



BISON BANNER

From: John McLane, Central City Public Schools Superintendent of Schools

To: All Central City Public Schools Community and Staff

The report was embargoed until Oct. 24. Our Elementary School, a Title I school, is listed as a Year 2 school in need of improvement. The reason is that only 40% of a tested grade level met proficiency standards last year. The proficiency levels were set by States following the 2002 federal mandate of No Child Left Behind. This law set proficiency standards to be met during the following 12 year cycles. The proficiencies were raised each year, and are now at a very high level. It widely known that the levels would not be met by many schools by 2014. The current report lists 480 Nebraska schools (close to half) which have not met the required target 2 consecutive years; there are 50 Title I schools on the Year 2 list. 40 States have applied for a waiver from the NCLB mandates, Nebraska did not apply.

Accountability is a good thing, if done locally. We have work and progress to do, and changes we need to consider. I believe it best when our local teachers are involved in gaining the known progress we need, as well as determining our scope and sequence of curriculum. This gets us all in line with ownership and accountability. We are starting now, in our district, on discussing these efforts and how we can improve all of our NeSA Test Scores. This will also include our work to produce our district's State of the School report.

My personal outlook on the State's Report is one of dissatisfaction. Overall, our Nation's public schools do very well. These schools provided good K-12 education to the people now attacking our schools. Moreover, the attacks over the past years have largely come from privately funded "think tanks" and other similar campaigns. Many of these efforts are following the original premise of NCLB, which was to rank schools so as to define "failing schools". Competition is great for many areas of our society and activities, except that public schools have always performed best when in an environment of local control and cooperation. Our public schools should be allowed to return to those roots. The Nebraska Board of Education is charged to regulate and administer K-12 public education. The NCLB mandate injected greater federal control of our schools, and, more and more, our Legislature has followed that path. A continued effort to mandate more rules and State/Federal testing control our classrooms now, rather than our local district, teachers and community.

We hope to keep you informed of our progress as we move forward.

**December
Newsletter**

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



**December 19
will be the
start of
Christmas
vacation.
School will
resume
January 6,
2015.**



CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Please mark your calendars to attend the following concerts.
The students have worked very hard to perform for the public.



- December 5 High School Vocal/Instrumental Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m. in the PAC
- December 12 Middle School Vocal/Instrumental Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m. in the PAC
- December 15 Grades 1 & 2 Christmas Concert at 6:30 p.m. and Grades 3 & 4 will start at 7:15 p.m. in the PAC



From the Desk of the High School Principal

Old Man Winter is now upon us and that usually means the first semester will soon conclude. The fall semester usually sets the tone for the rest of the year and it has been a good one! The high school students and staff have experienced some great accomplishments and should be recognized.

- ◆ Katrina Gomez was selected for the Nebraska All-State Choir
- ◆ Jill Gathje and Micah Carlson both scored a 33 out of possible 35 on the ACT (College Entrance Exam)
- ◆ Mr. Dane Christensen was selected by the Nebraska Choral Directors Association as the Outstanding Young Director of the year.
- ◆ The softball team qualified for the NSAA State Championship tournament; the first softball team in school history to qualify.
- ◆ The football team qualified for the State Play-offs with a 6-3 record
- ◆ Andrew Lee qualified for State Cross-Country meet



These accolades are some great individual as well as team accomplishments. As one can see, it truly has been a great first semester and I look forward to more great accomplishments during the second semester.

Secondly, I would like to thank the school board for involving the various stakeholder groups in the process of hiring a superintendent. The process has been a great experience and makes me believe that the board and Mr. McLane want input from the students, staff, administration and the community in making a difficult decision in moving our district forward.

Once again, we invite parents and community members to our winter activities that include our music programs and athletic events. We have some very talented kids that are working hard to develop their skills and abilities.

Principally Speaking
Mr. Shawn McDiffett

Central City Public Schools Health Services

Keep your child at home for treatment and observation

Fever (greater than 100 degrees and return to school only after temperature has been below 100 degrees for a minimum of 24 hours without medication)

Vomiting (even just once)

Diarrhea

Chills

Excessive nasal congestion with frequent blowing of nose

Colds are the most contagious during the first 48 hours. **A child who has a fever should remain at home until he/she is "fever free" for a minimum of 24 hours.** A child who has started antibiotics needs to be on the medication for 24 hours before considered non-contagious and able to return to school.

Remember, it is an extremely long day for a child who is sent to school ill. Not only is it difficult to concentrate and learn if repeatedly coughing or blowing your nose, but also it creates disruption in the classroom and affects the concentration and learning of your child's classmates. Remaining at home will help minimize the spread of the infections and viruses in the classroom.



MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILIES

As I grow older, and see the influences that our kids have to deal with, I recognize that this is such a challenging time for kids to grow up. It sure makes me appreciate my childhood growing up in a small town with nothing really to worry about as long as I came home right after I heard the 6:00 town whistle. I'm becoming more convinced that for all the benefits that social media provides, I think we'd be better off without it. Nearly every day we deal with residual effects of facebook "chatter", text "conversations", and yik-yak. Our teachers have never faced greater pressure and accountability to make sure students reach high standards yet the obstacles mounted against them have never been more challenging. It seems that we are too often on the verge of some student issue or emotional breakdown due to what's being said or shown about someone on social media. Our teachers do a great job of trying to keep kids focused and engaged on school tasks but make no mistake, it is becoming more and more difficult.

I mentioned Yik-Yak above. This is a relatively new app that kids are downloading. It is a hotbed for cyberbullies. Users can make completely anonymous comments and anyone within a certain geographic range can see these posts. Essentially it is mindless chatter with no rules and no consequences. It is a place for faceless cowards to spew ignorance, hate, and hurt. I asked a few students if they were familiar with it. Some were and some were not. I worried that I only piqued their curiosity and so they might go and check it out. I think the best way to protect our kids from it is for adults to get on it and sometimes join the conversation by identifying yourself and letting kids know that you are monitoring their conversation. You can't be kicked off or be "un-friended". Anyone with the app can monitor or participate in the chatter. Please download the app and check it out and/or monitor your child's smart phone for it. There is no value at all in this app. In my opinion, it is simply another example of the moral decay of our country. If you have evidence of cyberbullying, please make a copy and contact local law enforcement and feel free to share it with me as well.

I've mentioned numerous times that if your child comes home with a report that just doesn't sit right with you, please call us to find out what the rest of the story is. It is very rare that a student shares the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. I never conclude that I know all the facts after hearing just one side of the story. I would ask you to please reserve judgment until you have talked with us. I've had parents bring in to my office copies of facebook conversations by other parents and adults. It's frustrating when a parent takes to facebook to bash our school and teachers mainly for the purpose of garnering sympathy for themselves first and their child second. They are taking distorted information from their child, assuming it's true, and then going online to tell their "friends" about how horrible they have it. Sadly, people who follow them believe what they are saying to be true and they chime in with their sympathies and advice. It's very frustrating but I have faith that the overwhelming majority of our stakeholders know us, trust us, and support us. We have an online bullying reporting site. You can provide a tip for us anonymously if you wish but it always helps to include contact information, especially if you have evidence of cyberbullying. Please contact me or click on the "TIPS Report" icon on the school's website.

Mr. Arlt, Middle School Principal

Elementary Families

When you walk through the elementary school doors, you get a feeling of patriotism. This month, Patricia Hopkins, a paraprofessional at the elementary school has been working hard to honor our Veterans. When you enter our building, you will see special men and women who wear many hats - grandpa, grandma, mother, father, sister, brother, etc. One common thread is that they fought for all of us so we can enjoy the freedoms we have today. It is quite a sight to see. Each of the Veterans is identified by a picture and how they are related to a student or staff member at the elementary school. The Kindergarten team, along with Mrs. Hopkins is also leading the charge for "Pennies For Patriotism." The students and staff of Central City Elementary School are collecting pennies and "other" coins to donate to the Wounded Warriors Foundation. You can watch our Twitter feed and our school website for updates on our collection. Together we can help honor those who have done so much for us! In addition you will see Central City Public Schools staff and students marching in the Veteran's Day Parade on Tuesday. Central City Public Schools would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to our Veterans. Thank you for fighting for our freedom. Thank you for being a part of our community and schools. We invite you to visit the elementary school to see the Wall of Honor.



Mrs. Moser, Elementary Principal

On Saturday, November 1st, DECA and NHS members gathered together to go Trick-or-Treating for canned goods. They went around town gathering canned goods which we will then donate to the food bank. It was a fun and successful event!



District DECA Competition

On **November 3rd** two DECA members, Mackenzie Nordlund and Oriana White Bull, participated and competed at the Scottsbluff District Competition. They left for Scottsbluff with the Hastings High's DECA chapter on **Sunday** afternoon and stayed at the Hampton Inn that night. The next day they attended the competition at the Monumental Mall in Scottsbluff. There, they took a written test and completed a role play/judge interview. After all of this was over, they attended the awards ceremony and came home **Monday** evening. Oriana Whitebull said, "It really furthered my knowledge for future DECA competitions." Mackenzie Nordlund added, "It was a lot of fun and I can't wait for state DECA." Both girls had a great experience and can't wait for future DECA competitions.



by Amber Erickson, DECA Secretary

KINDERGARTEN LEARN ABOUT SAFETY

On Wednesday, October 29th Mrs. Burdick, Mrs. Lanham and Mrs. Speer's kindergarten classes were able to enjoy a visit from Officer Pat Benson. The children first discussed Halloween safety. They were reminded to always cross the street with an adult or 'big person', use manners while trick or treating and talked about 'stranger danger'. Officer Benson also showed the students the different parts of his uniform and spoke about gun safety. At the end the children were able to ask questions about his job and/or what he does. This was an absolutely wonderful experience for the kids to discuss such important topics from someone they may look up to in the community.




December, 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|------------|---|---|--|--|---|---|------------------|
| | 1 4:30pm BB-G/8th Aurora (Public) @ Central City Performing Arts Center | 2 One Act Play (Districts) @ York NE | 3 4:15pm BB-B/JV Away vs. Northwest 4:15pm BB-G/JV Away vs. Northwest 4:30pm BB-G/7th Fullerton 5:30pm BB-G/8th Fullerton 6:00pm BB-G/Varsity Away vs. Northwest 6:30pm WR-B/Varsity Adams Central Junior-Senior 7:45pm BB-B/Varsity Away vs. Northwest | 4 8:00am BB-B/Varsity Away vs. Crete 9:30am WR-B/Middle School Away vs. Boone Central | 5 8:00am-4:00pm One Act Play @ York NE 7:00pm HS Vocal & Instrumental Christmas Concert @ Central City Performing Arts Center | 6 8:30am BB-G/7th (Rescheduled from 11-13-14) Sandy Creek Junior / Senior vs. Multiple Schools BB-9th (Postponed) 9:30am BB-G/8th (Rescheduled from 11-13-14) Sandy Creek Junior / Senior vs. Multiple Schools WR-B/Varsity Away vs. Broken Bow BB-9th (Postponed) 1:00pm BB-G/JV Away vs. Ord 1:00pm BB-B/JV Away vs. Ord 2:00pm Firemen Christmas Movie @ Central City Performing Arts Center 2:45pm BB-G/Varsity Away vs. Ord 4:30pm BB-B/Varsity Away vs. Ord | |
| | 7 4:00pm BB-G/7th Grand Island Northwest vs. Multiple Schools 5:00pm WR-B/Middle School Central City vs. Multiple Schools 6:30pm BB-G/9th Away vs. Grand Island Central Catholic 7:30pm BB-B/9th Away vs. Grand Island Central Catholic | 8 TBD BB-G/7th Grand Island Northwest vs. Multiple Schools 4:30pm BB-G/JV Away vs. Centura 4:30pm BB-B/JV Away vs. Centura 6:15pm BB-G/Varsity Away vs. Centura 8:00pm BB-B/Varsity Away vs. Centura | 9 8:15am-12:00pm 2nd Grade @ Stuhr Museum, Grand Island NE | 10 4:30pm BB-B/JV Boone Central 4:30pm BB-G/JV Boone Central 6:15pm BB-G/Varsity Boone Central 6:30pm BB-G/7th Away vs. Columbus Lakeview 7:30pm BB-G/8th Away vs. Columbus Lakeview 8:00pm BB-B/Varsity Boone Central | 11 7:00pm MS Vocal & Instrumental Christmas Concert @ Central City Performing Arts Center | 12 9:00am WR-B/Varsity Away vs. Crete 9:30am WR-B/Middle School Away vs. Boone Central | |
| | 14 4:30pm BB-G/7th David City 5:30pm BB-G/8th David City 6:00pm BB-G/9th Columbus Lakeview. 6:30pm 1st & 2nd Grade Concert @ Central City Performing Arts Center 7:00pm BB-B/9th Columbus Lakeview 7:15pm 3rd & 4th Grade Concert @ Central City Performing Arts Center | 15 4:30pm BB-G/JV David City 4:30pm BB-B/JV David City 6:15pm BB-G/Varsity David City 7:00pm WR-B/Middle School Grand Island Central Catholic vs. Multiple Schools 7:45pm BB-B/Varsity David City | 16 6:15pm BB-G/Varsity Away vs. Sandy Creek Junior / Senior 7:45pm BB-B/Varsity Away vs. Sandy Creek Junior / Senior | 17 4:30pm BB-G/7th Aurora 6:00pm WR-B/Varsity Schuyler Community vs. Multiple Schools 6:30pm BB-G/9th Away vs. Boone Central 7:45pm BB-B/9th Away vs. Boone Central | 18 End Of 2nd Quarter/Semester 8:00am-11:30am No School - Professional Development 10:00am WR-B/Varsity Away vs. Grand Island Senior | 19 Speech Meet @ Lincoln, NE 9:00am WR-B/Middle School Away vs. Seward 10:30am WR-B/Varsity Away vs. Grand Island Senior 12:00pm BB-G/JV Away vs. Twin River 12:00pm BB-B/JV Away vs. Twin River 1:45pm BB-G/Varsity Away vs. Twin River 3:30pm BB-B/Varsity Away vs. Twin River | |
| | 21 2:45pm BB-G/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 4:30pm BB-B/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 6:15pm BB-G/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 8:00pm BB-B/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools | 22 6:15pm BB-G/Varsity Away vs. Sandy Creek Junior / Senior 7:45pm BB-B/Varsity Away vs. Sandy Creek Junior / Senior | 23 11:15am BB-G/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 1:00pm BB-B/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 2:45pm BB-G/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 4:30pm BB-B/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 6:00pm WR-B/Varsity Away vs. Omaha Creighton Prep 6:15pm BB-G/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 8:00pm BB-B/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools | 24 Moratorium | 25 Christmas Day Moratorium | 26 Moratorium | 27 Moratorium |
| Moratorium | 28 2:45pm BB-G/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 4:30pm BB-B/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 6:15pm BB-G/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 8:00pm BB-B/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools | 29 6:15pm BB-G/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 7:00pm BB-B/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools | 30 11:15am BB-G/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 1:00pm BB-B/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 2:45pm BB-G/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 4:30pm BB-B/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 6:00pm WR-B/Varsity Away vs. Omaha Creighton Prep 6:15pm BB-G/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools 8:00pm BB-B/Varsity Central City vs. Multiple Schools | 31 | | | |



December Breakfast

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--|---------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----|
| | 1 Assorted Cereals Pears | 2 Breakfast Sandwich Peaches | 3 Scrambled Eggs Mandarin Oranges | 4 Pancakes Applesauce | 5 Breakfast Pizza Pineapple | 6 |
| 7 | 8 Assorted Cereals Mixed Fruit | 9 French Toast Pears | 10 Sausage Biscuit Round Pineapple | 11 Omelet Peaches | 12 Breakfast Cookie | 13 |
| 14 | 15 Assorted Cereals Mandarin Oranges | 16 Waffles Mixed Fruit | 17 Egg Breakfast Sandwich Peaches | 18 Pancake & Sausage Bites Pears | 19 NO SCHOOL | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25  | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | 14 days = \$25.20 | |

All meals are subject to change.

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

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.

December Lunch



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|-----|
| USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER & EMPLOYER | 1 Crispito w/Cheese Sauce Carrots Peanut Butter Scotch Bars | 2 Sloppy Joe on Bun Tater Tots Baked Beans | 3 Lasagna Green Beans Bread Stick Chocolate Chip Cookie | 4 Popcorn Chicken Corn Dinner Roll | 5 Hamburger on Bun— EL Rib Patty on Bun—MS/HS Roasted Potatoes | 6 |
| 7 | 8 Hot Dog on Bun Potato Triangle Mixed Vegetables Chips - MS/HS | 9 Chicken & Noodles Peas Bread & Jelly | 10 Taco Salad Corn Tortilla Chips Refried Beans Cinnamon Roll | 11 Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Green Beans Bread Stick | 12 Chicken Fajita Wrap w/Rice Gr 9-12 Chicken Patty on Bun K-8 Broccoli & Cheese | 13 |
| 14 | 15 Fiestada Corn Cookie | 16 Beef Sticks Green Beans Dinner Roll | 17 Turkey Medallions Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Stuffing Pumpkin Bar | 18 Chicken Strips Rice Broccoli w/Cheese Sauce | 19 NO SCHOOL | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25  | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | EL 14 days = \$35.00 MS/HS 14 days = \$36.40 | |

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