

Inside this issue:

Secondary Thoughts	2
All-School Musical	2
Old Fashioned Bin Raising	3
No Bench, No Timeouts	3
Counselors' Corner	4
Foundation Banquet	5
Guidance Report	5
Principal's Perspective	6
Bands Combine	6
Washington, DC, Tour	7
Cooperative Learning	7
Spotlight on Music	7
Note-Worthy Dates	8



New School Board



Central Lyon School Board members are Vice President Judy Gacke, Pat McCarty, Secretary Jackie Wells, Superintendent Dave Ackerman, President Bruce Vogel, Steve Sieperda, and Dr. Chet DeJong.

Superintendent's Report

By Superintendent Dave Ackerman

Well, the 2005-2006 school year is well under way, and everything seems to be rolling along extremely well. It takes a lot of work on a lot of levels to get a school year started successfully. I would personally like to thank the Central Lyon custodial crew for their hard work in pulling everything together in time for the start of the year. The buildings and grounds have never looked better.

On another front, the Central Lyon Foundation graciously donated \$10,000 to our school for use with technology. We utilized this money with other funds to purchase 73 new computer towers to upgrade several labs around the building. In an effort that saved approximately \$9000, we continue to use the monitors from the old computers. A key component of this project, however, was the work of our technology staff, Don Liefeld and Cindy DeWandel, in getting the computers up and running well before school started.

This year we had several staff vacancies in the teaching and extra-curricular areas. I am thankful for current staff members who "stepped up to the plate" to help us out with open duties, and I am very excited about the new staff we have hired. The new and veteran

staff members have fit nicely together and have gotten down to the work of educating our children. Recently the state of Iowa has put a greater emphasis on the new "three R's" – rigor, relevance, and relationships. As superintendent, I have the privilege of moving throughout the buildings and witnessing the interactions of our staff and students, and I can tell you that these three qualities are taking place daily here at Central Lyon!

Finally, on a business note, our enrollment is up this year. This is good news for the district as student numbers are directly tied to state funding. As superintendent, I am pleased with the state of our curriculum and the delivery of it through a quality staff; I am pleased with our facilities and grounds; and I am pleased with our extra curricular offerings. Our goal, however, must be to never become complacent with what we have. We must continue to self analyze and make improvements where they are needed. Community input is always welcome, and if you have any concerns or questions, always feel free to contact us!

NOTICE to Parents

It has been noted that students have been carrying medication to school and keeping it with them or in their lockers.

All medication, except inhalers, must be turned in to the office for dispensing.



Academic Eligibility Policy

By Curt Busch, Secondary (High School) Principal

The high school faculty advisory committee has prepared a revised version of our current academic eligibility policy for board approval. The major change to this policy includes changing the policy to consider quarter failures only. Currently, a semester failure will ban a student from co-curricular activities for eight weeks. Under the new proposal, a student will be ineligible for four weeks following any quarter failure. In addition, May term failures will count as two weeks of ineligibility instead of the former four weeks.

The second proposal for the academic eligibility policy involves the make up of the appeals committee. Currently the policy recommends five teachers and one administrator to act on an appeal from a student. The new proposal includes two teachers, one being our activities administrator, one board member, and the high school principal. The faculty advisory committee is very favorable about this policy change and, with board approval, the new policy can be implemented immediately following the second quarter.

“The bottom line...is the task of improving student achievement.”

Upon returning to Iowa schools after being in administration for eleven years in Minnesota schools, I am often asked, "How do the two states compare in regards to their educational systems?" The bottom line for both states is the challenge

of improving student achievement. As I have learned under the new Iowa Teaching Standards, the first and perhaps most important standard of the eight required standards for teachers is the task of improving student achievement. Under

this new plan in Iowa, there are eight standards and 42 criteria that teachers are responsible for in public education. These standards include student achievement, content knowledge, planning and preparation, instructional strategies, monitoring student learning, classroom management, professional growth and professional responsibilities. In Minnesota, one of the requirements for students to graduate is to pass basic skills tests in math, reading and writing. This is one of the

key differences between the two states at this time.

As I move back to my home town and the school from which I graduated, I am so pleased to discover the level of trust our students place upon each other in the area of security. Our building has few padlocks and no security cameras, and our teachers are not identified by security badges. There is a lot to be said about Northwest Iowa's values and the trust we place in each other. Students of Central Lyon High School—keep up the good work in this area of our school environment.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate our Homecoming King and Queen, Jessa Menning and Andrew Zachow, for the honor given to them during coronation. Our week was filled with many activities, and students enjoyed participating in the dress up days as organized by our student council. Friday, we concluded the week with Homecoming Olympics. The mighty seniors were victorious over the underclassmen in all the activities. The week went very well, and students are to be commended for their fine behavior throughout the week. Teachers, now we can get back to the business of education as usual. Thanks for a great week!



This cast is off to see the wizard!

All-School Musical

By Tom Gaspar, Director of All-School Musical

“Something tells me this isn’t Kansas!” One of the most famous lines ever spoken on stage will be heard on the Forster Auditorium stage the first weekend in November. Central Lyon High School will be presenting the musical *The Wizard of Oz* November 4 and 5. Curtain will be at 7:30 pm.

The Wizard of Oz was written by L. Frank Baum, a native of Aberdeen, SD, and was first presented on the movie screen in the 1938 classic starring Judy Garland. It then found its way to Broadway and is now produced by companies worldwide.

The role of Dorothy will be portrayed by Natalie Schleusner. Other roles include: Scarecrow-Jacob Karasch, Tinman-Ben Tom-jack, Cowardly Lion-Collin Campbell, and The Wizard-Matt Warner. A cast of 52 along with a stage crew of approximately 15 complete the company for this classic musical.

Directors for this production are Tom Gaspar and Ann Langholdt. All seats will be reserved for this show, and the box office is now open. Reservations may be made by phoning 472-4051.

An Old Fashioned “Bin Raising”

By Dwayne Postma, FFA Advisor

Most of us are familiar with the phrase “barn raising” which basically has always meant a group of people getting together to erect a barn in a day or in a very short time period. Well, on Saturday, September 24, twenty-seven Central Lyon FFA members participated in an old fashioned “grain bin raising.” Several weeks before this, a newly constructed 60,000 bushel grain bin was destroyed by a wind storm at Multi-Rose Jersey farms four miles west of Rock Rapids. It had taken Marvin, Reed, and Bill Metzger, along with the other family farm helpers, a good portion of the summer to construct the bin to the point it was. With harvest season looming, they were now back to square one, now desperately in need of help and time to rebuild. Central Lyon FFA

officer Kevin Green was employed by Multi-Rose, and the idea of the bin raising was born between Reed, Marvin, and Bill, with Kevin in contact with the FFA. The FFA agreed to supply at least 20 helpers from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. Their work would include setting up the steel curbing, setting and starting nuts and bolts, and tightening them along with assisting with running the jack system. The FFA would be paid so much per FFA member participating. The day was a very good fundraiser for the chapter as well as a tremendously positive experience. The project was delayed nearly two hours due to a hard rain, and it took time for

Reed and his crew to get everyone trained and organized. By 10:00 am this large-sized work crew really kicked it into gear despite the muddy conditions for some. Ten rings and nearly eight thousand nuts and bolts needed to be completed for the day, and by 5:00 pm. the job was done to exactly the same point it was when the storm hit. It was truly an amazing accomplishment that you had to see to believe. The day was a fantastic display of leadership, teamwork, and work ethic. The FFA would like to extend a huge thank you to Multi-Rose Jerseys for thinking of us and giving us the opportunity. Also, thanks to Brad and Jesse of Tri-State Ag for their patience and all of the ladies for the great food and help with our wet clothes.

No Bench, No Time-Outs

By Curt Fiedler, Cross Country Coach

Welcome to our world of cross country. In 1990, sports sharing agreements were created between Central Lyon and George-Little Rock. One of them was cross-country. During the early 1990's we had very little participation from either school. However, as the years progressed so did the numbers and the quality of the athletes. In 1997 the combined schools' boys' team won the Siouxland conference meet, and they repeated in 2004. In the fall of 2000, Andy Rust became our first combined schools' boys' state qualifier. Amanda Folkens became our first girls' state qualifier in 2004. The 2005 team consists of 20 boys and 13 girls. The varsity boys' team has won two team titles this fall, and the girls' varsity team has one team win. All teams, varsity and JV, have shown both individual success as well as high team placings.

Unlike in most sports, the low score wins in cross country. Teams are comprised of seven runners, five counting toward team totals. Team scores are the sum of individual placings in meets with up to 75 runners in each race. The boys' race is 3.1 miles, while the girls run 2.4 miles. Weekly training miles range from 30 miles for the girls to 35 miles for the boys.

The district meet, held on October 20, qualifies ten individuals and three teams of each gender to the state meet in Fort Dodge. If you haven't been to a cross country meet, join us in Fort Dodge on October 29. Come in some sweats and running shoes and experience a sport with no bench, no time-outs, and no half time.



Seniors Karli McDonald and Christina Haggard, model their “no bench” shirts.

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

Financial Aid

On Tuesday, November 1, 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. They are 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 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 have received a booklet entitled *Your Course to College*. This booklet put out by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission has a lot of valuable information. For anyone going on to some type of post-secondary school in Iowa, there will be some important information listed for several of the schools. School contact information, costs, aid filing deadlines, enrollment, minimum admission requirements, etc., can be found in *Your Course to College*.

ACT Prep Session

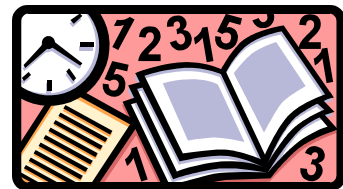
On Thursday, November 3, West Lyon will be hosting an *ACT for You* prep session at 7:00 pm. This session is for any high school student planning to take the ACT within the next year. Two presenters from USD will be there to share ACT test-taking information and hints, and to provide information on what to expect on each of the ACT subject area tests. The session, which is free to all participants, will last about one hour.

A special thanks to West Lyon for inviting our students to this valuable program.



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 Dec. 2. Please call with any questions.



PLAN or SAT?

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. Information letters were sent to the parents of these students. These tests will help give the students excellent exposure into what a college entrance test (ACT and SAT) is like.

The PLAN test was given at the high school on Saturday, October 8. The PLAN is actually a preliminary ACT, developed by the American College Testing program, who also creates the ACT.

The PSAT was given at the school on Saturday, Oct. 15. This test is a preliminary SAT developed by The College Board, who also makes the SAT. The PSAT is connected to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which offers scholarships to the top scoring students throughout the U.S.

This year we are pleased to announce that senior Ben Tomjack has been chosen to be a National Merit Semi-finalist and has been invited to move on for further testing in the scholarship program.

Congratulations and good luck, Ben!!



Ben Tomjack scored well on his PSAT & plans to attend a 4 year university.

Iowa Tests of Education

On the mornings of November 1 & 2, 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 student to put forth their best effort, as these test results are very important.

Central Lyon School Foundation Banquet

By Dave Foltz, Foundation President

The Central Lyon School Foundation, Inc., will be holding its fourth annual fundraising banquet Saturday, October 29, 2005, at the Forster Community Center. The banquet is the centerpiece of their fall fundraising campaign and once again looks to be a great event.

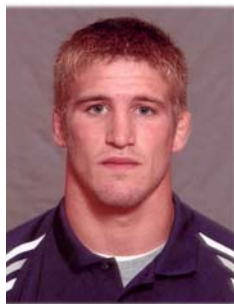
This year the featured speaker is Bruce



Bruce Brugmann often refers to his home town of Rock Rapids in his weekly paper.

Brugmann of San Francisco, California. Bruce is a native of Rock Rapids and a graduate of the class of 1953. Bruce has spent his career in the newspaper business beginning with the articles he wrote for the *Lyon County Reporter* while still a student. In 1966 he and his wife Jean Dibble founded the *San Francisco Bay*

Guardian. The *Guardian* is an independent, alternative weekly paper that, in Bruce's words, "is committed to printing the news and raising hell." He and Jean still own and publish the paper. Throughout his career Bruce has been a strong voice for First Amendment rights as they apply to the press. The Foundation Board is excited to have Bruce involved.



Tom Meester was a 3 time state wrestling qualifier in high school.

Tom Meester will also be joining us for the evening. Tom is a Central Lyon graduate who in 2005 won his second straight NCAA Division II National Wrestling Championship for Augustana College of Sioux Falls. He also attended the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO, to train in freestyle. It will be fun to visit with Tom and recognize him for his achievements.

Ticket cost for the evening is \$25.00 per person. Once again, Jon and Chuck Borman and their families are supplying and preparing the meal as their donation to the Foundation. More and more alumni are getting involved, and we thank Jon and Chuck for their efforts. It is special to have them involved. Three menu choices are provided, and judging by last year the food will be excellent. Central Lyon students will be providing entertainment for the evening. Tickets can be purchased at the CAC office, the Central Lyon School office, or at any of the local banks.

Last year's fund raising campaign raised approximately \$30,000.00. Of that amount, \$10,000.00 was contributed to Central Lyon and is being used in an extensive project to upgrade technology, \$2,160.00 was expended for grants to teachers for special projects (Lion Grants), and \$375.00 was provided for Title I Reading project. The balance of the funds was set aside in the Permanent Endowment Fund. The Foundation has also established a Dollars for Scholars chapter and is receiving donations, managing funds, and dispersing scholarships to local students. Donors can establish their own criteria for these scholarships or set them up in a loved one's name. For additional information please contact the Central Lyon School office or any Foundation Board Member.

Guidance Report

By Toby Lorenzen, Success Coordinator
tlorenze@central-lyon.k12.ia.us



Senior Amber Boogerd spends part of her school day mentoring an elementary student.

The school year is off to a great start in the elementary/middle school guidance office. Our mentoring program started October 4 with twelve high school mentors (almost triple from last year), working with kids in grades K-5. Last year's mentoring program was a step in the right direction, so I felt it was important to continue. Kids helping kids is still one of our best resources.

As a guidance counselor working with youth ages 5-14, I have some feelings I would like to share with you as adults. Kids are faced with a lot of issues these days in our fast moving society, and a lot of times the pressure we as adults put on them can be too much. We are all

sometimes guilty of structuring every minute of our children's lives, when all they really need is some time to be kids. Society has put so much emphasis on growing up quickly, but as we all know you only have one childhood. I think as adults we need to remember this and allow time for unstructured activities especially for our elementary aged children.

The guidance office encourages you as parents to stay up to date with your students on their school year. Let the happenings of the day at Central Lyon be a part of your dinner conversation, and don't hesitate to become more involved with your child's school experience.

High Stakes Testing

By Dan Kruse, Elementary/Middle School Principal

Hardly a week goes by without an article in the newspaper that debates the relevance of schools and testing. Since the *No Child Left Behind* legislation was passed, student achievement has come to the forefront. Several states have adopted legislation that requires students to pass state-required exit exams in order to be promoted to the next grade. Fortunately, Iowa hasn't resorted to that tactic. Each school district in Iowa still has what we refer to as local control. This means that individual school districts can set their own policies in regards to promotion, retention, etc. Students at Central Lyon do not have to pass a state-required exam to be advanced to the next grade.

During the last week of October, students in grades two through eight will be taking the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. This is the only standardized test that our students are required to take. When we get the results back, we will be able to compare the scores of our students on both the state and national levels. I'm asked quite often why we have to do this.



Test taking tips:

1. Get good night's sleep.
2. Eat a good breakfast the morning of the test(s).
3. Arrive at school on time.
4. Avoid scheduling appointments, etc.
5. Avoid absences, if possible.

The answer is simple. It is the one requirement from the state of Iowa. All students who attend public school in Iowa have to take a test that compares them to their peers on both the state and national levels. The state has set a proficiency average that each school district must obtain in the areas of math, reading, and science. If your school district falls below the average in any of these areas, you are put on the watch list. I won't go into details but, as you can imagine, that is not a place we want to be. The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills are important to our school system. We want our students to do their best. Do we consider the tests "high stakes"? Absolutely not. They are part of the process. Our students have a history of doing well on these tests. I don't expect that to change any time in the immediate or extended future.

Bands Combine for Annual Massed Band Show

On Friday night, September 23, the Central Lyon and George-Little Rock bands met on Dick Null Field for the annual massed band football show. Approximately 250 students from both schools took part in the show.

The show featured the combined high school bands opening with "Diablo Canyon." The Central Lyon Middle School Band then entered the field, playing "Louie, Louie." Next was the George-Little Rock Middle School Band, playing "The Hey Song." Then, both middle school bands went into formation on the field as the high school bands played "On Broadway." The combined high school and middle school bands then played "Goldfinger and James Bond Theme." Finally, the Central Lyon fifth grade band entered the field, and everybody performed school songs from both schools.

The directors, Mr. Langholdt, Mr. Downie, and Mr. Swartz would like to thank everybody at both schools for giving the bands the necessary rehearsal time to put the show together.

By Mark Swartz, Middle School Band Director



Band directors, Sherwin Langholdt and Mark Swartz, giving directions.



The flags and percussion sections take the field to practice for their performance.

Washington, DC, Tour

By Terry Van Berkum,
Middle School Teacher

The summer of 2005 was a little different for seven middle school students. In June they headed for the nation's capital, Washington, DC, for a three day tour. Of course, the three days of the tour were the hottest Washington, DC, had seen in years, but that did not stop the students, chaperones and Mr. Van Berkum from enjoying the trip. Leaving Rock Rapids at 4:31 am to catch a flight out of Sioux City, the students began their trip. Following a short stay in Minneapolis, we headed to the nation's capital. World Strides, the tour company, wasted no time getting us involved with the tour. Within a half an hour of collecting our bags, we were at the Washington Monument and continued with the tour until late that night.

Each day was filled with sites to see from a 6:01 am wake-up to arriving back at the motel around 11:30 pm. Some of the sites visited were the White House, the US Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, WWII Memorial, the Peterson House, the FDR Memorial, the Holocaust Museum, the Jefferson Memorial, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Museum of American History and Natural History, and the Iwo Jima Memorial, to mention a few.



The group that experienced the first tour arranged by Central Lyon Middle School. The students & chaperones personally funded their own trips.

Highlights were the Arlington National Cemetery, observing the changing of the guard, and George Washington's home, including "a visit with his wife Martha." Overall the group felt that you could spend a week just visiting the museums. Most of the time we were on a time schedule and had to fly through some of the places. In fact, many times we had to pull the students out of an area to continue with our group.

Cooperative Learning

By Bruce Eckenrod and Sue Van Wyhe, Middle School Teachers

Each year the seventh and eighth grade students teach younger students in kindergarten through sixth grade about an aspect of government. This year's topic was local government. During social studies class, local government officials spoke to the students about their positions and duties. Students were expected to take notes and provide this information to their classmates. During technology class the seventh grade students used this information to create multimedia presentations that were used to teach the kindergarten through second grade students about local government. This year, as in past years, the younger students thoroughly enjoyed these interactive presentations. The eighth grade students created posters about local government which were used to teach the students in graders three through six. These students presented their posters to each grade level.

This project is part of a four-year government cycle of the election process and of government positions. The calendar is based upon national, state, and local elections. The cooperative learning emphasis of older students teaching younger students is based upon research. It has been proven that students that teach other students will retain more of the information that has been taught to them.

Spotlight on Music

By Elizabeth Nebelsick, Elementary Music Teacher



The new school year has gotten off to a great start in elementary music! On October 18, the keyboards returned to our music classroom for six weeks. Every student had his/her own keyboard to learn how to play. This is an exciting program and an opportunity for learning to read and play music. Third and fourth grade students learned at least one song that they will perform for a class recital. They also performed individually for each other on the grand piano in the high school choir room.

On Tuesday, December 13, students in kindergarten through second grade will give a holiday concert. The concert will take place in the high school Forster Auditorium. It will start at 7:30 in the evening. Last year, the elementary programs were in the morning, but we have decided to try a different time this year. Students will display performance skills with singing, instruments, and a little choreography. Please plan to join us for the Holiday Celebration!

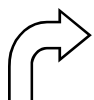
The third through fifth grade students will get to show their stuff on Monday, May 8. They will have a short spring concert in the high school auditorium at 7:30 pm. These talented musicians will make you so proud! Please take note of the date and plan to come. It is sure to be a fantastic performance!

More information will be sent home with students as these performances draw nearer. Please contact Mrs. Nebelsick at the school if you have any questions.

Note-Worthy Dates

✓ Iowa Test of Basic Skills	10/24-31
✓ CL Foundation Banquet	10/29
✓ Iowa Test of Education Development	11/1-2
✓ Parent Teacher Conferences	11/1 & 3
✓ No School	11/4
✓ All-School Musical	11/4 & 5
✓ NHS Induction Ceremony	11/22
✓ No School —Thanksgiving break	11/24-25
✓ HS Christmas Vocal Concert	12/11
✓ No School —Winter break	12/26-30
✓ No School —Staff Development	1/6, 2/6

Don't forget!



Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 1 & 3, 2005
 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

American Education Week
 November 13-19, 2005



A Strong America
 starts with
 Great Public Schools

Inclement Weather

If school will be closed, starting late, or dismissing early due to inclement weather, an announcement will be broadcast on the following radio and TV stations:

- **KQAD (101.1 FM or 800 AM)**
- **KIWA (105.3 FM or 1550 AM)**
- **Results Radio**
- **Hot 104.7**
- **KXRB 1000**
- **KIKN 100.5**
- **Mix 97.3**
- **KSOO 1140 AM**
- **B102.7**
- **KELO TV**
- **KSFY TV**

