



By the DCCHS Dictator Staff

New superintendent views of past, present and future, exciting

By Andrew Dempewolf

With a new school year beginning, new faces at our school started to appear. One of these faces was that of our new superintendent, Dr. Pat Cullen. His views about the past, present, and future of our school district are exciting.

Dr. Cullen grew up in Pueblo, Colo. Throughout high school, he was very involved in academics and athletics. He was on the football and wrestling teams in high school, but had many hobbies outside of school, such as horses, golfing, hunting, and keeping in shape.

After high school, he went to Chadron State University to get his undergraduate degree in physical education/health and business education. He continued his education at Chadron and earned his master's degree.

He attended the University of Nebraska for his doctorate degree. He last taught and coached at Alliance, Neb., in 1989. He was the superintendent at Brady Public

Schools, near North Platte, before he came here.

On Feb. 24, 1979, he married his wife, Pam. Mrs. Cullen is currently an art teacher in North Platte. They have two daughters, Jennifer and Lindsay. Jennifer graduated from Chadron and now works at an Amjint plant in Colorado. Lindsay lives in Laramie, Wyo., and is attending cosmetology school.

Dr. Cullen has an exciting future in mind for Decatur Community High School and Unified School District 294. He said he decided to come to Oberlin because, "Oberlin is a great opportunity. Here you have outstanding schools and a great tradition."

His favorite part about Oberlin so far is that the people here are very inviting, and they care about the school and community.

Dr. Cullen said his personal goals are to be the best superintendent possible for our school district, and to listen to the people to ensure a cooperative and caring district.



FRESHMAN TACT MEMBERS Bret Ashley and Tim Larson play a trust game during the Teenagers Acting and Caring Together retreat.

— Picture by Jared Marcuson

TACT members head to Scott Lake

By Jenny Ploussard

TACT members, both new and old, fled to Scott Lake last weekend to learn about leadership, caring for others, and being a good role model. TACT stands for Teens Acting and Caring Together.

"I thought that this year's TACT retreat went really well because our trainers were really well prepared, and we had lots of good attitudes,"

said Wendy Scott, advisor.

To learn the skills needed to be a peer counselor, the members participated in activities and games such as the trust walk.

This was where a partner led them, blindfolded, over a moving bridge.

Then there was the lap sit, where members got into a circle and had to trust each other enough to sit down

on the person's lap behind them.

Another activity they did was sharing and scrolls. This was a time when everyone shared personal items and got to know each other better.

"The best part of the TACT retreat was sharing and scrolls. We got to really bond in that time and you make friends with people you might not have thought of being friends

with," said Nikki Wessel.

In their spare time they went canoeing, hiking, had a bonfire, and pulled a number of pranks on each other such as stealing the boys' mattresses and TP'ing the girls' room.

"I had more fun than I expected! The best part was getting to know the upper classmen better," said Jacob Larue.

Miss Kansas visits high school students

By Andrew Dempewolf

Decatur Community High School had royalty in its halls last Wednesday. This royalty was the newly chosen Miss Kansas, Alyssa George, who is from Minneapolis. She was in Oberlin to talk to students about bullying, which is part of her platform.

As Miss Kansas, Alyssa explained that she has three major responsibilities: to promote the Miss USA pageant, to promote the Miss Kansas program, and to promote her platform.

She explained that there are three types of bullying: physical, verbal, and social, which is the most common type in junior high and high school. Social bullying includes excluding someone, gossiping, and spreading rumors.

She then asked the students questions about bullying and being victims of bullying. She gave many statistics about bullying, including one interesting fact: Someone is bullied every seven minutes, and one in five persons in a victim of bullying.

Alyssa also explained that there are three people involved in a bullying situation: the bully, the victim, and the witness.

"If you know someone is being bullied, you are responsible," she said. "If you laugh, join in, or even watch, you are involved in the situation and are responsible. If you will say just two words, 50 percent of the time the bully will stop. Those two words are, 'Stop it.'"

Alyssa chose bullying as her Miss Kansas platform because she was a victim of bullying when she was in high school. She survived high school because she tried to follow the advice of her track coach: "PMA, Alyssa." She said PMA stands for Positive Mental Attitude, and the way to get that is by thinking that you can. Thoughts can become actions.

She also advised the student body to "...not let what other people think ruin space in your head," and "Don't sweat the small stuff."

Alyssa graduated from Minneapolis High School in 2004. She

participated in volleyball, basketball, and track. During her senior year, she decided to run for Miss Kansas. In June, she was chosen out of 21 other contestants.

"When they said my name, I didn't cry like most people would," she said. "I became scared!"

Alyssa is currently attending Kansas University where she is studying business. To balance

school and the pageant, she took a year off from college but started back up this fall.

For her talent she plays classical piano, and she performed a piece for the student body.

She will represent the State of Kansas at the Miss USA pageant, which will be broadcast on the TLC channel in February.

School Menus

September 10-14

OBERLIN SCHOOLS

Monday: No breakfast, late start day. Lunch: pizza, corn. **Tuesday:** Breakfast: French toast sticks. Lunch: fried steak, mashed potatoes, roll. **Wednesday:** Breakfast: waffle, sausage patty. Lunch: grilled chicken sandwich, Tater Tots. **Thursday:** Breakfast: breakfast burrito. Lunch: corn dog, baked beans. **Friday:** Breakfast: muffin,

yogurt. Lunch: fish patty, macaroni and cheese. Juice and fruit served with breakfast. Milk served with all meals. Choice bar served with all lunches.



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ad in back in Goodland.

Student council paints school cafeteria

By Whitney Wright

The Decatur Community Junior and Senior High student councils came together over a two-day period before school started to repaint the school cafeteria.

The group met once to decide what they wanted to do. They chose original designs created by graphic artist Ben Tegmeier, the nephew of senior high stuco sponsor Brenda Breth.

"I was really happy with the way the cafeteria turned out," said Nolan Henningson, junior high student council president. "I had a great time painting it with the rest of the stuco members. I hope everyone enjoys it as much as I do."

The student council members wanted to give the cafeteria a better look to promote school spirit.

Mrs. Breth said, "The kids worked really hard on two hot days to do something for the whole school. The cafeteria is the one room that everyone at DCHS uses. So we wanted to give it some school spirit."

Heather Glodt, president of the senior high student council, said when she is in the cafeteria she feels more school spirit and it feels good

to know she was able to help create the new cafeteria look.

Also helping with the painting were high school student council officers Jordan Tally, vice president; Nathan Simonsson, secretary; Gage Reichert, treasurer; Mrs. Breth, sponsor; junior high officers, Tyler Shields and Matt Wittman; and junior high stuco sponsor, Tim Breth.

Homecoming candidates announced

The 2007 Homecoming candidates were announced Friday in homeroom. The king candidates are Colt Diederich, Royal Fisher, Jared Marcuson, Ace Manning, David Urban and Sean Ybarra.

The queen candidates are Kenzie Fisher, Heather Glodt, Jennifer Ploussard, Amie Ritter, and LeAnna Sheaffer.

Homecoming is Friday, Sept. 21. The 2007 Homecoming king and queen will be announced at the assembly that afternoon.