Central Lutheran School
Home of the Cougars

March 18, 2010

Volume 3, Issue 17

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2009-10 Theme

Spiritual Fitness

Hymn of the Year

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

CLS Mission Statement

Central Lutheran assists our congregations and parents by preparing children to be disciples for this life and the life to come.

Principal

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Central's ITBS Scores Hold Steady

At conferences next week, the parents of students in Grades 2-8 will be shown their child's Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) scores. On Wednesday, parents of 2-8th graders will receive a packet of information that explains how to interpret these test scores so that you can have a "heads-up" before you lay your peepers on those scores at your conference.

Understandably, parents are most interested in how their own children scored. But all parents should be encouraged by our school's overall scores. Most notable are the Iowa Percentile Rankings (IPR) and National Percentile Ranking (NPR). This information tells us how each grade level at Central ranked when compared to students in all the Iowa schools that took the ITBS and when compared to students across the nation who took their own basic skills tests. These figures look at all the subjects combined. For instance, our 2nd graders ranked in the 71st percentile among other Iowa second graders and in the 89th percentile nationally. Considering that second grade is the first time our students are exposed to ITBS, this is a great score. In fact, from 2006 through 2009, *all* of the grades at Central have consistently scored in the 90th-99th percentiles nationally. (Cont'd P. 3)

Remainder of Snow Make-up Dates Announced

It's official, CLS will hold classes Friday, April 2 (Good Friday). It will be an early dismissal with classes dismissing at 1:10. Last night Benton Community's school board also decided to have a half day of classes so we will have buses that day. The final two snow make up days will be held Tuesday, June 1, and Wednesday, June 2. (No buses on either days) Therefore, barring a freakishly strange spring snowfall, a 6 or higher on the Richter scale, a tsunami, monsoon rains/flooding, hoards of locusts, or billions of bats, Wednesday will be our official last day with closing ceremonies at noon at St. John Newhall. Students will be cut loose at 1:00 pm from the church. As always, bring a sack lunch for that (projected) last day of school.

BoxTops4Education Sweepstakes

Are you up for another online contest? The good news: this one's much easier to enter than the last one. The bad news: we're getting in wa-a-a-a-a-a-y late in the game. Every month the BoxTops4Education people at General Mills offer BoxTops Sweepstakes. This is a chance to win hundreds and sometimes thousands of BoxTops for the school. Remember, each Box-Top is worth a dime, so they easily add up. There are two sweepstakes that we want to try winning. The first involves 4 prizes of 5,000 BoxTops for each school (one prize per school). At a dime a BoxTop, that's a cool $500. What do you need to do? First you must become a member of BoxTops Online. I bet I know your next question, *"How do I go about becoming an online member?"* So glad you asked. Go to your computer...go ahead, I'll wait...okay, comfy? Flex those phalanges and type in www.boxtops4education.com/Sweepstakes.aspx/Fruit-Snacks-March-Sweeps/288. (Yep, if the URL were any longer, it would be a Tolstoy novel.) OK, it takes **8 steps** to become an online member, but once you've done this, you're in like Flynn for the rest of the sweepstakes. **Step 1**: "Get started..find your school" Enter zip code (for school) 52315. Click "Continue"; **Step 2**: Click on Central Lutheran School and then click "Continue"; **Step 3**: enter your name and click "Continue"; **Step 4**: Enter your Date of Birth (you have to be 18 to be an online member) click "Continue"; **Step 5**: Tell us about your household (click on the appropriate dropdown box), click Continue; **Step 6**: Opt in or out of BoxTops newsletters and click "Continue"; **Step 7**: Enter your address (I think you have to provide a password too), click "Continue"; **Step 8**, Complete your registration, click Continue. At this point, you should wind up at a page that shows your info off to the right and below that, there is a box to check saying that you understand the official rules. **Check the box and click Submit**. You should then get a message that tells you that your vote has been recorded, or something to that effect. It will also remind you to vote again tomorrow. Now, here's the beauty part...you can vote once a day until the sweepstakes is over. This particular sweepstakes ends at 11:59 pm March 28. **One entry per person, per email address, per day.** So from here on out, until this deadline is up, I'll be sending you a daily reminder to make sure you enter your vote every day. Near as I can tell, they pick the winner at random from the votes that were cast. The bottom line: the more votes we get, the better our chances of being picked. It's kind of like a raffle. The more raffle tickets you buy, the better your odds of having your ticket drawn.

Now that you're an expert, they are running another sweepstakes concurrently with this one. The next one you should enter is is called "Piece of Cake" sweepstakes. You're already an online member, so this will be a piece of cake. Sorry, couldn't resist. Go to www.boxtops4education. You will arrive at a homepage with a bunch of kids standing single file and holding pink placards. Scroll down just a tad until you see 4 large tabs. You want to click on the Piece of Cake tab. Then do your thing and cast your vote. This one is worth a lot more...one school will win 50,000 Bonus Box Tops plus a cake prize pack; 5 schools will each win 10,000 Bonus Box Tops plus a cake prize pack; 47 daily winners – one for each day of the sweepstakes– will win a cake prize pack, too! This one runs from 3/15/10 to 4/30/10. Again, same rules apply: **one entry per person, per email address per day**.

We're going to become a lot more aggressive with our BoxTops collection. This is some *easy, easy* money. Check out how much some of the other schools in the area earned last year:

ST PIUS X SCHOOL, CR, IOWA	$3,982
BENTON COMMUNITY VH ELEMENTARY PTA/PTO, KEYSTONE	$3,694
JAMES VAN ALLEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, NORTH LIBERTY,	$3,161
CENTER POINT URBANA ELEMENTARY,	$2,834
BOWMAN WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CEDAR RAPIDS	$2,773
PRAIRIE HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CEDAR RAPIDS,	$2,741
HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, NORTH LIBERTY	$2,629
KIRKWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CORALVILLE	$2,440
ERSKINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CEDAR RAPIDS,	$2,394
WESTFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, ROBINS, IOWA	$2,382
CENTRAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL	$2,126

Keep on clipping those BoxTops, *trim* them and send them back to school in baggies of 50. Separate the bonus BoxTops from the regular BoxTops. It surely would be great to move up in the rankings...maybe even unseat the top-seeded?? Raid that pantry! There's gold on them thar shelves!

Chapel Information

3rd Quarter Offerings:

Hearts for Jesus and Lutheran Family Services

3.17.10

$34.75

Total to date (3rd q):

$299.27

March 24 Leader:

Kindergarten

ITBS, (cont'd from P. 1)

Your packet will show you three different tables of information. The trend you will see is that our scores are "lower" when we compare to other Iowa schools and "higher" when we compare nationally. Any guesses why that is? Anyone? Anyone? That's because the average student in Iowa tends to score higher than the average student on a national scale. For instance, our 8th grade scored an 11.8 for an Iowa grade equivalent. That means they are doing the work of an 11th grader in his/her eighth month of school. But when we compare our 8th grade to the national norm, we are doing the work of a college student (13+). Again, this is because Iowa students score higher than national norms (and Clavens). Any questions about the scores and what they mean, please visit with your child's teacher or Mrs. Doellinger.

Free Computer Equipment

Free for the taking: 3 working monitors and several keyboards. Mr. Runge has details.

Jubilation Choir Hittin' the Road, Jack

Tomorrow the Jubilation Choir will head to Keystone Care Center at 12:30. Bus leaves at 12:30. Then on Sunday, March 21, the Jubilation Choir will sing at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vinton at the 9:00 am worship service. Please have students there by 8:45. Anyone who cannot make this performance should call Becky Thompson at 223-5437. As you may remember Trinity Vinton was very, very good to us during the US Cellular Contest. They were rooting for us all the way and sent a ton of votes our way. Similarly, we have received several referral families from Trinity-Vinton and have had many, many inquiries from Vinton families about our school. Singing at area churches is an outreach opportunity for us to get our name out in the community. Please make every attempt to have your child sing with the choir this Sunday at Vinton. Please direct any concerns or questions to Mrs. Thompson, especially if transportation is an issue. Trinity's Sunday School and Adult Bible classes begin at 10:15. All are welcome.

Hope Floats (for a storage shed)

The CLS Board of Edumacation is looking for an indoor storage facility in which to store the school float for a few weeks. As you may recall, the float floated off premises last summer during a particularly nasty windstorm and sustained some damage. It also needs some overall maintenance. Board members would like to know if there is anyone locally who has a storage facility large enough to store the float so they can work on it. If you can help out, contact one of our board members and float your idea past them.

Arts & Crafts Entries for Readlyn Due March 25

Hey parents, if your student/s is entering an arts & crafts entry for Readlyn, please have it at school by Thursday, March 25. If the item is especially fragile, such as a life-size popsicle stick replica of the Taj Mahal, please pack it well so that it survives the long and winding road to Readlyn (and back).

CLS students sample a Kids Against Hunger Meal

General Consensus: "Tastes like chicken."

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Altar and Processional Cross Dedication Ceremony

During Wednesday's chapel service, Pastor Rempfer dedicated the new altar and processional cross donated by the Tim Block family. The altar and cross were built by Jon Rinderknecht (lower right) who described the process that went into designing and constructing the altar. Below is the inlaid cross that Jon put onto the top of the altar.
Tim's parents, Marlene and Ken Block, were on hand for the dedication.

BYSA Soccer Concessions Sign Up Begins TODAY!

Here are the class pairings:
April 10: Grades 1 & 4
April 17: Grades 2 & 8
April 24: Grades 6 & 7
May 1: Grades PS & 5
May 8: Grades K & 3

We're casting for the same roles: set up, tear down, grill and working the concessions but hopefully not the usual suspects. In other words, let's see some new blood working the stand this season. We need **EVERYONE** to volunteer their time so that this burden doesn't fall back on the same people every time. *All* the kids will benefit from these profits, as profits will go to building an expanded 4-square cement pad and tetherball court.