

## New Preschool in 2008-2009

By Superintendent Dave Ackerman

During the 2007 Iowa State Legislative session, funding for four-year-old preschool programs through the local school districts was approved. The approval came in the form of grants which will be funded by the state as the program is phased in over the next four years. The first year for the grants was this current school year, and several neighboring districts were selected through the grant process in the first round. Central Lyon did not apply in the first year in order to facilitate the preparation and planning process. Central Lyon will be applying for the grant this year and in the next consecutive years until the grant is awarded to us.

Many factors are taken into consideration in the selection process including cooperation with local agencies, poverty level of the district, and the

status of current preschool programs in the community. The Central Lyon school board has approved beginning a four year old preschool program for the 2008-2009 school year regardless of a grant award from the state. Students enrolled will need to pay only the standard registration fees. This program will fall under the guidelines established by the state of Iowa for quality preschools. The curriculum will be sequenced to blend into the current transitional kindergarten and kindergarten programs.

While this is an exciting opportunity for the patrons of Central Lyon, many questions about the new program are likely to surface as we move forward. It must be perfectly clear that four year old preschool is not mandatory. Parents do not have to send their students if they so choose. Because this is a voluntary program, the school district will not be transporting the students. Interested parents will need to make transportation arrangements for their child to and from school. Because state statute does not allow for students under the age of five to be transported by bus, this will not be an option.

The program must be staffed by a certified teacher with an early childhood endorsement. A ratio of one staff member to every ten students must be maintained; therefore, a para-

professional will also be staffed in the classroom. If you wish to enroll your student for the program, the child must be four years of age by September 15. Students will need to be current with immunizations to enroll.

While we are currently in the planning stages, the current plan is to hold both a morning session and an afternoon session. The half day program will be held four days a week, Monday through Thursday. This allows the program to meet the state guidelines of a minimum of ten hours of instruction time per week. Students will not be eating lunch at school, but snacks will be provided.

We wish to emphasize that this preschool program is for four-year-olds only. Transitional kindergarten is offered for students who are five on or before September 15. Transitional kindergarten is a two full days per week program.

Central Lyon will begin enrollment for the 2008-2009 program on February 25, 2008. If you wish to enroll your student or have questions about the program, please call the elementary office at 472-4041.

### Inside this issue:

Secondary Thoughts	2
Crisis Planning	2
FFA	3
Back to Back	3
D.E.A.R.	3
Counselor's Corner	4
AEA Online	4
School Closing Procedures	5
Principal's Perspective	5
Kindergarten/TK Round-Up	5
Technology in the Classroom	6
Art Students Display Talents	6
Mock Trial	7
Healthy Snack Activities	7
Note-Worthy Dates	8

## Gift of Gator

The Central Lyon Community School District recently received a generous gift of a John Deere Gator from Dr. and Mrs. Donald Smith. The Gator has a hydraulic lift box and will be used in many ways which includes preparing and maintaining the fields at the softball/baseball complex and using it during football and track seasons to assist with equipment transportation and field maintenance. The buildings and grounds department will also use the Gator to assist with snow removal. The Central Lyon Board of Education and the Central Lyon staff would like to thank Dr. Smith and his wife Mary for this versatile gift.



Mr. Ackerman is pictured above with Mary Smith, a Central Lyon alum, while coaches try out the Gator.

By Curt Busch, Secondary (High School) Principal

The 2007-2008 school year is moving along very rapidly. As of this writing, we are close to the mid-quarter for the third nine weeks. At this time counseling has begun the registration process for the 2008-2009 school year. A new feature added to the registration process this year is an opportunity for the students to register on-line. Upon completion of the master schedule, parents will be able to view the selections their children have made for the 2008-2009 school year.

Three extracurricular organizations will be advancing in competition this spring. The quiz bowl team, under the direction of Mr. John McDonald, qualified for the television round at Sioux City. There were 37 teams entering this competition and Central Lyon placed in the top four. For their achievement, the quiz bowl team traveled to Sioux City February 13 to televise their competition for a later broadcast. If you are a quiz bowl team member, this may be one of the questions you are asked, "A barometer measures atmospheric pressure. What does a cycrometer measure?" The answer is, "relative humidity." Keep sharpening the skills, quiz bowl students.

*"...these two employees contributed over 60 years of service."*

The jazz band competed last month at Estherville. The jazz band, under the direction of Mr. Sherwin Langholdt, has qualified for state competition the past four years. Currently, there are over 20 students comprising this year's jazz band. This team works very hard, often arriving at school long before the regular start to our school day.

The final team competing this month in state competition is large group speech. Their performance at districts determined who competed at state February 2. This team, made up of over 35 members, consists of three categories: radio broadcast, improvisation, and readers' theater. Large group speech is under the direction of Mrs. Sadie Solem.

The Central Lyon Community School District would like to say a very special thank you and congratulations to two of our staff members who will be retiring at the close of the 2008 school year. Terry Tausz, high school guidance counselor, will be retiring after 29 years of service to the district. In addition, John McDonald will be retiring after 34 years of service to the Central Lyon Community School District. Combined, these two employees contributed over 60 years of service. It is difficult to find the right words to express our thanks for the lives they have touched and the legacy they leave behind. From all of us, we wish them the best of health and happiness in their retirements.

## FFA "Food" Sales By Dwayne Postma, FFA Advisor

Another very successful year of fruit sales was recently completed by the Central Lyon FFA. We refer to our project as fruit sales, but we should refer to them as food sales because of the wide selection of food products sold. Each year the agricultural business class manages the sales as though they were the class's very own business. This group utilizes business concepts such as profit margins, wholesales vs. retail pricing, warehouse storage, proper sales presentation, recordkeeping, and accountability. Along with the entire FFA membership, this class learns a great deal through out "food" sales activities.

Just to give you some idea of the magnitude of our sales, we compiled a little inventory. We sold over 200 boxes of apples, 175 boxes of grapefruit, 250 boxes of oranges, 150 boxes of pears, 350 boxes of clementines, and 125 boxes of potatoes. Keep in mind each box weighs between 25-50 pounds! Along with the fruit, we also sold 3600 pounds of peanuts, over 3500 pounds of cheese and cheese products, over 1500 butter braids and pastry puffs, over 1200 pounds of beef and beef sausage, 225 gallons of apple cider, and, yes, even 300 pounds of pickled herring, among other things. It is very important to note that not only do the "food" sales act as a great learning exercise, they also provide our FFA chapter with a profitable fundraiser. We'd like to thank all of you for your support .



Danielle Steven and Art Grimes (top picture) are among a group of FFA members helping with fruit sales.

# Crisis Planning

By Superintendent Dave Ackerman

Just about every school year, we hear the horrific stories of school shootings and unthinkable school violence in the United States. After each of these incidents, the concern is raised about whether or not schools are prepared for these emergency situations. At Central Lyon, we have crisis plans in place for many difficult situations and circumstances. We hold fire and severe weather/tornado drills regularly, but most recently we have begun concentrating on serious threat crisis planning to include dangerous intruder, gunman, gas leak, or bomb threat.

Each of these scenarios may require a different decision to be made, but know that we have worked closely with the local sheriff's department to establish our procedures. Our planning may not cover all possible scenarios, but we have been diligent in our pursuit of uniform procedures which govern our actions which are based on expert professional recommendations. Local law enforcement has reviewed and even practiced maneuvers within the school building to become familiar with our school.

In the case of a gas leak or bomb threat, immediate evacuation of the building will take place. The district will respond to all immediate threats such as these, but will also work closely with law enforcement to investigate all threats.

In the scenario of a dangerous person or gunman in the building, a lockdown of all classrooms will occur. All district staff have been informed of the procedures, which include moving students away from windows and doors, locking all entrances,

and hanging signs in classroom windows to indicate the situation within the room to law enforcement officials. As a lockdown occurs, a central command post will be established between administration and law enforcement, and all roads to the school will be blocked. A SWAT team from the sheriff's office will enter the building, attempting to locate the dangerous person or persons. A second sweep team of deputies will then enter the building and evacuate students and staff after all areas of the building are approved for evacuation by the SWAT team.

During an evacuation or after release by the sweep team, students and staff will move quickly to the evacuation centers which have been previously established. The elementary and middle school will evacuate across the street to Holy Name Catholic Church. The high school will evacuate to the Central Lyon Activities Center (Old Gym). The district has established a reunification plan for both centers to assist in reunifying parents and students after an incident. Parents should be prepared to receive directions from school personnel who are responsible for the reunification. We have a well-ordered and organized method established. We ask parent cooperation as it may be chaotic, and it will be important to account for everybody to ensure each student's safe return.

It seems unfortunate that we should have to concentrate so much energy on this type of school safety when we should be concentrating on student learning. Unfortunately, in these times it is necessary. Please be assured that we do have these crisis plans in place, obviously in much more detailed fashion, just in case we ever need them. Let's just hope we never do.

HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

## Back to Back

By Curtis Eben, Wrestling Coach

The Central Lyon wrestling season is off with a bang. The Lions finished second at the Emmetsburg and Central Lyon tournaments. They also won the West Sioux tournament. For the second consecutive year, the Lions are dual and tournament conference champions, crowning eight all-conference wrestlers.

Nate Herda, Nate DeBoer, and Jordan Gacke are currently undefeated. Nate Herda has also set the school record for most wins in school history. The Lions are currently ranked second in 1A with six individuals also receiving rankings. The Lions are hoping the early success will carry them deep into the postseason.

Ranking Box (1/14/08)	
Alex Rust	#8
Nate DeBoer	#2
Nate Herda	#2
Dylan Reynolds	#2
Jordan Gacke	#1
Scott Eben	#3

## D.E.A.R.

By Cindy DeWandel, High School Media Specialist

Our D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read) program is currently in the second year of use in the high school. Students and staff read silently for 14 minutes daily. Research shows that silent sustained reading programs benefit both students' reading skills and their appreciation of reading.

Here at Central Lyon, I have seen more students reading for pleasure and more students and staff members recommending books to each other than I did before DEAR began. I also find it interesting that we have many non-fiction readers. Many students prefer to read biographies and informative books about topics that interest them. You won't be surprised to know that sports topics rank high among these non-fiction favorites. Students also have an interest in both non-fiction and fiction dealing with the lives of other young people. Take an opportunity soon to visit with your child about the books he/she has been reading.

## PLAN & PSAT Tests

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

Back in October, 26 sophomores took the PLAN test, and 20 juniors took the PSAT test. The PLAN is a preliminary ACT test that gives students an excellent idea of what the actual ACT is all about. The PSAT is a preliminary SAT and also a beginning point for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

## Financial Aid

For the fifth consecutive year, the College Planning Center in West Des Moines assisted Central Lyon families with filing the FAFSA online. Several families of senior students planning to

attend post-secondary education utilized this free service on February 4.

Now available from the guidance office is the paper application of the 2008-2009 FAFSA. (Earlier I had announced that I would not be able to get these, but I was able to obtain several copies.) For those who will file the FAFSA online, there is a new 2008-2009 FAFSA ON THE WEB WORKSHEET. Both of these may be obtained from the guidance office.

## ACT Notes

Juniors interested in taking the ACT test during the 2007-2008 school year were given registration materials during the fall semester. They were encouraged to take the test either April 12 or June 14. Several have chosen to take it earlier as a "practice run." If your student is planning to take the test in April or June, mail the material or apply online by the early registration deadline or there will be a \$19 late registration fee added to the \$30 basic fee. Please keep in mind that there is a big push for students to register online—online registration will have a faster turn around time in processing the application.

The ACT is generally used by four year colleges and some nursing schools as part of their entrance requirements. Students who plan 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.

## AEA Online

By Cindy DeWandel, HS Media Specialist

Iowa residents have rights to use Iowa AEA Online, which gives us access to some great, authoritative research sites. These eight sites were originally intended to provide accurate research sources online for our students.

Currently **all** Iowa residents are welcome to use the sites as long as the sites are accessed from within the state of Iowa. These sites are available 24/7. The eight sites are Accu-Weather, Atomic Learning, Clipart.com, EBSCO, Multimedia Archives, SIRS Researcher, DE Streaming, and World Book Online.

Ask your child or contact Cindy DeWandel at 712-472-4051 to get the user name and password. The rest is easy. Just visit [www.iowaonline.org](http://www.iowaonline.org), follow the links, and explore!

## Students Score Well on Standardized Tests

By Toby Lorenzen, Elem/MS Success Coordinator & Terry Tausz, High School Guidance Counselor

Grade	IGE	NGE	IPR	NPR
2nd	2.4	2.7	62	88
3rd	4.0	4.7	99	99
4th	5.1	6.1	96	99
5th	5.9	7.3	88	97
6th	7.4	8.4	90	95
7th	7.6	9.0	69	87
8th	8.8	10.6	76	87
9th	10.6		88	
10th	12.8		97	
11th	11.8		75	

During the last weeks 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 at the high school level and were distributed at parent teacher conferences at the elementary/middle school level. The table below contains the results by grade level.

**IGE stands for Iowa Grade Equivalent.**

**NGE stands for National Grade Equivalent.**

These scores are useful when measuring individual grade growth. For example, our tenth grade students had an overall IGE of 12.8. This score indicates that overall our tenth grade test performance was approximately the same as those of typical students finishing the eighth month of twelfth grade in the state of Iowa.

**IPR stands for Iowa Percentile Rank.**

**NPR stands for National Percentile Rank.**

These scores show the standing or rank order of the Central Lyon grade groups compared with similar grade groups throughout Iowa and the nation. For example, our third grade students had an IPR of 99%. This means they scored as well or higher than 99% of the other third grade students in Iowa.

Our students' scores were once again very good, with every grade scoring above average. Everyone at Central Lyon is extremely proud of our students and their efforts.

# The Central Lyon Community School District Early Dismissal and School Closing Procedure

During inclement weather, the Central Lyon Community School Administrators will announce school delays or closings by 6:45 a.m. on the following radio/TV stations:

- KQAD Radio: 101.1 FM/800 AM - Luverne
- KIWA Radio: 105.3 FM/1550 AM - Sheldon
- Results Radio group: HOT 104.7 FM, KXRB 1000 AM, KIKN 100.5 FM, MIX 97.3 FM, KSOO 1140 AM, B102.7
- KELO TV - Channel 11

Even though the media is the most reliable source for school announcements, the school does offer two more options for notifications:

- INTERNET: Cancellations.com. is a free Internet web site powered by AccuWeather.com. Central Lyon's home page, [www.central-lyon.k12.ia.us](http://www.central-lyon.k12.ia.us), has a direct link button which will allow you to access information on school closings, delays, and announcements.

- SNOWCAP: Sign up at [www.snowcaponline.net](http://www.snowcaponline.net) to receive a text message or e-mail alerts. **Alltel customers:** Prior to signing up for snowcap, upgrade your software on your cell phone by following these steps on your cell phone: type \*228 then hit send, listen to prompts. At completion of upgrade, you will hear whether the software upgrade was successful or not. If it is successful, you will need to type \*78 and hit send. If the \*228 upgrade is unsuccessful, you can take your phone to your local store, and they will help you with the upgrade. When your upgrade is complete, sign up at [www.snowcaponline.net](http://www.snowcaponline.net). You will receive a text message from snowcap asking you to confirm by replying with the code sent to you. Once these steps are completed, you are ready to receive Snowcap notifications.

When a decision to start classes two hours late is announced, continue to monitor the radio/TV stations. The decision to cancel school will be made by 9:00 a.m. if weather/road conditions do not improve. In the event of an early dismissal, the radio/TV stations will be contacted at least one hour prior to the closing.

## Greetings from the Elementary/ Middle School Office

By Dan Kruse, Elementary/MS Principal

The weather forecast for the day is calling for below zero temperatures. Tell me again why we enjoy living in Iowa. Days like this mean indoor recess for the TK-fifth grade students. If possible, we like to get the kids outside for a few minutes. But when it gets this cold, we don't take chances. Since we'll go out when the temperature stays above zero, it is important to make sure your child brings the appropriate winter gear to school.

You will also find information (at right) pertaining to kindergarten and transitional kindergarten round-up. These will both be held this spring. A student must be five years of age on or before September 15 to be eligible for kindergarten or TK. This is a state of Iowa requirement for every public school in the state.

In an earlier newsletter, I informed you about a grant that we had received from the state of Iowa and the United States Department of Agriculture. This grant, which provides all students in the building access to fresh fruit or vegetables on a daily basis, has been an over-whelming success. The students love it, as do the parents. I've had several parents tell me that they have seen a difference in their child's eating habits. Parents have told me that when their child wants a snack at home, he/she might ask for some sort of fruit or vegetable. That's awesome! The only problem is that the grant will expire at the end of the 2008-09 school year. The students will definitely be disappointed.

With spring on the horizon, I'd like you to make plans to attend our Parent-Teacher Council's annual soup and pie supper on March 13<sup>th</sup>. The food is always delicious. It also gives you the opportunity to view some of our students' work. We are proud of what the kids accomplish during the school year, and we love to show it off. Please come and enjoy.

Until next time, think spring and stay warm.

## Kindergarten & TK Round-Up

There will be a kindergarten round-up meeting at 1:00 p.m. on February 28 in the high school auditorium. There will be a transitional kindergarten meeting at 7:00 p.m. on March 18 in Mrs. Pytleski's room 18 in the lower level of the elementary.

Central Lyon would like to determine the number of parents in our district that plan to send their child to kindergarten or transitional kindergarten during the 2008-2009 school year. Please complete the form below and return it to the elementary school office or call 472-4041.

I will be sending (child's name)

to **Kindergarten/TK** in the fall of 2008-09.  
(Please circle one.)

**NOTE: Your child must be five on or before September 15, 2008.**

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the  
Elementary School Office or call 472-4041.

## Technology in the Classroom

By Jerry Pytleski, Middle School Science Teacher

With all the technology in today's world, it is continually more difficult to keep students motivated in the classroom. Using the traditional paper and pencil lecture format in classrooms is still useful and has its place, but students seem to like varied delivery methods from teachers. Scientific probes and graphing calculators, WebQuests, Power Point Presentations, and WISE Projects are just a few of the ways technology is being brought in today's middle school science classroom.

The eighth grade earth science students are presently finishing up the second quarter of the school year by completing a Power Point presentation on a volcano of their choice. Within their oral presentation, the students are required to use the Power Point software and the skills they have learned in the technology education classroom to complete a presentation of at least three minutes in length.

This is an end of the unit project geared to show me what the students have learned through our study of volcanoes. Information about tectonic plate boundaries, different types of volcanoes and magma, subduction zones, composition of rocks

are a few of the required pieces of information in the presentation. To further enhance the presentation, the students are downloading videos and animations into their presentations to keep the other students interested in their report. As a teacher, I am amazed at what my students are able to produce using the computer. I am continually trying to find more and more ways to get technology into my classroom.

WebQuests and WISE Projects are ways in which technology is part of my classroom as well. These "Quests" and projects are found on-line. These websites and projects are provided through two universities, the University of California at Berkeley and San Diego State University. These website have hundreds of different projects based on themes such as cell division, thermodynamics, and the possible causes of global warming. Within these projects, the students may need to research certain questions to fully explain their answers. These projects help engage the students by making them express their opinion on certain topics and backing their opinion with facts from an expert in the field. The biggest asset to presenting the information in my curriculum in this way is that it makes the students think for themselves. Students are asked to do such things as writing a persuasive letter to a politician expressing the reasons for industrial change to limit possible ozone depletion leading to global warming. These projects are self contained. All questions and supporting information are at the students' fingertips. This helps to keep the students focused on the task at hand, and does not allow them to "surf" other websites on the World Wide Web.

Technology is available for teachers and students to take advantage of. I see technology as a big asset due to how it helps supplement and connect the textbook information with other technology resources. Technology has become a big part of my current curriculum. With the possibly of gaining access to a "SMART" board, I see my curriculum becoming more and more integrated with technology in the years to come.

## Art Students Display Talents

By Rhoda Lange, Elementary/Middle School Art Teacher

Elementary and middle school art students display their talents in numerous fashions throughout the year. Cheerful, student-designed placemats adorned our annual Central Lyon Foundation banquet tables while students' paper mache' pumpkins served as center pieces. It's also been an annual tradition for Pizza Ranch to display the fifth grade students' cleverly decorated gourds and pumpkins in return for a mini

pizza certificate. "I'm Thankful" mats even brightened the tables for the community Thanksgiving dinner.

The rapid transition to the Christmas season was busy. "Budding Picasso's" trimmed trees at school, Frontier Bank, the Lyon County Courthouse, and the US Post Office. Students were generously rewarded with everything from treats to classroom tours for their work.

Premier Estates was a scheduled stop in January for one seventh grade class. Students and residents made sock-snowmen center pieces to beautify the dining room tables for the winter months.

Traveling or local art shows, and poster or decal contests are just some of the other avenues where Central Lyon students continue to exhibit their visual art talents.



Students assist Premier Estates residents with snowmen center pieces.

## Mock Trial By Terry Van Berkum, Mock Trial Advisor



The eighth grade team compiled a 2-0 record at regionals, but failed to advance on points.

It has been 18 years since the middle school mock trial program began here at Central Lyon. The mock trial program has grown from one middle school team (10 members) back in 1990 to two middle school teams and four high school teams (roughly 55 students) today. The 1990 team qualified its first time out of the blocks with the famous Lupohound case. This case consisted of roughly twenty pages of witness statements and two exhibits. Today's cases usually run

eighty pages of statements and ten exhibits, along with explanation of Iowa law. Central Lyon mock trial has produced many state participants as well as some all-state witnesses and all-state attorneys. The 1996 middle school team, which placed in the top four, was beaten by the eventual state champion by one point.

This year the high school teams will consist of four teams—one for each grade level 9-12—a first for Central Lyon. Each year the cases vary. This year the case for both levels deals with criminal. Next year the cases will be civil and the subject material varies. Cases have dealt with drunk driving, murder, AIDS, steroids, and wrongful death. This year the middle school's case dealt with a murder after a sporting event, and the high school's case will deal with assault and burglary.

Finally, the year 2008 has Iowa mock trial celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The state began the recognition of this event during the middle school state competition. A chair was designed for John Wheeler who is the state coordinator and national president for the mock trial program. John has been with the program for roughly 23 years. The chair was designed and painted by a former Central Lyon mock trial participant, Nick Van Berkum.



The seventh grade team was competitive with a 1-1 record at regionals.

## Healthy Snack Activities

By Geneva Grooters, Fourth Grade Teacher

Central Lyon students are snacking on healthy fruits and vegetables through the *Pick a Better Snack* program. Every day the students are offered a fresh fruit or vegetable. They are also engaging in activities to learn about a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. Each month an activity is chosen for each grade level.

In September the fourth graders learned about the different parts of the plant (roots, leaves, stems, fruits, seeds, and flowers) that are eaten. In October they tried cool grapes and discovered that frozen grapes would be a great summer treat! They read food labels and compared the nutrition of 100% juice and fruit drinks in November. In December they did a comparison chart with the information learned about kiwi, grapefruit, and tangerines.

In addition to the healthy snack activity, a physical activity is included for each month. In September they played "Oh Deer," a highly involved physical activity in which the students become deer and components of the environment. The snacks are enjoyed each day. The grant which makes this all possible is very much appreciated.



Fourth grade students enjoy an apple snack.



### Note-Worthy Dates

✓NO SCHOOL—staff development	2/27
✓Parent-Teacher Conferences 5:30—8:30 p.m.	3/3 & 3/5
✓NO SCHOOL	3/7
✓PTC Soup & Pie Supper	3/13
✓Kindergarten Round-Up	3/13
✓TK Round-Up	3/18
✓NO SCHOOL—spring break	3/21-24
✓NO SCHOOL—staff development	4/7
✓Prom	4/25
✓NO SCHOOL—staff development	4/28
✓Baccalaureate	5/18
✓High School Play	5/20
✓Commencement	5/25
✓NO SCHOOL—holiday	5/26

**NEW FOR 2008-2009!**

*Public*

## 4-Year-Old Preschool

to begin at Central Lyon

NEW in 2008-2009

**Enrollment begins**

**February 25, 2008**

See story on page one or call  
712-472-4041 for more details.

Students must be four years of age by September 15.