

THE GOOD NEWS!

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Inside this issue:

Secondary Thoughts	2
Pie Baking Contest	2
May Term	2
Speech Night	3
Academics & Athletics	3
FFA Banquet	3
Host Music Contest	3
Counselors' Corner	4
News from our Nurse	4
Principal's Notes.com	5
NCAA Travels	5
Moving On...	6
Elementary Music	6
BABES	7
Learning Through Dead	7
Kindergarten PJ Party	7
Volunteers	8

Special Week Celebrates School Board Members Reaching High: Raising the Bar

Volunteer school board members serve thousands of hours each year working to ensure every Iowa student receives a solid education. School Board Recognition Week, May 12-18, 2002, is an opportunity to say thanks to the more than 2,000 men and women who govern Iowa's public education system.

This year's theme—"Reaching High: Raising the Bar"—recognizes that school board members are community leaders striving for higher levels of success for students.

We in the Central Lyon Community School District are fortunate to enjoy the educational excellence provided by the schools of our district, region, and state. Our high achieving students serve as a constant reminder of the emphasis Iowans place on the education of our young people and the appreciation we have for a highly educated populace.

On the national level, however, many people feel that American public schools are failing. Such views are not surprising since critics of public education emphasize only what is wrong with public schools, and negative stories about education appear frequently in the media. Seldom do people hear the good news about public education. We should agree that our public schools must continue to improve, but the public needs to recognize that there have been major improvements in public education since the nation started to focus on school reform in the 1980's.

By the comparison of local data with national statistics, developed by the Center on Education Policy and the American Youth Policy Forum, we will determine if local initiatives and improvements compare to those of the nation's public schools in the areas of school participation and curriculum, student achievement, educational climate, teachers, and higher education.

In future months we will use *Lion Tracks* to expand upon the facts about public schools that provide the good news.

William Hutchinson
Superintendent

Compaq Computers For Sale

Central Lyon has some Compaq Prolinea 450 computers for sale for \$25. The computers will be sold "as is" with no guarantees. In addition to the computer, there will be a keyboard, mouse and monitor. The computer also contains a sound card, ethernet card and floppy drive. It does NOT have a CD-ROM drive. Other computer specifications include a 486 processor, 24 MB RAM, Windows 95, and 255 MD hard drive. No other software is included other than Windows 95.

These will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. If you are interested in purchasing one of these computers, please contact Don Liefeld or Cindy DeWandel at the Central Lyon High School at 472-4051.



We appreciate our Central Lyon School Board.
Standing: Vice-President Tom Wall, Gail VanBerkum, President Bruce Vogel
Seated: Marilyn Mammenga, Board Secretary Robin Kilgore, Judy Gacke

Secondary Thoughts

By David Ackerman, Secondary (High School) Principal

HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

As secondary principal, I am responsible for the supervision of many events after the school day. In all honesty, I can tell you there are times when I truly don't feel like going to the next event. I feel like staying home with my family and just relaxing. I know I am not alone, as all of us seem to have extremely busy lives, and an open night is a rarity. It never fails, however, that about the time I feel like not attending a school event, something happens at that event that reminds me why I do this job.

No, I'm not talking about disciplinary things I have to do as a result of supervising; I'm talking about the great feeling I get from watching our students work hard and succeed. Granted, there are times when the scores do not always balance in our favor, but

when the effort pays off, it can be some of the most exhilarating experiences you could ever witness. I refer to a last-second boys' basketball victory over a rival school, the best girls' basketball season in quite some time, a spectacular band performance in the parade of bands, a speech night, or a vocal concert. All of these events give our students the opportunity to showcase their talents in a variety of ways, and seeing our students succeed in their areas of interest is an exhilarating experience. Watching these events reminds me why I am in education – for the kids. Seeing kids succeed, as the commercial says, is “priceless.”

On another note, it is hard to believe that this school year is

nearly over. It seems like just last week that my family and I moved here, and now we almost have our first year on the books.

As the school year winds down and the weather gets nicer, we do tend to see an increase in student absences. We would ask that parents please stay in contact with the school when absences occur, and that absences be held to a minimum. We at the school believe that something beneficial happens every day in the classroom, and unnecessary absences deprive students of significant information. Thanks in advance for your help in this. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact either the high school or the elementary.

“Seeing kids succeed is priceless.”

Pie Baking Contest

Mrs. Sheldon's second semester single survival class recently held its pie baking contest. Nick Lupkes placed first with a banana cream pie. Joe Kennedy received the second place honor with a lemon meringue. Third place went to Kari Folkens for her creamy apple pie.

A total of ten different, delicious pies were entered. The judges (teachers, administrators, and staff) had a difficult task of choosing winners among the ten pies. The pies were judged on appearance, taste, flakiness of the crust, and how well the filling kept its shape.

The students were required to follow certain criteria for the contest. The crust had to be a roll-out kind (either one or two crust). everything had to be made from scratch, and no canned fillings were allowed.

By JoAnn Sheldon, High School Family & Consumer Science Teacher



Nick won 1st place.

May Term is Here!!

By Mark Hulshof, High School Business Teacher

On April 26, students at Central Lyon High School started May Term. This four-week session allows students the opportunity to take a variety of courses that interest them.

For example, students will be landscaping the west side of the high school with Mr. McDonald, learning to play piano with Mr. Temple, and trying their hand at basic mechanics with Mr. Fiedler.

May Term is popular with students as well as teachers. “May Term is a unique and valuable educational experience,” stated senior class president Chas Hagin. “I like the variety and the chance to teach some different classes,” stated Mrs. Lundquist.

Speech Night and ALL-State

By Jan Meester, High School Speech Coach

The 3rd annual Speech Night was held on Tuesday, April 26. A nice crowd was present to watch some of the individual events' performances and two of the large group improves. This is a great opportunity for the students to show off their talents for the community, and it's a no-pressure "wrap-up" of the season.

Three students were honored by being named all-staters in Individual Events speech: Jared Soroka in Interpretive Prose, Paul Jennings in Radio News Announcing, and Meghann Reifenrath in Interpretive Prose. The All-State Festival was held on the UNI campus in Cedar Falls, Iowa, on Monday, April 8. This is a celebration of some of the best talent in the state of Iowa, and to be named an all-stater is truly a great achievement.

CONGRATULATIONS to ALL "Speechies" on a great year.



All-Staters Jared, Meghann, & Paul.

Academics and Athletics Mix Well

By John McDonald, Athletic Director

Central Lyon athletes continued their superior performances in the classroom during the winter sports seasons. The boys' basketball program earned a distinguished academic achievement award with a cumulative grade point of 3.32, while the wrestling team earned an excellence in academic achievement award with a cumulative 3.17. The girls' basketball team earned an excellence in academic achievement award with a combined 3.55, and the basketball cheerleaders earned one with a combined 3.41. Academic awards are presented by the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union and the Iowa High School Athletic Association.

Host State Music Contest

By Greg Temple, Vocal Department

On Saturday, April 13th, the Central Lyon High School Music Department hosted the Iowa State Music Association's Solo and Ensemble Contest for class I A. Approximately 350 instrumentalists and vocalists participated that day. These musicians were from Rock Valley, MMC, Boyden-Hull, Lemars-Gehlen, George-Little Rock, Akron-Westfield, and Central Lyon.

FFA Banquet

By Dwayne Postma, High School FFA Advisor

On March 28th, the Central Lyon FFA chapter hosted its annual parent-member banquet.

Following a pork loin meal with all the fixings, Chapter President Dustin Bosch led the program portion of our meeting. Jeanne Herbert opened with a prayer. Officer Natalie Steenhoven presented the Star Greenhand Award to Nick Gorter, the Star Chapter Farmer Degree to Tara Fastert, and the Star Agri-buisness Award to Chad Sneller. Next, officers Kari Folkens and Evan Metzger presented the top five fruit sales awards to the following: fifth Chad Sneller, fourth Rick Meyer, third Nick Gorter, second Dustin Bosch, and first with over \$3,300 Tara Fastert. President Bosch pointed out that the average sales for all 58 members was over \$800; he then congratulated all the members for a great effort. He also thanked the parents for their sacrifices during fruit sales.

President Bosch recognized the 20 Greenhand Degree recipients, as well as the 15 Chapter Degree recipients and the 26 members that had perfect attendance at our meetings this year. Next we had officers Desiree Stubbe and Nick Lupkes present scholarship awards to Dustin Bosh, Kari Folkens, and Natalie Steenhoven.

President Bosch took a few minutes to recognize the Lyon County Farm Bureau, represented by Randy Bosch, Bob deKoning and District Manager Mark Bohner, for their sponsorship of CL FFA members to the Iowa Agricultural Youth Institute Leadership Camp at Iowa State University for the past two years. President Bosch then went on to present over 25 other appreciation awards to businesses and individuals. Mr. Postma then presented the Outstanding Senior Ag. Student Awards to Dustin Bosch, Evan Metzger, and Chad Sneller. He presented retiring officer plaques to this year's Central Lyon FFA Officers: Officer-at-Large Rick Meyer, Sentinel Nick Lupkes, Reporter Desiree Stubbe, Treasurer Evan Metzger, Secretary Kari Folkens, Vice-President Natalie Steenhoven, and President Dustin Bosch.

Desiree Stubbe and Dana Silvey presented a slide show of the past year's events. To finish our evening, we had an auction of seven different items including collectable tractors and trucks, a 16 foot cattle feed bunk (materials donated by Rock Rapids Cashway Lumber and built by freshmen FFA members), a tractor mail box made by Mr. Fiedler, and a toy barn built by Josh Ohling. Over \$1,200 was raised; it will go toward our new building project at our FFA farm. A special thank you to Clark Ahders for auctioneering and also a special thank you for all the businesses donating door prizes. Central Lyon would also like to extend a special thank you to Doug Berg for his assistance all year long with our FFA farm.

The banquet was attended by over 200 people, and everyone enjoyed the meal and had a great time.

Mr. Tausz to Boot Camp?

By Terry Tausz, High School Guidance Counselor

Mr. Tausz spent 3 days in April at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, with an Army Educator's tour group. Ft. Sill is a US Army base whose primary function is to provide field artillery for the armed forces.

The group saw what the enlistees go through during their 9 week basic training - from the 2nd day right up through their graduation from basic training. The various types of schooling after basic training were also looked at, and the different jobs available after schooling were explored. The group had the opportunity to talk with various enlistees either in basic training, schooling, or "on the job," and this was very interesting and informative. For some-

one who has never been in the military or may have been several years ago, this type of trip is very good. Being at Ft. Sill was at times like being on a college campus and at times like being in a medium-sized town. The military may not be for everyone, but it certainly is a great alternative for getting money for college or for students who don't really know what they want to do.

"The military may not be for everyone, but it certainly is a great alternative."

After making this trip, I would certainly encourage students to explore what the military might be able to offer them.

8th Grade Career Day

By Dan Kruse, Elementary/Middle School Counselor

On Friday, April 12, the 8th grade students attended Career Day at Northwest Iowa Community College. The first session of the day was spent listening to Jan Turner, a motivational speaker from Minnesota. Due to a childhood illness, Ms. Turner had both of her hands and portions of her legs amputated when she was young. She spoke to the students about growing through change. She leads a successful life as a pastor. Ms. Turner stressed character, courage, and compassion. These three components are essential in life.

Ms. Turner was very impressive. She had the attention of everyone in the room, and the students were an excellent audi-

ence.

The rest of the day was spent going in small groups to different presentations about careers in northwest Iowa. The group that I chaperoned attended four workshops. The first one dealt with drafting and mechanical engineering. The students were able to watch robotics in action. The second career choice dealt with a presentation from Wells Blue Bunny in LeMars. The students were taste testers for an ice cream product. The third career was journalism. We had a presentation by an editor from the *Northwest Iowa Review*. Our final presentation was given by a pilot for American West Airline. All of the presenters did an excellent job. It was an enjoyable and informational morning for the students.

It's hard to believe another school year is almost complete. The days have gone quickly. I have a few tasks yet to complete. Third and final Hepatitis B shots will be administered to the sixth graders, and maturity classes will be taught to 4th and 5th grades. If you have a child starting kindergarten in the fall, you might want to schedule vaccinations soon.

If your child has medication at school, please remember to pick it up before the end of the school year. If it is not picked up by June 1, it will be destroyed. Also keep in mind that you will need to fill out new paperwork for the 2002-2003 school year before school resumes in August. This will be mailed out to you in July.

As it's finally warming up, remember to encourage your child to wear protective gear when riding a bike, roller-blades, or skates or when using a skateboard. I've heard concerns regarding the lack of children wearing helmets during these activities. It doesn't take much to fall and get a head injury or break a wrist.

The school year is coming to an end, and we are working to finish everything that was planned for the school year. The following is a list of some major activities to be completed:

- **Park clean up** - All elementary students will do their part to keep our towns looking clean and nice.
- **Field trips** - Each grade level will be taking a field trip for either a half or full day (in or out of our community).
- **Title I summer school** - The Title I program will conduct a summer school for students who are in the Title program during the school year. The summer program will help students get a jump-start for the upcoming school year.

Students not involved in the summer program can have their own reading program. Reading is too important to be confined to just the school year. Here are some summertime reading ideas for parents and students:

1. Visit the library. Let your child pick out a book that would be interesting.
2. Read aloud to your child even if he/she knows how to read.
3. Team read. You read one page, and the child reads two pages.
4. Television is serious competition. Steal hours away from TV to participate in your child's activities.
5. Improve reading aloud skills. Have your child read to you with expression.
6. Ask a child to read to you or to a younger child.
7. Buy a book for your child. A home library is great.
8. Pack books for vacation reading.
9. Encourage your child to make-up stories and write them down.
10. Set a good example. Don't just talk about reading—do it!

This is summer. When in doubt reach for a good book.

This is our last edition for the 2001-2002 school year, and I want to thank the parents for their support of their children. Without you parents, we miss the most important key to a child's success. Have a great summer!

“Reading is too important to be confined to just the school year.”

NCAA Unit

By Bruce Eckenrod,
Middle School Teacher

Have you ever thought about the number of miles of travel it takes to complete the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments? During the month of March, the 7th graders estimated the miles traveled by each team. Students were assigned one, two, or three teams that participated in the tournaments. They had to find the city where the college is located and the city where the team

was playing. On each Monday after the tournament games, the students would use a map to estimate the miles traveled.

This unit covers three courses: math, social studies, and tech ed. In math, Mrs. McDonald had previously taught the students proportions and scale drawings. In tech ed., Mrs. Van Wyhe had taught and reviewed research techniques. In social studies, the students had been taught how to use the map and scale to estimate miles. The students were able to apply all of the skills in only three days of work. The wonder of this unit is that most of the students didn't realize they were practicing skills that had previously been taught. They were more excited about the tournament and which teams were winning.

The complete NCAA Unit includes estimating the miles of travel by each team, making identification cards for each

team, and creating a computer map showing the locations of all of the cities involved in the tournament.

Recently, at the Iowa School Board Convention, staff member were told that other schools have adopted this unit as an across-the-curriculum unit.

Finally, so you know, the total miles of travel for this year's tournament was 228,398 miles. That is down from 261,961 miles last year.



Tyler Den Besten and Maria Delfs map the teams' routes.

Moving on...

By Jeri Brewington, Middle School Teacher

The Area 4 middle school behavior disorder classroom has been housed at the Central Lyon School for the past four years. The BD room is for students from around all of Area 4 who have demonstrated difficulty accepting authority and are not making good choices for their educational growth. The choices they make and the behaviors they display can have an impact on the other students sharing class-time with them. The amount of time spent directing, disciplining, and individualizing instruction takes from the educational experiences of the general education environment. These students are then removed from regular education classes and instructed in the BD setting. They work toward matching their behaviors to those of the general ed environment. They then earn their place back into the general education classrooms once again. This is usually done one class at a time.

The Central Lyon staff has been willing to take the challenges these students present as their own and have given of their time, patience and energies toward giving students with special needs an opportunity to learn in the "least restrictive" environment. Our room is moving to West Sioux next year. The BD room was housed at Boyden-Hull for seven

years and at MOC/FV for three years prior to the most recent four at Central Lyon.

We would like to take this time to thank the Central Lyon community for accepting us. We know we are time-consuming, a little noisy at times, and not always the easiest students to work with, but when we look back, we will know that the decisions made on our behalf were made with our best interests in mind.

Thanks to the secretaries, cooks, and maintenance people for getting to know us well enough to see we have strengths. Thanks to the elementary teachers and students for their patience when our noise interrupted your listening time in the library or when we budged through your quiet, orderly lines in the hallway. Thanks to the students with whom we shared class time and made us your friends. Thanks to the teachers for their frustrations and extra time we required from them just to keep us from failing. Thanks to Mr. Olson for sharing his office, phone, and advice. We needed all of you.

Thank you and bless you,
Jeri Brewington - teacher
Becky Ver Beek - para-educator
Aletha Stienstra - (former) para-educator

ELEMENTARY EDITION



Fifth Graders performing "Lion Sleeps in the Jungle."

Fine Arts Festival

The third and fourth graders presented the first Fine Arts Festival in April. Across the curriculum, they displayed their social studies, science, art, literature and other subjects. Both grades then performed to share their musical talents. There were songs by groups and individuals, instruments, movement, and recorder music. What is with the garbage cans and paint sticks? The students are beginning to use some of the "Stomp" activities to learn their rhythms and use their creativity. The paint sticks were made into the Australian instrument, the "Bullroarer." We hope the students will build on these beginnings next year for more complex rhythms and movements.

Reflections—the Musical

By Jan Null, Elementary Music Teacher

The fifth graders enjoyed practicing and performing their Spring Musical *Reflections*.

Their songs, movements, instruments, and raps reflected on their home, school, country, and world.

In the photo at left, Ethan DeKam portrays the CL spirit leader, our favorite lion.



Students use "Stomp" activities to learn rhythms.

BABES

By Vicki Clasen, Third Grade Teacher

BABES (Beginning Alcohol and Addiction Basic Education Studies) is here at the Central Lyon Elementary School. The third grade classes have adopted these new friends...Buttons and Bows, McKitty, Myth Mary, Donovan Dignity, Responsible Reggie, Early Bird, and Rhonda Rabbit, along with the help of certified presenter who is affiliated with the Northwest Iowa Alcoholism and Drug Treatment Unit, Inc.

It is a primary prevention program designed to facilitate individual development by providing accurate information to children while they are still forming attitudes regarding health-related matters. Its goal is to help young people develop healthy lifestyles. The puppet stories include the following topics:

1. Self Image and Feelings
2. Decision Making and Peer Pressure and Positive Influence
3. Coping Skills
4. Alcohol and Other Drug Information
5. Getting Help and Dignity is Important
6. Wrapping Up and Certification



BABES program encourages healthy lifestyles to 3rd graders.

Learning Through the Dead

By Pat Wiener, Fifth Grade Teacher

What are we going to do at the cemetery? That is a question often asked when the fifth graders learn that they will be making a visit to the local cemetery. The fact is that this annual spring trip becomes an interdisciplinary study including all curriculum areas which are a part of the fifth grade year.

Teaming with a partner, the students are given a half day to complete a packet consisting of questions dealing with subjects ranging from finding perimeter and area to identifying people who might have served in the various wars. Along with the packet, the students also get an important lesson about the proper etiquette that should be used when visiting the cemetery, as well as a brief history of our local cemetery.

Hopefully by the end of the day, the students leave the cemetery with a different appreciation and understanding of the importance of our cemetery in Rock Rapids.

Kindergarten Pajama Party

By Julie Boekhout,
Kindergarten Teacher

On Tuesday, March 26th the Kindergartners finished the Letterbook P, so, it was time for us to party.

During our day of partying, we had lots of fun things planned. First of all, each child was invited to wear pajamas to school. Along with all of this excitement, they were very surprised to see Mr. Olson, their principal, sporting his pajamas, too! He was invited to our party to read his favorite story called, The Practically Perfect Pajamas, to them.

In the afternoon, we had a pretend pet parade. Each child brought a favorite stuffed animal to school and received a blue ribbon prize for its most charming quality. Some of the pets at our party were a puppy, a panda bear and a panther.

To top off our spectacular day, each child brought a small gift whose name begins with or contains the letter p. We passed the presents to the tune of "Hot Potato" by Phil Baker. As the children opened their petite presents, they were asked to pronounce the object's name. Some of the presents included a polar bear puzzle, Pokemon erasers, playdough, and pencils.



Mr. Olson reads to the Kindergarten students.

According to Brady Spykerboer, "It was fun to wear our pajamas to school." Andrew Kniep said, "I liked having the principal read to us." Ask any of the Kindergartners and they would say it was definitely a pretty happy day!

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their time!