

Inside this issue:

Secondary Thoughts	2
Work Study Program	2
Speech Update	3
Shop Talk	3
Counselors' Corner	4
Students Score Well	4
Elementary/Middle School	5
E2T2 Reading Initiative	5
Want to be a Foster Parent?	6
Prairie Bison Ranch	6
Who's Under the Snow?	7
Keyboards in Fifth Year	7
Noteworthy Dates	8
Parent Teacher Conferences	8

The Central Lyon Activity Center

By William Hutchinson, Superintendent

Although winter weather has arrived, work continues at the construction site on the north end of our campus. The most visible changes on the new building are the presence of bricks on the outer surface and the installation of roof trusses, providing a vision of the final appearance of the new structure. We are hopeful that the activity center complex will be completed and available for use by late spring. The center will provide a renovated gymnasium, weight room, and fitness center, supported by new restrooms, locker rooms, and a multi-purpose room for use by the school and community.

Plans are also moving ahead for the construction of the Central Lyon Historical Plaza to be located at the site of the existing flagpole

on Seventh Avenue. The Plaza Committee has been actively raising funds for this project and plans to have construction start as soon as weather allows in the spring. The floor of the plaza will be composed of engraved bricks and pavers denoting messages and names of the purchasers. In addition, the area will include a renovated flagpole, two urns, two door surrounds, two limestone inspirational quotes from Macy and Whitman, and the plaque commemorating the dedication of the former building in the memory of Superintendent Wynant Stone Wilson, who served the district from 1895 to 1919. The aforementioned components were salvaged from the former high school.

The completion of the two projects will result in an area of beauty and usefulness for the school and community for many years into the future.

Plaza Progresses

Plaza contributions have been progressing nicely. Listed below are the items available for purchase, the cost, and the number sold as of January 16.

Orders are now being taken for the second shipment of bricks and pavers.

Plaza Item	Cost	Number Sold
Brick 2 lines engraved	\$50	45
Brick 3 lines engraved	\$60	60
Paver 8x8	\$200	39
Paver 8x12	\$500	9
Paver 8x16	\$1000	2
Bench	\$5000	2

Engrave Your Place in History

The Central Lyon Historical Plaza

Purchase an Engraved Brick, Granite Paver, or Granite Bench

Brick and Paver Ideas:

In Honor of...	Organization Name &/or
In Memory of...	Logo
Class of...	Gifts (Christmas, Birthday, Anniversary)
Family Name	Century Farms
	Business Name



An artist's concept of the historical plaza.

Order forms available at the Central Lyon School, CAC Office, US Bank, or Frontier Bank in Rock Rapids.

Paving a Path From the Past to the Future

The Great Thing About this School...

By David Ackerman, Secondary (High School) Principal

I was standing in the commons the other day during lunch when a thought occurred to me. That thought was, "You know, we have some pretty good kids here." I started thinking about the things that I deal with as the high school principal, or more accurately, the things I **don't** deal with. The following is a list of those things.

There is very little, if any theft here. Amazingly very few kids bring locks from home to put on their lockers. The students here just tend to leave each other's belongings alone. When I was a teacher in a school near Des Moines, we dealt with theft almost every day. A great thing about this school is the honesty of our kids.

There is very little vandalism or destruction of property at the high school. The kids are proud of our facilities, and they take good care of them. I estimate that with 180 days of school, 200 students with 8 periods a day, there are almost 288,000 hall passings a year. When I consider those numbers, it just boggles my mind to believe that this school looks as good as it does. (A great custodial staff helps

too!) A great thing about this school is the pride and responsibility of our kids.

There have been no physical fights here in the high school. The fact that 225 people (teachers included) are together in this facility for 180 days, and that we have zero fights is a real tribute to the

"A great thing about this school is our enduring spirit."

tolerance and understanding our kids have for each other. Occasionally students tease each other and feelings do get hurt, but for the most part, they seem to resolve their differences and move on. A great thing about this school is that we have kids who respect and take care of each other.

There is very little disrespect or inappropriate behavior here. Oh sure, occasionally in a week's time a student or two might say something disrespectful or act inappropriately, but teenagers will do that sometimes. The key is to work to correct the problem and teach them alternative actions. I often

remind myself that if I have two students in my office, there are 198 kids who are out there doing what they are supposed to be doing. A great thing about this school is the self-discipline of our kids.

Finally, I really appreciate the positive mental attitude of our students. This is a characteristic that starts at home and is continued at school. Much of this is based on the tradition of excellence established from years of success in academics and extra-curricular activities at Central Lyon, but it is also a reflection of the culture of the people in our district. Our parents expect excellence, our teachers demand excellence, and thus our kids expect to excel. That is not the case in all places. I refer to this phenomenon as the "Northwest Iowa Mentality." The great thing about this is that we fully expect to do well in all that we do, and if we don't always come out on top, we go back in and endeavor to succeed the next time. The great thing about this school is our enduring spirit.

We have great kids. Please make a point of complimenting or encouraging one of them today!

Experience Changes Beliefs By Denise Snyders, Work Study Coordinator

Beliefs about certain careers and the working world are held by almost every student, but how many actually have the opportunity to test those beliefs with actual experience? All or our seniors at Central Lyon are given this opportunity through the work study program; approximately 20 seniors enroll annually. Our school has offered this program as long as any current staff member can remember. A few requirements have changed in recent years, such as taking and passing a May term class entitled, Work Place Readiness. In this class, students participate in a mock interview with local businesspersons.

The work study program is still going strong, in large part due to the local business community's willingness to serve as mentors for our senior students interested in looking at a career in more depth. Nothing in the classroom can equal what local businesses offer these students when they open their doors and let students experience a career first-hand. The work study experience really can change beliefs!



Senior Megan Rice spent time learning at the local hospital.



Freshmen Wes Jepsen & Kyle West practice for Group Improv.

Speech Update

By Jan Meester, High School Speech Advisor

The Central Lyon “Speechies” are at it again! They have been “struttin’ their stuff” since early December and competed at the district contest at Sibley-Ocheyedan. Those who received a ‘I’ rating advanced to state competition at Spencer.

The freshmen are not the only new faces in large group speech. They are under the direction of a new coach – **Sadie Solem**. During the day Mrs. Solem is a media center aid at Sioux Center High School. Several times a week she has been traveling to Central Lyon to coach the large group speech. She has been very impressed with the talent of our students and looks forward to having them represent Central Lyon at the district and state speech contests.

Immediately after large group speech ends, the individual events begin. Mrs. Meester is once again coaching the promising young actors as they prepare for individual contest.

Speech numbers are up, and the talent is abundant. Take in a speech contest and enjoy the talented young performers.

Shop Talk

By Curt Fiedler, Industrial Technology Teacher

With our second semester under way, we offer a look at vocational education. Course offerings allow Central Lyon students a variety of choices. Second semester classes currently underway include Introduction to Industrial Technology, Mechanical CAD, Architectural CAD, Metal Fabrication, and Applied Woods. Many of the courses are designed to give students a combination of classroom lecture and hands-on learning in the shop area.

Students learn several areas of shop and machine safety, as well as wood working applications. Mechanical CAD students learn how to draw objects dealing with tools and machine parts, while Architectural Cad students draw room and floor plans that deal with house construction.



Applied Woods student, Chris Leuthold, stands by his project.

A Word About Cell Phones in School

By David Ackerman, High School Principal

As in most of the country, cellular phone usage is very popular in northwest Iowa. Cell phones have recently become so popular that many students at Central Lyon now carry them. While cell phones can be very useful and offer peace of mind for parents concerned about the safety of their children, they can also be misused in a school setting. Central Lyon has a policy in place which prohibits the use of cell phones during school time. Please understand, we will not be at the doors searching students for their cell phones. We know students will carry them into school, and we have no problem with that. Concerns arise when the phones

distract a class, or students use them “just to visit” during the school day. Recently, fitness centers across the country have banned the use of “picture cell phones” from their locker rooms facilities for obvious reasons.

In conclusion, if your student carries a cell phone, we ask that you talk with him/her about responsible use of that cell phone during school time. I also would remind you that both offices will relay messages to your students if you need to reach them.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this policy.

ACT Notes

By Terry Tausz,
High School Guidance Counselor

Juniors who are considering taking the ACT test were given registration materials prior to the winter break. They were encouraged to take the test either April 3 or June 12, if at all possible. Check the early registration deadlines.

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

Financial Aid Notes

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

For the first time, we have made arrangements for the College Planning Center in Des Moines to come to Central Lyon to provide a FREE service to senior parents and students. They will be assisting seniors in filing the FAFSA on-line. Information was given to seniors in December, and their parents were sent letters in January informing them of this free opportunity which will take place on February 12. I will report in the spring newsletter about this event.

Students Score Well on Standardized Tests

By Dan Kruse & Terry Tausz,
Central Lyon Guidance Counselors

During the month 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. The table below contains the results by grade level.

Grade	IGE	NGE	IPR	NPR
2nd	2.6	2.8	83	92
3rd	3.6	4.0	86	93
4th	4.9	5.6	85	95
5th	6.3	7.2	93	96
6th	7.2	7.8	83	88
7th	8.5	9.7	89	92
8th	9.8	11.2	91	91
9th	10.2		77	86
10th	10.8		70	80
11th	12.2		77	85

IGE stands for Iowa Grade Equivalent.

NGE stands for National Grade Equivalent.

These scores are useful when measuring individual grade growth. For example, our 5th grade students had an overall IGE of 6.3. This score is comparable to that of a typical student finishing the 3rd month of 6th grade.

IPR stands for Iowa Percentile Rank.

NPR stands for National Percentile Rank.

These scores shows the standing or rank order of the Central Lyon grade groups compared with similar grade groups throughout Iowa and the nation. For example, our 9th grad students had an IPR of 77%. This means they scored as well or higher than 77% of the other 9th graders in the state of Iowa.

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

Elementary/Middle School News

By Lance Olson, Elementary/Middle School Principal

Central Lyon Elementary/Middle School just received the results of Iowa Basic Skills Tests which were administered this fall. The results for each grade level are located on page four of this newsletter. These are very good scores that could not be achieved without the work of our students and teaching staff. The students are focused in the classroom, they take their assignments seriously, and they have a record of high daily attendance. The teaching staff sets high standards for our students including goals which enable each student to work successfully at their ability level. This fact is reflected in test results and also in the student behavior when our students participate in activities outside the Central Lyon district.

I would like to say thanks to each and every staff member for a job well done. We have a great school because everyone works hard to make it the best!

Our school has been going through the flu and cold season. There are ways to help control spreading germs to others in school; wash hands often and sneeze or cough into a facial tissue.



We know that we cannot stop the cold season, but we can slow it down by washing hands, getting plenty of sleep, and drinking lots of fluids.

E2T2 Reading Initiative

Submitted by Lance Olson, Elementary/Middle School

E2T2, Enhancing Education Through Technology, is a Federal and State program aimed at improving reading achievement for middle school students. Aligned with the *No Child Left Behind* requirements, the purpose is to improve the reading scores of struggling readers through a strong professional development program administered jointly by AEAs 4, 8 & 12. Participants include reading, language arts, and resource teachers, each of whom will spend a minimum of 40 hours a year learning scientific-based reading strategies approved by the Iowa Department of Education. Reading experts, both local and national, are provided by the AEAs to support full implementation of the program.

There are 30 other Northwest

Iowa middle schools participating this year, and 60 more plan to join the initiative in the next two years. To participate, each school must agree to take part in the activities for three years and to implement specific reading materials and strategies. Iowa State University has been contracted by the Department of Education to monitor how much time teachers spend in implementing the strategies and how effective the strategies are in improving students' reading scores. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills will be the tool used to measure the degree of improvement.

The technologies selected for this program are those that support either teachers or students in their learning. One technology each school received was a video confer-

encing unit in which the E2T2 program reading consultants can communicate directly with the middle school staff. One of the more interesting uses of technology has been in learning how to use the Iowa AEA online databases. Students and teachers can access the databases at school, at home, or at the library. One database, EBSCO, provides a large collection of student and teacher magazines and journals. Student articles have lexile levels so that students can select materials at their own reading levels or teachers can provide students with articles that help support them in learning new concepts in any class.

In addition to Central Lyon's teacher participants, Principal Lance Olson also attends all the training and provides additional instructional support for staff in implementing the strategies.



Teachers participating in E2T2 include Amy Sieperda, Dan Kruse, Stephanie Baker, Nancy DeJongh, & Connie Boeve.

Want to be a Foster Parent?

Foster families provide 24-hour temporary care for children who are unable to remain in their homes due to abuse, neglect, or other serious family problems. Foster parents should be willing to work towards reunification with the birth family or assist with the child's transition into a permanent placement. Foster parents are expected to

- Provide a safe, stable & nurturing environment.
- Care for a child's day-to-day needs.
- Handle a wide range of emotional & behavioral issues.
- Promote reunification of the foster child with the birth family or support any other permanency plan made for the child.

By Mary L. Nitzschke, Child Connect Community Services Supervisor

Family foster care can offer care to children with a range of problems depending on the experience, expertise, and resources of the foster family. Foster parents may work together with a variety of professionals including social workers, juvenile court officers and judges, family counselors in private and public agencies, and a variety of medical personnel as needed by the child.

The first step in becoming a foster parent is to make a call. Child Connect provides orientations to those interested in becoming foster parents. Once a month orientations are conducted at the Sioux Center Library (old community center). This orientation is an opportunity to have your questions answered. Meetings are scheduled on February 19 and March 18, 2004, at 6:30 p.m.. Everyone interested is very welcome to attend. For more information call Child Connect in Sioux City at 712-255-9061. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Fourth Graders Visit Prairie Bison Ranch

By Geneva Grooters, Fourth Grade Teacher

To conclude our science unit on animals' basic needs and how they meet those needs, the fourth graders visited the Prairie Bison Ranch north of Luverne, Minnesota. Before climbing into the wagon for a ride out to the pasture, the guide gave us a hands-on lesson about the bison. The students were able to see and touch the hide and some of the bones, as they learned how the native Americans hunted and used every part of the animals for food, clothing, housing, tools, weapons, etc. While touring the pasture, the students saw the buffalo wallows and some of the rocks that have developed a shiny appearance due to the bison rubbing against them. In past years, we were able to feed the bison, but this year they were a little too spunky. However, we were still able to ride up close to them.

After touring the bison ranch, we visited the Brandenburg Art Gallery. Here, students viewed the work of Minnesota photographer Jim Brandenburg. Brandenburg freelances for *National Geographic*, has done documentary films, and has published several books. Students discovered how he has combined his knowledge and passion for wild animals with a career in photography. We also watched Brandenburg's documentary on the Arctic wolves of Ellesmere Island.

Before returning to Rock Rapids, we visited the city park where we enjoyed a sack lunch picnic.



Students get an up-close look at the bison.

Who's Under the Snow?

By Lila Kennedy & Marlene Mellema, First Grade Teachers

The first grade students participated in a program entitled "Who's Under the Snow?" at the Rock Rapids Care Centre and at Lyon Manor. It was presented by Rochelle Ebel, Lyon County Conservationist.

The students learned about animals that live and hunt under the snow. This area is called the subnivean zone. The students were able to touch a fox fur and to see models of a weasel and a shrew. The culminating activity was constructing paper snowflakes, which the students then shared with the residents of the Rock Rapids Care Centre and Lyon Manor.



Students experience hands-on learning.

Fifth Year for the Keyboards

By Jan Null, Elementary Music Teacher

Central Lyon is in its fifth year of keyboard instruction, where the students take part in a unique, hands-on experience. Using electronic keyboards purchased and shared by six school districts, children are enthusiastically learning to understand and appreciate music. With head phones on and fingers flying over the keys, the students are allowed to experiment at the beginning of the class. Then it's on to the real work of making sure their hands are positioned correctly over the keys, comprehending notes and musical signs, and finally actually making

music together. Students even get to play "songs" composed by their fellow classmates. The students have been learning many new songs, along with scales, chords, note reading, rhythms, composing, and other skills. The students progress from non-symbols to the traditional note reading symbols.

The original keyboard project was funded with a federal grant through the Grant Wood Area Education Agency. Local participation in the keyboard consortium involved raising \$1200 to aid in the purchase of the keyboards, head sets, visualizer, and curriculum materials. School district organizations contributing toward the project included the Parent-Teacher Council, Kiwanis Club, Rock Rapids Business Women's Club, and two Beta Sigma Phi groups. The PTC pays the \$75 annual upkeep fee. While only four schools participated in the 1981 beginning project, hundreds of schools now participate.

Lion Grant Program

By Dave Foltz, Central Lyon Foundation Vice-President

The Central Lyon Foundation is in the process of implementing the Lion Grant Program, which encourages exceptional ideas that improve the educational process. The program provides resources to educators to implement creative ideas and is designed to stimulate development of projects to improve instruction; but not to serve as a primary source for equipment, materials or operational revenue. The awards are an avenue to explore, develop and refine the educators' ideas for improving the education of our students.

Any educator in the district may submit a Lion Grant request. Initially, the program will be funded with \$2000, which will be divided among qualified applicants. The foundation anticipates an April 1 application due date for grants that will be distributed in the fall of 2004.



Students enjoy their time with keyboards.

FOUNDATION FEATURE

Note-Worthy Dates

✓ No School	2/13-16
✓ River Valley Players Musical	2/26-27
✓ District IE Speech	2/28
✓ No School —staff development	3/1
✓ Fifth Grade Music Program	3/11
✓ High School Vocal Concert	3/16
✓ Kindergarten Round-Up	3/18
✓ PTC Soup/Academic Fair	3/23
✓ FFA Banquet	3/30
✓ Prom	4/2
✓ No School —Spring Break	4/9-12
✓ Swing Show	4/23
✓ No School —staff development	5/3

Parent Teacher Conferences

February 11 & 12, 2004



High School 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Elementary/Middle School 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.