season as head coach for the Lions. He succeeded long-time head coach Dick Null.

In honor of this milestone in Coach Lorenzen's career, 16 transitional kindergarten and 53 kindergarten students surprised him by wearing "100" glasses to lunch. They

also gave him a "hand" by making a poster with all of their pictures and handprints on it.

Not only is Toby a great football coach, he also has an amazing ability to relate to students of all ages at Central Lyon. His personality easily earns everyone's trust, respect, and admiration.

We're very happy for your success, Coach, but you should know that you were already a "WINNER" with us! Way to go, Lions!

Note-Worthy Dates

✓CL Foundation Banquet	10/20
✓Parent-Teacher Conferences 5:30—8:30 p.m.	10/29 & 11/1
✓NO SCHOOL	11/2
✓All-School Musical	11/2-3
✓NHS Assembly	11/6
✓NO SCHOOL—staff development	11/12
✓NO SCHOOL—holiday break	11/22-23
✓WAC Tailgate Supper	11/30
✓Mexico Trip Taco Supper	12/14
✓NO SCHOOL—holiday break	12/24-1/1
✓NO SCHOOL—staff development	1/21
✓CLEA Burger Feed	2/1

