# **Bison Banner**

http://www.centralcityschoolsne.org



Superintendent's Message

As the first semester draws to a close, I would like to take the time to wish everyone a very happy and safe Holiday Season. The first semester has been a success, and there has been a great deal of accomplishments. It is great to see so many people take great pride in the Green and Gold.

This month, our district is focusing on the value of Sense of Community. As discussed in previous articles, the community is an integral part of the school, and it is important that staff and students are involved and aware of this great community. The support of the community is very evident, and that support is not to be taken for granted. Over the course of this year, the district has attempted to expand its role with the community and reach out in several ways. In coordination with our Sense of Community value, the High School and Middle School Student Councils served pie and ice cream on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> to the community. In addition, a highlight video of the school year was shown along with the Sense of Community video and the Student Council addressed those in the crowd. Elementary students have been doing several community outreach programs this month, and the Central City Education Association has developed a "Give Back" program to help support families and situations of need. This is a collaborative effort of teachers, support staff, administration, and the Board of Education. These are small gestures, but important things for our district to do.

Along the lines of community, the district is taking a strong look at a career pathways initiative. There are several obstacles to overcome, but the district will begin to look at ways to overcome those obstacles to expand our curriculum and our opportunities for students. Career education is a unique opportunity that encompasses an expanded curriculum to offer students additional dual credit opportunities, expanded courses within career fields, specialized education, opportunities for community economic development, and helps prepare students for the local and regional job market along with the global market. This will be a very exciting opportunity for our students and community.

As the winter approaches and the white stuff begins to fly, please follow us on Facebook. The district will continue to utilize Bison Alerts and media outlets to inform everyone about weather decisions, but the fastest way to receive district information is through Facebook as we post weather decisions. We hope that everyone enjoys their Holiday Season and enjoys friends and family. 2015 has been a very positive and enjoyable year and we look forward to even better things for this district and the students of this district in 2016. Thank you for your continued support and Go Bison!

Jeff Jensen, Superintendent 3rd Quarter Newsletter

Jeff Jensen, Superintendent

Maureen McElhinny, SPED Director

Shawn McDiffett, H.S. Principal

Justin Anderson, Activities Director

Holee Hanke, M.S. Principal

Neely Moser, Elementary Principa

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DAY 8:00-3:25

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL DAY 8:00-3:38





#### From the High School Principal's Desk

ter is in the history books. At the end of the our students. During the last three years, we recognized the12th graders for their improvements on the NeSA assessments. This year's 12th graders year. In reading, the class improved from 77% to 80% of the students being proficient. In mathematics, they improved from 43% to 68% of the students were proficient. In writing, the class had 74% of the students being proficient to improving to 80% of the students being proficient. In science, they improved from 74% of the students were proficient to 79%. We have seen improvements in the NeSA scores and the students were recognized for their performance. Students who exceeded the standards were recognized for their outstanding perfor-A pep rally and special activities were mance. provided for the seniors in an effort to recognize our students for their improvements.

We also had a friendly competition during the 40 bikes that were able to be fixed. We will donate semester between all four grades. We charted the weekly results of those students who passed all of their classes and for the fewest number of behavior incidents. Going into the last week of school, the junior class was leading all classes in both categories. The winner of the competition for the semester received a pizza party for their efforts of being great all around students. We will start the competition again for the second semester.

Speaking of recognizing students, the high school leadership team and administration determined that the school's valedictorian and salutatorian and students with an ACT score of 30 plus should also be recognized. With the help of Mr. Larry Doll, we were able to find records from 1903 to present of those students who received the distinction of the class valedictorian and salutatori-As for the ACT scores, the leadership team an. and administration decided that the challenge of finding all students who scored a 30 plus on the

ACT was virtually impossible and the school may or It is hard to imagine, but the end of the first semes- may not have those records, therefore starting with the Class of 2015, students who scored a 30 semester the high school celebrated the success of plus on the ACT would be recognized from this point forward. There will be two large plaques placed in the PAC in an effort to recognize students for their academic success. A very special improved in all four areas since their 8th grade thanks to Mr. Larry Doll for the hours upon hours of research in an effort to find the class valedictorian and salutatorian.

> Season's Greetings to all Mr. Shawn McDiffett, High School Principal

## Bikes for Christmas of Sharing

Members from the FFA Chapter and welding students have been taking time out of their day to fix and work on bikes that were donated. They have been doing everything from fixing chains and tires to cleaning them, and also working on brakes. We would like to thank everyone who donated bikes. There was about them to the Merrick County Christmas of Sharing.

By Abbie Hillmer, FFA reporter

Mrs. Huston's 6th Grade Enrichment class finished up a map study by creating Form-A-Globes which start out as a flat map.



#### Middle School Greetings!!

Happy New Year from CCMS! I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable break! It is hard to believe we are halfway through the school year. Our families are busy with the many activities that our school has to offer. Our students are working hard on their academics (it always amazes me how much our kids can learn in a year). Finally, especially in middle school, our kids growing exponentially not only physically but emotionally. I find it astonishing how much our kids change during their middle school vears. I want to take just a minute to address each of the above facets.

I know so many of our kids are in several activities. I am often in awe at how some of you keep all the activities organized. I just want to leave you with a thought- it is important to take time to be a family. In all of coming and goings make sure that you take time throughout the week to just be together as a family.

Next, second semester is when our students get to show off how much they have learned throughout the year. All students will take the reading and math state assessment during the months of March. April, and May. In addition to the reading and math, eighth graders will take the science and writing, which is coming up very soon (end of January). The fifth graders will take the science portions along with reading and math. Our teachers have been working very hard to help our students reach their learning targets. We appreciate how you support us with those goals by checking grades with your kids through infinite campus, helping them with homework, and calling us with any concerns you see from home.

Finally, the social emotional part that is characteristic of the middle school years. Remember, our kids are still dependent on the beliefs and values of parents and other adults, but seek to make more of their own decisions. This can be a difficult balance to navigate for both the parents and the student. just know that you are not alone in this journey. Please reach out when needed and seek support during those frustrating times.

Speaking on behalf of our staff, thank you for sharing your kids with us. We look forward to this semester, appreciate your continued communication, and support. Holee Hanke, Middle School Principal

#### ELEMENTARY CORE VALUE FOR DECEMBER

Sense of Community is the Core Value that Central City Public Schools is focusing on for the month of December. This value is very fitting for this time of year. Community is defined as a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals. Our common interests here in Central City are our children. Our children are a most valuable part of our community because they are the future of Central City. The children of this community will grow to be adults who will take over family businesses and start new ones. They will take care of the sick and educate the young. We deeply value that connection we have with every single member of this community. We at CCPS know that we cannot work independently to reach the goal of educating our students. We will need to work together. This month Central City elementary students have several outreach opportunities they will be participating in to give back to the community. Some of these include: collecting donations for our food pantry, collecting winter clothing for those in need and visiting our care centers. December is a time for us all to remember how important our community is and how fortunate we are to be a part of the community of Central City.

Neely Moser, Principal

### **GINGERBREAD FUN**

Kindergarten children and families had so much fun making a "Gingerbread Kid" craft together in the evening on Tuesday, Dec. 1 in their classrooms! Families worked together to decorate their "Gingerbread Kid" for classroom bulletin boards. They also enjoyed listening to Christmas music and reading lots of different versions of "The Gingerbread Man" stories!



# 3rd Annual Pennies for Patriotism Collection



The students and staff of CCES brought in their spare change to collect money to donate to the Wounded Warriors Fund. The project was presented to the students on November 9th and money was collect through November 20th. It was a school effort as the fourth grade students pitched in by counting the coins for us. The grand total was \$432.49! The fourth

grade students also got to present the check to Mrs. Moser, Elementary Principal, who will send it in to the Wounded Warriors Fund. This is a great project to not only help others, but for the school to come together for the greater good of others. What a great way to show our sense of community here at CCES!

Students, their parents, and employees of the Central City Public School District No. 4 are hereby notified that this school district does not discriminate on the basis of sex, national origin, handicap, or race and is required by Title IX, Section 504 and Title VI not to discriminate on the basis of sex or handicap in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning Central City Public School District No. 4's compliance with Title IX and Section 504 and Title VI is directed to contact: Central City Middle School Principal, Phone: (308) 946-8056, who has been designated by Central City Public School District No. 4 to coordinate the school district's efforts to comply with Title IX, Section 504, and Title VI. Reference – Board of Education Policy 103 R3.



Fun at Stuhr Museum The Second grade students experienced Christmas Eve one hundred years ago on their field trip to the Stuhr Museum. They had fun making popcorn on an old cob and coal kitchen stove. Also, they strung





popcorn and made paper chains to hang on their classroom trees. The children experienced the chores they would have had to do; ironing with an iron heated on the old cob stove, sewing, and washing clothes in a big tub with a scrub board. Children enjoyed sitting around the Christmas tree opening gifts families may have received long ago. Students were amazed at how different life was one hundred years ago.

#### "Bigs" working with the "Littles" in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program at CCPS

The following CCHS students are giving of themselves to mentor elementary students through the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program of Grand Island. These students, "Bigs", will meet with the elementary students that they were matched with, "Littles", once a week until the first of May. The students will visit and have fun together in an effort to promote social growth and development. Typically these matches are as meaningful and helpful to the older students as they are to the younger students.







#### Central City High School Career and College Fair Learn to Earn

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Central City High School hosted its eighth annual Career and College Fair called *Learn to Earn*. The Fair was rated highly by the staff and students. Comments like "it was fun!", "It taught me a lot about colleges and different career opportunities…", and "I learned a lot!" were prevalent.

Over fifty guest presenters, representatives, and recruiters volunteered their time and knowledge to the students during the Career and College Fair.

The keynote speaker was Dr. JoAnne Owens-Nauslar of Lincoln. Dr. Jo, as she has often been called, has spent the past 43 years promoting the benefits of healthy and active living. She spoke about being aware of the many possibilities in life, giving one's best effort, and being optimistic every day. Dr. Jo was brought to us through Barry Carlson of Central City and the Mid America Speakers Bureau.

Older students from High Plains Community High School and Palmer High School joined us for much of the event. All students spent time visiting with various college representatives and military recruiters in the gym. The students seemed to have a lot of fun and gain a great amount of information from them.

Students participated in informational sessions presented by State Patrol Investigator Justin Davis (Social Media and Internet Safety), Central Community College Admissions Director Erin Lesiak (Hot Jobs Through CCC), Gardner Capital Vice-President of Development Christopher Lenz (The Importance of Furthering Your Education), and Central Community College Counselor Michelle Lutz (Making the Grade in College).





CCHS students also heard from a variety of outstanding local and regional career awareness presenters about their specific occupations: Haley Strobel and Meghan Schwank (School Psychologist); Merrick County Sherriff Kevin Campbell (Law Enforcement); AJ Munn (Accountant); Todd Williams (Fine Artist); Bill Gavers (College Instructor and Coach); Diane Schoch (Nursing); Robb Schnitzler (Physical Therapist); Gary Senff (Welding); Chris Benner (Mechanical Engineer); James Reeves (Farmer); Reub Burbach (Secondary Teacher and Coach); Wendy Carlson (Graphic Design); Christopher Lenz (Property Development); and Betty Wemhoff (Medical Laboratory). Many of these presenters were past graduates of Central City High School.

The school day continued for CCHS students with lunch and presentations about the college going experience from recent CCHS graduates: Tanner Hiemer, Trevor McDiffett, Travis Schwarz, Brianna Bankson, Abby Maresh, Katie Benner, and Shayleen Hubbard.

The day concluded with the cast of the CCHS One Act Play performing, "The Insanity of Mary Girard" by Lanie Robertson, directed by Mr. Chase King.

Many individuals contributed to the success of the this special day and a huge thank you goes out to all high school personnel, special presenters, career presenters, college representatives, military recruiters, CCHS Alumni, and the CCHS One Act cast and crew. Central City High School appreciates the partnership between the community and the area high schools.

The Career and College Fair was organized by CCHS Counselor Debra Anderson. Part of the funding for the Central City High School Career and College was provided through a College Access Grant from the Education Quest Foundation.

#### Attention All CCHS Seniors and CCHS Graduates in College

All students planning to attend further education next year should complete a **Senior Scholarship Application/College Student Scholarship Application** through the **Merrick Foundation** by February 1, 2016. The Merrick Foundation has been most generous to our students over the years. Visit<u>www.merrickfoundation.org</u> and go to Scholarships for more information. All students who submit Merrick Foundation Scholarship applications and materials neatly and completely will be considered for scholarships. Students must read the directions thoroughly. The scholarship window will open on December 15th and will close on February 1st.

# Attention Merrick County District Residents!

Do you have a child that will be ready for kindergarten in August? If so and you are new to Central City, please fill out the form below. Do you have a new neighbor? Do you have an addition to your family? Has your household increased or decreased in any way? Are you new in the district? These are questions that need answers so that the Central City school district census can be updated. Each year the total of all children in the district, birth to age 18 as of June 30, is included in a report to the Nebraska Department of Education. Information required for children is full name, date of birth, and place of birth, sex, parents name and address, phone number, and county of residence. All people living in Central City, Archer, Chapman, and country homes in the school district are included in the school census. If you have any information at all that may be helpful in the updating process, please call the superintendent's office at 308-946-3055, or mail the information to Superintendent's Office, PO Box 57, Central City, NE 68826. Your help in obtaining this information would be greatly appreciated!

#### **CENTRAL CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CENSUS INFORMATION**

The Central City Public Schools is required to conduct a census of all persons living in our district.

If you are new to Central City, please fill out this form and mail to Central City Public Schools, PO Box 57, Central City, NE 68826 or email LSENKBILE@CENTRALCITYPS.ORG. Please list all persons living in household.

Father's name			
Mother's name			
Address	Phone #		
Names of children through 20 years old	Date of Birth	Birth Place	

**Central City** 

Saturday	1:00pm BB-B/IV Away vs. Superior 1:00pm BB-G/IV Away vs. Superior 5-45pm BB-G/Varsity Away v Superior 4:30pm BB-B/Varsity Away v Superior	9 Ao:00am WR-B/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools Schools	5 Speech @ Grand Island, Ne Speech @ Grand Island, Ne U.D.00am WR-B/Varsity Away ws. Polk County ws. Polk County u.11:30am BB-B/Sth Cantennial Junior-Senior 11:30am BB-G/JJV Centennial Junior-Senior 1:00pm BB-G/Varsity Centennial Junior-Senior Centennial Junior-Senior Centennial Junior-Senior Centennial Junior-Senior Centennial Junior-Senior Centennial Junior-Senior	FFA Speech @ Lincott, NE 9:00am WR-3/415fty Auror 9:00am WR-3/415fty Auror 9:00am BB-9/8th Away vs York 10:00am BB-8/7th Away vs York 8:30pm-11:00pm Winter Dance @ Central Cby High School	30 Speech @ Grand Island, Ne TBD BS-B/Varsity Northwest vs. TBA vs. TBA 10:00am wk.B/Varsity Away vs. Alnsworth	
Friday	τſ	õ	1. Aurora Aurora 44:30pm BB-G/JY Away vs. Aurora Aurora Aurora BB-G/Varsity Away vs Aurora Aurora	FFA FFA Wood River Rural 4:30pm BB-G/JV Away vs. 4:30pm BB-G/JV Away vs. 4:30pm BB-G/Varsity Away vs. Wood River Rural 7:45pm BB-B/Varsity Away vs. 40od River Rural	19 18D BB-G/Varsity Northwest vs. TBA	
Thursday		7 4:30pm BB-6/JV Filmore 4:30pm BB-8/JV Filmore 4:30pm BB-6/Varsity 6:1.5pm BB-6/Varsity 8:100pm BD-6/Varsity 8:00pm BD-8/Varsity Filmore Central	1.4 4.30pm BB-G/9th Away vs. 4.urora 6.00pm BB-B/9th Away vs. Aurora 0.30pm WR-B/Varshy Away vs. Wood River Rural vs. Wood River Rural	FFA 5:00pm BB-G/JV Away vs. Adams Central Juaidr-Seni 6:00pm WK-B/Varsity Omala Creighton Prep 6:00pm BB-G/9th Away vs. 6:45pm BB-G/Varsity Away Adams Central Junior-Seni 7:00pm BB-B/9th Away vs. York	28 TBD BB-B/Varsity Northwest 4:30pm BB-B/7th Away vs. Twin Kiver Twin River Twin River	
Wednesday		5	<b>₽</b>	20 FFA @ Columbus, NE	27	
<b>January, 2016</b> Tuesday		4 2nd Semester Begins 5:00pm BB-6/9th Schuyler Community 6:30pm WR-B/Varsity Away 6:30pm BB-B/9th Schuyler 6:30pm BB-B/9th Schuyler Community	1 4:30pm BB-G/JV St. Paul 4:30pm BB-B/JV St. Paul 6:15pm BB-B/Varsity St. Paul 8:00pm BB-B/Varsity St. Paul	19 14 4:30 µm BB-B/8th Schuyler Community to 4:38 µm BB-B/7th Schuyler Community Community Community Community 5:30 µm BB-G/Varsity 5:30 µm BB-G/Varsity 7:45 µm BB-G/Varsity 7:45 µm BB-G/Varsity 7:45 µm BB-B/VY Schuyler 7:45 µm BB-B/VY Schuyler	5 1 TBD BB-B/Varsity Northwest 1 vs. TBD BB-G/Varsity Northwest vs. TBA BB-G/Varsity scorpm WR-B/Varsity Fairbury	
Monday		4 In-Service Fullerton 5:30pm BB-G/9th Away vs. 5:30pm BB-B/9th Away vs. Fullartod	11 s:00pm 68-6/9th Away vs. Fillmore Central Fillmore Central	18 6-00pm PTO Meeting @ Central CICy Elementary School CiCy Elementary School 7-00pm 88-8/7th Away vs. St. Paul Central City Elementary School 7:00pm 88-8/8th Away vs. St. Paul	25 TBD 88-G/Varsity TBD vs. TBA TBD 88-B/Varsity TBD vs. TBD	
Sunday			PT .		24 12:00pm-3:00pm Krights of Columbus Freethrow Contest @ Multiple locations	



# **Central City**

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POSTAL CUSTOMER/ OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

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