



# **BISON BANNER**

**To: All Central City Public Schools Community and Staff**

**From: Jeff Jensen, Central City Public Schools Superintendent of Schools to begin July 1, 2015**

I would like to introduce my family and myself to the Central City Community. I will officially begin my duties and responsibilities as Superintendent of Schools on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, but prior to that date, my family and I will be spending considerable time visiting to get to know staff, students, and the community to ensure a smooth transition. Upon accepting this position, our family has been very appreciative of the support, phone calls, and emails that we have received from the Central City community, and we look forward to meeting many of you in the near future.

As stated in a previous article, my wife Amber and I, have three active boys: Kale (5<sup>th</sup> grade), Blake (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), and Quinn (pre-school) that will be a part of your school system, and they look forward to new opportunities, challenges, and friendships. My wife is a business finance major that currently substitute teaches, works as a part-time librarian, runs the Gifts of Joy program, and sponsors youth activities. Our boys are very active in numerous activities and sports, and my wife and I are constantly at some type of activity.

Professionally, I have been blessed to work with the Creighton Community Public School for the last fifteen years as a teacher, coach, principal, and superintendent. Creighton is the only school district that I have worked in, and I have held many responsibilities while being promoted within the system. The last three years, I have served as their Superintendent, and since my arrival in 2000, I have been the Head Football Coach. The Creighton School District has performed exceptionally on state and national assessments, and the district is performing extremely well in all phases of education. We have made many life-long friendships in Creighton. The students, staff, and community will always be important to us, but we look forward to building new friendships and relationships in Central City.

As an educator, I believe that students are the key to the success of a community, and they deserve the very best quality educational opportunities to help shape their future and ultimately, our future. You will often hear me make reference to the "Bison Family." That reference is to the importance of the role each and every one of us plays in developing and creating an education system that is second to none. Quality education and strong expectations are derived through the collaborative effort of staff, students, parents, and community, and it is important that a culture of family is developed. Another common statement that you will hear is "everyday matters." On any given day, educators, administrators, and support personnel have an opportunity to positively impact students, build their confidence, provide learning opportunities, and provide students with their very best effort. Students also have the responsibility to take ownership of their learning and educational experience by committing their best effort to the classroom, or to any of their activities, every day.

My family is anxiously awaiting our arrival to Central City and the opportunity to meet many of you. We look forward to being involved in the community of Central City, involving ourselves with community functions, working with community leaders with economic development, and developing trust between the school, community, higher education, and the workforce. We must ALL work together to provide students with the very best possible education and to develop strong expectations for their educational experience.

**Go Bison!**

**February  
Newsletter**

- John McLane,  
Superintendent**
- Shawn McDiffett,  
H.S. Principal**
- Justin Anderson,  
Activities Director**
- Darron Arlt,  
M.S. Principal**
- Neely Moser,  
Elementary Principal**



**February 5  
P/T Conference**

**February 5 & 6  
No School**

**February 13  
1:00 dismiss**

**February 19  
11:30 dismiss**

**February 20  
No School**



## **CCHS Students Doing Scientific Research**

Students in high school should have the opportunity to take elective classes that are hands-on, innovative, and require them to use problem solving and critical thinking skills. One of the new classes that was added to the high school curriculum this year was Scientific Research. The class is open to juniors or seniors who show an interest in doing original scientific research. The class was developed and is taught by Mrs. Gillan, the biology teacher. In Scientific Research, students are able to select a specific area they would like to research and they develop an experiment to test their hypothesis. Once the students have determined their area of interest, they read professional journals to provide them with background knowledge; all of the students are required to contact professors, research doctors, or other experts in the field they are studying to gain ideas or support for their project. This greatly improves their communication skills and confidence in speaking with professionals. The students then determine exactly what they want to test and then they formulate their hypothesis. The students develop a detailed Research Plan that consists of: 1) Problem or question being addressed, 2) Hypothesis/Engineering Goals, 3) Description in detail of method or procedures and 4) a Bibliography. The students go through all of the steps a professional research scientist would to write a grant to obtain funding for their project. This includes developing a budget and writing a two page narrative.

Once the students have completed their Research Plan, they will conduct their experiment and record their data. Most of the time their original procedure does not go as planned, and they must make adjustments and collect more data. This happens multiple times due to the nature of science, and it helps them learn other important life skill such as resilience and perseverance. They must then analyze their data, which includes running several statistical tests, to determine if their hypothesis was supported, and they write a detailed research report. Students who are currently enrolled in the class have the ambition to study scientific problems and create possible solutions.

A wide variety of topics are currently being studied by this year's class. One student is studying whether probiotic supplements can survive the trip through the stomach so they can become established in the intestine. Another is trying to use alternate sources (plants other than corn) to produce ethanol. There is also a student trying to develop alternate treatments for viral infections and one is studying how pollution in Nebraska's waterways is affecting fish.

Students will present their research several times. They will participate in the local science fair and compete at the regional science fair in an attempt to qualify for the state science fair. They will also present their research to the school board.

Mrs. Gillan has done an exceptional job of developing student interest that allows students to be creative, develop their critical thinking skills, and develop life-long skills to solve a problem that exists in our society.

Principally Speaking,  
Mr. Shawn McDiffett, HS Principal

## **Nursing Notes...** **Medication at School**

**Just a reminder...**all medication whether it is prescribed or over the counter preparations, must be held and administered by the school nurse or trained office staff. Students are not to keep any medication in their locker unless permission has been granted by the school nurse or principal. Medication brought to school to be given must be in its labeled container, and in the case of prescription medication, the students' name should be on the bottle along with dosage information. Thank you for your assistance!!



## “Digital Citizenship”

Public schools have become more and more responsible for teaching subjects beyond the original core content of English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Sometimes it's with a great deal of frustration that we have to squeeze in time for a topic that used to either not be necessary or used to be taught at home. A recent “add-on” to our curriculum is internet safety. No one disputes that this is valuable information or that students need to understand the risks involved in navigating the world of social media and interactive apps. We are all aware of the perils that exist just beyond our electronic screens.

In our effort and responsibility to teach “Digital Citizenship”, we have invested in bringing a very powerful and informative message to our students on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Karen Haase, of KSB School Law, is the foremost presenter on internet safety and most sought after presenter in the region. Karen shares a “no nonsense” message infused with humor and real examples of how Nebraska children and teens have gotten themselves into danger or legal trouble when using their electronic devices foolishly. Among Karen's topics are: cyberbullying, sexting, and how to maintain a secure identity online.

Karen will present to our 3rd-6th grade students at 9:30 and our 7th-12th grade students at 10:30 on February 19th in the PAC. We strongly encourage at least one parent to attend the presentation that your student will be in so that you can reinforce the message at home to help keep your child safe. Community members are also invited to attend the presentation for CCPS staff at 12:30 that afternoon.

Mr. Arlt, Middle School Principal



Adults who host an underage drinking party or provide or sell alcohol to a minor can be held civilly liable if the intoxicated minor injures or kills someone. That's right. You could lose your shirt, your house, your business. There really is no free ride if you provide.

Under Nebraska criminal law, you can spend up to a year in jail, receive a \$1,000 fine or both if you provide alcohol to a minor. If serious injury or death to any person is caused by the minor's consumption or impaired condition, you will be convicted of a Class IIIA felony, spend at least 30 days and up to 5 years in jail, and could receive up to \$10,000 in fines. Sometimes there is a free ride . . . to jail.

### **Underage drinking. Adult consequences.**

[projectextramile.org](http://projectextramile.org)

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION COMING SOON

Please watch your mail for a letter from the Elementary Office to sign your child up for the 2015-2016 Kindergarten Class. An informational meeting for parents and guardians of children who are eligible to attend Kindergarten during the 2015-2016 school year will be held in the month of April. If you are new to the community, please call the Elementary Office so they know you have a student who will be ready for school.

The Elementary Office phone number is 308-946-3057.

A child must turn 5 years old on or before July 31 of the school year in which he/she enters Kindergarten. Information will be shared regarding the Kindergarten schedule, school readiness, registration, immunization requirements along with Kindergarten physicals, dental and vision exam requirements.



One hundred days...one hundred ways to share! During the month of January the students in Mrs. Burdick, Mrs. Speer and Mrs. Lanham's Kindergarten Classes will be asked to donate one or more items of food to give to our local food pantry. This project is in conjunction with celebrating the one hundredth day of school. Be on the look out for our 100 items of food collection in the hall outside our classrooms. More to come on this special project in next month's newsletter!

The 3rd graders recently made a visit to Cottonwood Estates to spread some holiday cheer. Third graders read to residents, played a Christmas BINGO game, and sang some of their Christmas program songs.



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) 946-3056, 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.



## Central City Elementary PTO

The Central City Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization is awesome! Do you want to know one thing that would make it even better – YOU! Our PTO supports our school in every way possible from helping out at the school in classrooms and special activities to putting on large events for our parents, teachers and students to get involved in. The reason this group is so successful and important to our school is because of the people who are part of it. Moms and Dads who love and support their children and the school they attend. In a world driven by data I have some data to share with you that supports why we need you in our parent/teacher organization. Anne Henderson and Nancy Berla summed it up in their book *A New Generation of Evidence: The Family Is Critical to Student Achievement*, which reviewed the existing research: "When parents are involved in their children's education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school and the schools they go to are better."

Research shows that when parents are involved in their children's education, the children are more likely to:

- ◆ earn better grades.
- ◆ score higher on tests.
- ◆ pass their classes.
- ◆ attend school regularly.
- ◆ have better social skills.
- ◆ show improved behavior.
- ◆ be more positive in their attitude toward school.
- ◆ complete homework assignments.
- ◆ graduate and continue their education.

There are so many ways parents can be involved in their education at Central City Public Schools and the more involvement at all levels (elementary, middle, high school) the better. Parents can volunteer to help in the classroom, help with special activities, serve on committees, advocate for their children, serve in leadership roles, ... the possibilities are endless.

I personally invite you to please come and attend one of our PTO meetings. They are always the third Monday of the month. If you are unable to attend a meeting, but you still want to get involved, please don't hesitate to give me a call at the school and I would be happy to talk to you! We want to be better! We can't do it alone. With YOU - we can be our best and so can our students!

Mrs. Moser, Elementary Principal

## December Fun in Second Grade



**Second Graders had a busy month of learning in December. First, they experienced Christmas Eve one hundred years ago on their field trip to the Stuhr Museum. They had fun making popcorn on an old wood burning 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 wood stove, sewing, and washing clothes in a big tub with a scrub board. The second graders 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.**

**Also, in December they learned about holiday customs around the world. One country they learned about was Germany. They read that German people often made gingerbread houses during the holidays. So second graders made their own gingerbread house. They had fun putting frosting, graham crackers and holiday candy on a milk carton. Some parents were able to join in on the fun with their children.!!**




# February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	<b>2</b> 4:30 BBB-7TH @ DAVID CITY H.S. 5:30 BBB-8TH @ DAVID CITY H.S.	<b>3</b> 4:30 GBB/JV @ YORK H.S. 4:30 BBB/JV @YORK M.S. 6:15 GBB/V @ YORK H.S. 7:45 BBB/V @YORK H.S.	4	<b>5 NO SCHOOL</b> PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES 12:30-7:30	<b>6 NO SCHOOL</b> SHOW CHOIR FESTIVAL @ PAC SPEECH MEET @ KEARNEY 5:45 GBB/V @ CCMS 7:30 GBB/JV @ CCHS 5:45 BBB/JV @ CCHS 7:30 BBB/V @ CCMS	<b>7</b> SPEECH MEET @ AURORA 9:00 CENTRAL CONF WRESTLING @ CRETE
8	<b>9</b> 4:30 BBB/7TH @ BOONE CENTRAL 5:30 BBB/8TH @ BOONE CENTRAL 6:00 GBB/9TH @ CCMS 7:30 BBB/9TH @ CCMS	10	<b>11</b> SHOW CHOIR (UNO) FESTIVAL @ OMAHA	<b>12</b> 7:30 BBB/8TH @ COLUMUS LAKEVIEW 6:15 GBB/JV @ CCMS 7:30 GBB/V @ CCMS	<b>13 SCHOOL DISMISS 1:00 PM</b> DISTRICT WREST @ CC GIRLS & BOYS BBALL @ HOLDREGE 4:30 G & B/JV 6:00 GBB/V 7:45 BBB/V	<b>14</b> SPEECH MEET @ DAVID CITY DISTRICT WREST @ CC 9:00 GIRLS & BOYS 9TH BBALL @ BOONE CENTRAL
15	<b>16</b> 4:30 BBB/7TH @ CCMS 5:30 BBB/8TH @ CCMS 6:00 ELEM PTO MTG TBA GIRLS BBALL SUB DISTRICT	<b>17</b> 4:30 BBB/7TH @ CCMS 5:30 BBB/8TH @ CCMS	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM SPELLING BEE @ PAC	<b>19 SCHOOL DISMISS @ 11:30</b> STATE WRESTLING @ OMAHA	<b>20 NO SCHOOL</b> STATE WRESTLING @ OMAHA 6:15 BBB/JV @ CCMS 8:00 BBB/V @ CCMS	<b>21</b> 9:00 BBB/7TH@ GICC 10:00 BBB/8TH @ GICC STATE WRESTLING @ OMAHA CHEERLEADING STATE CHAMPIONSHIP @ GRAND ISLAND SPEECH MEET @ GINW
22	<b>23</b> TBA BOYS BBALL SUB DISTRICT	24	25	26	<b>27</b> TBA GIRLS BBALL DISTRICT FINALS	<b>28</b> DUAL WRESTLING @ UNK-KEARNEY
<b>CHECK OUT THE WEBPAGE FOR OTHER CALENDAR EVENTS</b> <a href="http://www.centralcityschoolsne.org">http://www.centralcityschoolsne.org</a>						

# February

# Breakfast



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Assorted Cereals Pineapple	3 French Toast Pears	4 Sausage Breakfast Sandwich Peaches	5 No School  P/T Conferences	6 No School  17 days = \$30.60	7
8	9 Assorted Cereals Mixed Fruit	10 Pancakes Sausage Patty Pink Applesauce	11 Omelet Muffin Peaches	12 Bacon Scramble Breakfast Pizza Mandarin Oranges	13 Breakfast Cookie Pears	14 
15	16 Assorted Cereals Mandarin Oranges	17 Sausage Biscuit Round Pineapple	18 Waffles Mixed Fruit	19 Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Applesauce Cups	20 No School	21
22	23 Assorted Cereals Mixed Fruit	24 Breakfast Pizza Mandarin Oranges	25 Pancake & Sausage Bites Pineapple	26 Banana Muffin Pears	27 Egg Breakfast Sandwich Peaches	28

All meals are subject to change.

Cereal, yogurt and fruit are served everyday. Choice of milk and juice are offered daily.


High School Breakfast :

Features a fresh fruit or 100% juice, carton of milk, WG pop tarts, or cereal. Student must have three items to count as a meal. A la carte items are also available for students with money in their accounts and approval for a la carte items.

# February

# Lunch



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Hot Dog on Bun Potato Triangle Mixed Vegetables Chocolate Chip Grips (5-12)	3 Chicken & Noodles Peas Bread & Jelly	4 Taco Salad Corn Tortilla Chips Red Beans Cinnamon Roll	5 No School  P/T Conferences	6 No School  EL 16 DAYS=\$40.00 MS/HS 16 DAYS=\$41.60	7
8	9 Fiesta Corn Cookie	10 Hamburger on Bun French Fries Baked Beans	11 White Meatballs Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Biscuits & Honey	12 Beef Sticks Green Beans Dinner Roll	13 Chicken Nuggets Hash Brown Patty Garlic Bread Valentines Cookie	14 
15	16 Super Nachos Refried Beans Corn Cookie	17 Chicken Patty on Bun Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	18 Cheese Calzone Break Stick Carrots	19 No Lunch Served  Early Dismissal	20 No School	21
22	23 Sweet & Sour Chicken Rice Green Beans Egg Roll	24 Sub Sandwich Smiley Fries Baked Beans	25 Meat Lovers Stromboli Peas	26 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Dinner Roll	27 Cheese Stuffed Sticks Carrots Cupcake	28 USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER & EMPLOYER

Elementary Lunch Choices

Kindergarten & Gr 1 Peanut Butter/Jelly Sandwich as alternate main meal every day. Grades 2-4 alternate main menu is Peanut Butter/Jelly Sandwich on Mon/Wed/Fri Chef Salad on Tues/Thur.

Fruit/Veggie Bar & Milk Choices

All meals are served with choice of fresh and canned fruit and vegetables. Choice of milk available also.

ALL MEALS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Adults who wish to eat lunch should notify the school office before 9:00 a.m.

CENTRAL CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
1711 15TH AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 57  
CENTRAL CITY, NE 68826

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POSTAL CUSTOMER/  
OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

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