

CENTRAL ACADEMY

WINTER, 2013

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Alumni!!

- “Like” the Central Academy Counseling page on Facebook
- Ensure your contact information is always up-to-date to receive the latest news from Central Academy
- Spread the word among your fellow Academy alum

Students in the IB Diploma Programme will tell you it is tough. Not only do they have seven rigorous classes and an independent research project/essay to complete, they must design and implement a plan, committing themselves to 150 hours in projects supporting creativity, action, and service (CAS). CAS is considered part of the IB Diploma “Core” requirements.

According to the IB organization’s website, www.ibo.org, the purpose of CAS is “to enhance students’ personal and interpersonal development through experiential learning and enable journeys of self-discovery.” “Creativity encourages students to engage in the arts and crea-

tive thinking. Action seeks to develop a healthy lifestyle through physical activity. Service with the community offers a vehicle for a new learning with academic value.”

Scott Schoneberg is the CAS coordinator for Central Academy’s IB Diploma Programme. In his role as coordinator, Mr. Schoneberg coaches students as they develop their plans for CAS, keeps an eye out for CAS opportunities, and helps students manage their CAS plans for successful implementation. Successful CAS projects have included “Muffin Mondays” and the SOS concert. These have involved students outside the Diploma Programme, enriching the community of Central Academy!



SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS SHOW THEIR TRUE COLORS

Central Academy’s Prep program brings together seventh grade students from across the city. Like others who come to the Academy for the first time, Prep students must form new friendships as they adapt to the academic rigors of advanced classes. On October 18th and 19th, seventh grade students

had the opportunity to discover their true personality colors!

The Real colors Personality Instrument is a system for identifying the four temperaments (Blue, Gold, Green, and Orange). It provides students with an effective tool for understanding human behavior, for uncovering motivators specific

to each temperament, and for improving communication skills. Prep teachers Diane Morain, Petra Lange, Lana Lyndon Hatten, and Diane Fox led follow up sessions to help students incorporate Real Colors into areas of daily life for personal and academic success!

AVIVA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION SUPPORTS CENTRAL ACADEMY

Each year students at Central Academy spend countless hours to earn top grades and prepare for end of course exams in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes. These externally scored, end-of-course exams can save students thousands of dollars on expensive college tuition, but they range in cost from \$89–\$100 for each exam. For students taking multiple classes, these costs can quickly add up.

The Aviva Charitable Foundation has been a long-time supporter of programming at Central Academy. For

the past several years, their donations have helped subsidize the cost of AP exams for low-income students as well as offset the extensive costs associated with administering hundreds of exams. This year, the Aviva Charitable Foundation generously donated \$9,922.00 to Central Academy for this purpose.

Expenses for AP testing in 2012 were significant as there were a record number of students taking an AP exam. Last spring Central Academy paid for approximately 60 AP exams, totaling \$5,340.00. Proctoring expenses totaled almost \$3,500.00, and miscellaneous supplies (pencils, pens, table dividers, Kleenex,

etc.) were ordered using the remaining funds.

The students and staff at Central Academy are incredibly grateful for the continued support from the Aviva Charitable Foundation!



STUDENTS APPRECIATE “MUFFIN MONDAYS”

What started as an CAS idea for IB diploma candidates has turned into a Monday staple for hungry Central Academy students.

“Muffin Mondays” was an idea conceived by IB students to raise money for the Food Bank of Central Iowa. The Food Bank stores have been depleted, and with the challenging economic times demand is greater than ever. Students thought that by selling muffins to their classmates, they might be able to raise a few hundred dollars to help the Food Bank through the busy holiday

season. What they created has become a staple of Mondays at Central Academy.

On November, 19, 2012, seniors Hannah Carlson and Emily Bauer presented a check for \$1,500.00 to the Food Bank of Central Iowa. This amount was raised in just 10 weeks! For every dollar that is donated to the Food Bank, they are able to provide 4.5 meals to those in need.

Due to the overwhelming support of their fellow students, the IB students have set a new goal of \$4,000.00 by the end of the year. Judging by the lines to buy muffins, they'll have no trouble reaching it!

The Aviva Charitable Foundation continues to be a valued supporter of Central Academy!

STUDENTS EXCEL AT GOLDEN CIRCLE MATH COMPETITION

Over 140 students participated in Central Academy's 9th Annual Golden Circle mathematics competition on November 1 with 12 students winning individual awards in four categories.

The Golden Circle mathematics competition is held for Central Academy math students in ninth grade and below.

For the competition, students were organized into teams by

the level of mathematics in which they are enrolled: pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra 2, or Pre-Calculus. In the Golden Circle event, students took an individual exam for 40 minutes followed by a group exam.

“Many highly regarded mathematics competitions require students to work in teams to solve seemingly impossible problems,” said Crista Carlile,

Central Academy supervisor. “The collaborative nature of the competitions mimics conditions students will be asked to face in further mathematical studies and future careers. Central Academy students have a strong tradition of success in many national and international mathematics competitions.”

Central Academy math teachers

are Diane Fox, Michael Link, Lana Lyddon Hatten, Mike Marcketti, Joe Obrycki, and Brian Reece.



Central Academy math teachers at the Platteville Math Competition

CENTRAL ACADEMY STUDENTS IMPRESS AT WISCONSIN MATH COMPETITION

Ninety-eight Central Academy students displayed their superior math skills in the 40th Annual High School Mathematics Contest winning 31 of the 61 All-Academic team honors and placing second overall in the competition held at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville on November 7. The event featured over 500 students representing 37 high schools from Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois. Students competed on either Level I (10th grade and below) or Level II (11th and 12th grade).

Four Central Academy competitors also earned perfect scores. Zach Lin earned one of the six perfect scores on Level I exams and Eric Chen, Max Pilcher, and Luke Sheeley earned three of the four perfect scores on Level II exams. For seniors Chen and Sheeley, this was their third perfect score in four years! The Central Academy math students were coached by Diane Fox, Lana Lyddon-Hatten, Michael Link, Mike

Marcketti, Joe Obrycki, and Brian Reece.



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DO YOU KNOW YOUR CONSTITUTION?

Thirteen Central Academy students have been selected as finalists in the Iowa State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division "Know Your Constitution" contest.

Finalists from Central Academy are Abby Callaghan (Hoover), Olin Carty (Roosevelt), Caroline Closson (Van Meter), Mark Gee Jr. (Johnston), William Karr (Roosevelt), Alex Lopez (North), Will Percival (Roosevelt), Prisma Ruacho (East), Luke Sheeley (Roosevelt), Benjamin Sides (Lincoln), Josh Swagler (North), Nathan Walton (Van Meter), and Demetrius Watson (Roosevelt).

The "Know Your Constitution" project is designed to enrich students' understanding and appreciation of the Constitution. The students participating in the project were required to familiarize themselves with Constitution related issues. A quiz was completed by each participating student. An essay question accompanied the quiz in case of a tie.

One hundred finalists were selected from the more than 1,000

students across the State of Iowa who participated in the "Know Your Constitution" competition. The finalists will be honored at a luncheon at the West Des Moines Marriott Hotel in West Des Moines on January 11, 2013. This year's Keynote Speaker for the event is the Honorable Judge Stephanie Rose, Federal District Court for the Southern District of Iowa.

From the finalists, five students and their teachers will be chosen in January by a random drawing to attend the all-expense paid, Close-Up Foundation's five day long education work session in Washington, D.C., in February 2013. The work sessions are designed to develop a deeper understanding of government and the political process.

"The 'Know Your Constitution' essay competition is a fantastic way for our students to think creatively about how the nearly 250 year-old United States constitution applies to current problems and situations," said Crista Carlile, Central Academy supervisor. "These finalists were

selected from among Iowa's brightest and most talented students for their deep understanding of our government, and for their ability to articulate their knowledge in a well-crafted essay."

This program is sponsored by The Iowa State Bar Association, with additional funding from the Iowa State Bar Foundation and many of the county Bar Associations across Iowa.



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Central Academy offers students from across the Des Moines metro challenging, academically advanced coursework in core academic areas and world languages. Home to Iowa's only International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, Central Academy also offers a wide variety of Advanced Placement courses and six world languages, many of which are unique to central Iowa.

BOAT RACES MAKE A SPLASH

The eleventh annual Central Academy Boat Races made a big splash with the seventh grade Prep students! The races, traditionally held right before winter break, provide an opportunity for teams of students to collaborate on a design and the construction of a boat made entirely out of cardboard and duct tape. Student teams construct their boat to hold one student, the captain, who races other teams down the entire length of the Central Campus pool and back. The top two finishers from each of the three heats then competed one final time for the title of overall champion.

Despite the postponement of this year's race due to winter storm, Draco, students and staff really got into the spirit of friendly competition and having fun. Upon returning from winter break, students were ready to test their designs. Cheers and groans could be heard around the pool as boats glided through the water or slowly took on water and sank. A pool party, games, and activities in the gym rounded out the days of boat building and racing.

Central Academy's Prep Academy is led by teachers Diane Fox, Lana Lyddon Hatten, Petra Lange, and Diane Morain and

advisor Denis Hildreth. Prep Academy serves seventh grade students, from under-

represented populations, who show high academic talent in core areas



IB STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR SKILLS USING INTERNAL ASSESSMENTS



Students in Sherry Brooks' IB English class share their Internal Assessments.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is amazing as are the kids who choose

to follow that path. One aspect of each class in the program is the IAs or Internal Assessments. In English, the first IA completed during the students' junior year is a 12-15 minute memorized presentation analyzing one or more of the

works studied part four of the syllabus. This teaches students verbal skills, organization, analysis, memorization, and thinking on their feet since they must answer questions from

the audience at the end of their presentation. This is also the place where students can be creative. They can create scenes and enact them, add portions to the books explaining how that furthers their understanding of the theme or characters, write letters to the author, or anything that helps them analyze the work. In this presentation, McKenna Schnack presented by creating a quilt with each separate square representing the attributes of certain characters in a work. She asked the class to sit

around the quilt and get involved in her presentation by pointing to each square when she mentioned a character's name. The supportive environment of her peers, which is one of the many strengths of the IB program, helped her navigate toward a deep understanding of the work while entertaining us all. She, and all the IB students who pushed through their English IAs this last week, should be commended.