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CARDINAL CHATTER

Gearing Up for 2016-2017

As we close the doors on a successful school year, we want to commend our students for their hard work, as well as our parents and community for their support. We are proud of all the accomplishments our students and staff achieved. Every day was a great day to be a Cardinal!

During the summer break, parents can help their children maintain their learning in several ways, which vary by age. For more information, refer to the “Summer Learning Tips” article on pages 5-7 in this issue.

Registration papers will be available on the school website and in the district office beginning in June, and are due by August 5. New this summer will be the option of paying registration fees online. Back-to-school conference dates and orientation activities for the 2016-2017 school year are described below. Contact the district office or a building principal with any questions.

Orientation Activities for 2016-2017			
August 17	5:30 PM	Auditorium	7th grade & new middle school student orientation
	6:30 PM	Auditorium	9th grade & new high school student orientation
August 18	8:00-4:00	Classrooms	K-6 back-to-school conferences, scheduled individually
	6:00 PM	Auditorium	7-12 back-to-school night and laptop rollout

As a reminder, the school day will be extended 15 minutes next year. Elementary students will be dismissed at 3:25 and secondary students will be dismissed at 3:30 on regular days. On early out days, all students will be dismissed at 1:00. Extending the day will allow more time for lunch, movement, and learning.

School resumes for the 2016-2017 school year on August 23. Watch for more information about the 2016-2017 school year to be shared via the school website, email, and future issues of this newsletter. Have a safe and enjoyable summer break!

Sletten Competes for National Music Educator Award



Nathan Sletten, 5-12 Band Director, has been selected as a quarterfinalist for the Music Educator of the Year Award from The Recording Academy and GRAMMY Foundation! More information about this honor and the selection process can be found at <http://goo.gl/2GR1Oh>.

Student Council Introduces “The Cardinal Way”

The Student Council (StuCo) was approached in the fall with an idea to develop “The Cardinal Way” for our school, modeling it after Drake’s “The Bulldog Way”. After discussion, the Student Council thought it would positively impact the culture and climate for all PK-12 students.

Graduating senior Morgan Allen decided to chair the project, and crafted the statement and the design that is posted below. It focuses on respect, kindness, hard work, and other positive character traits.

The Cardinal Way ties in with PBIS, which is used in the elementary and middle school. Students who earn the Cardinal Conduct award also earn a Cardinal Way t-shirt. High school students earn a shirt by being nominated as the student of the month for character.



Food Pantry Provides for Earlham Residents Year Round

On Monday, March 21, Earlham Schools opened a school food pantry, sponsored by the Food Bank of Iowa. The food pantry is fully funded and stocked by the Food Bank of Iowa. Individuals have had access to the food bank during the day as well as after school and one weekend a month.

In the summer months, the food bank will be open daily. Those wishing to use the food bank will need to stop in the main office.

Since opening, the Earlham Schools food bank has served one on-site meal and provided food for eight households and twenty-nine individuals. We hope to continue to see those numbers grow as time goes on.

If you have questions about the food bank or would like to set up a time to come by, please contact one of the four listed below.

- Kayla Selby
kselby@ecsdcards.com
- Crystal Hale
chale@ecsdcards.com
- Mindy Harskamp
mharskamp@ecsdcards.com
- Marty Dalton
mdalton@ecsdcards.com

2015-2016 Highlights

Academics

86% of 3-11 grade students were proficient on the Iowa Assessment Reading Test. 87% of 3-11 grade students were proficient on the Iowa Assessment Math Test. 87% of 3-11 grade students were proficient on the Iowa Assessment Science Test. 80% of elementary students were proficient on the FAST assessment. Twenty 6th-8th grade students created 4 teams who competed in the “Future Cities” state competition in Cedar Rapids. Twenty-four students competed in the Purple Comet Math competition. Twelve students competed at the WCAC Academic Bowl.

Elementary

The new school year started with 34 new faces in preschool. K-6 classroom teachers introduced JiJi to the students through ST Math, the new STEM grant program. In addition, the teachers taught with the newest updated version of Everyday Mathematics, EM4, as part of their math curriculum. Lego robotics and coding were introduced to students during their technology classes and an intervention block was added to reinforce reading skills to all students kindergarten through sixth grade.



Each month students were recognized for their accomplishments in the PBIS assemblies held in the school auditorium. The assemblies reinforced our PBIS motto of being Respectful, Responsible and Proud. Students also attended an author visit from Michelle Nelson-Schmidt and listened to the high school band perform for just them.

Each grade level held a music performance in the auditorium throughout the year and the 5th and 6th grade students also held two band performances. To cap the year off, students in grades K-3 held a field day at the city park and grades 4-6 continued the tradition of the Little Cardinal Relays on the school track.

Fine Arts

The HS Band continued its tradition of excellence this year and earned several honors, including its 5th Consecutive Division "1" Rating at IHSMA State Marching Band, its 7th Consecutive Division "1" Rating at IHSMA State Large Group Contest, 1st Place Finishes for Earlham High School Jazz Band at SCIBA, Jim Coffin, Simpson, and Hoover Jazz Festivals, and 5th Place at Iowa Jazz Championships. Miriam Johll was selected for All State Band as 1st Flute, and members brought home 13 Division "1" Ratings and 5 Division "2" Ratings at IHSMA Solo/Ensemble Contest, with Miriam Johll and Grant Becker earning the distinction of “Best of Center” at IHSMA Solo/Ensemble Contest

The Choir also earned several honors, including 12 Division One ratings at Solo/Small Ensemble Contest and 39 MS/HS students participated in at least one other honor choir. Lauren Thomson was accepted into the 2015 All-State Chorus, Eva Fisk was accepted into the 2015 Opus Honor Choir, and Grant Becker was accepted into the 2016 ISU Cyclone Honor Choir.

The Earlham Drama and Music Departments once again combined to create another wonderful production in November. The musical “Bye Bye Birdie” was staged using cast from middle school and



high school. Almost 60 students were involved in the fall production that was well received by the community and cast members' families.

Earlham high school's large group speech season started out with 12 entries consisting of over 30 students. They performed at district contest on

January 23rd where they received 8 division I ratings. Those students then traveled to Waukee two

weeks later where 5 of the 8 entries received top honors with division I ratings.

Earlham's individual speech contestants had 20 entries in the district contest on February 27th. Of those 20 entries, 18 received division I ratings at districts and moved on to state contest where 13 received division I ratings. The milestone of the individual season was Jack Geneser and Grant Becker being selected to perform at All State Speech Festival at UNI.

The spring play was a great success and many students participated with all of it coming together for a two night performance of "Agatha Raisin and the Quiche of Death" a British murder mystery.

Clubs

StuCo members accomplished many projects during the year, including planning the "All American Homecoming", hosting a Talent Show, organizing MTV Wars, hosting an Intramural Volleyball Tournament, holding the Pink Out- American Cancer Society fundraiser and raising \$1414, hosting a Movie Night at Earlham Church of Christ and the #LEAD Conference for area schools.



National Honor Society (NHS) members partnered with StuCo to package over 25,600 meals at the Meals from the Heartland and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. NHS also undertook several projects during the year as well. They raised over \$500 for their Adopt-a-Family program, all of which went toward purchasing Christmas gifts for a local family, held two blood drives, one in November and one in March, that helped save over 130 lives. They also sponsored Alcohol Awareness events for high school students the week leading up to prom and provided daily gifts and a breakfast for Teacher Appreciation Week. Eleven new members were

inducted to NHS in April and 15 senior members graduated in May.

The Earlham FFA program continues to receive District, State and National Convention honors with Cassie Bond being elected as District Secretary this year while two other Earlham students completed their year as President and Secretary. The chapter display received a Gold rating at State Convention, and many teams performed well. The program still brings in students from other districts as it is such a highly recognized and active FFA that provides lunches to farmers at the co-op during harvest time to working a multi acre crop plot and greenhouse. Additionally, the chapter

started an Ag Awareness Day for middle school students to complement the Farm Safety Day they do for all elementary students.

Athletics

The football team finished the season with a record of 6-4 (5-2 District), 3rd place district finish, and state playoff qualifier. Gavin Boyle, Canyon Hopkins, Joey Harkins received 1st Team All-District honors, while Garrett Boyle, Jim Knight, Josh Turnbull, Ben Clement, and Devin Crees were selected to 2nd Team All-District. The volleyball team placed 4th in the West Central Activities Conference (WCAC). Girls Cross Country finished 5th and the boys finished 7th in the WCAC. The boys finished 6th in the District Meet and Girls finished 11th. The girls basketball team finished with a record of 0-22, while the boys' team finished the season 17-5.

JH Boys Track team placed 1st at the WCAC Meet and 7th graders were State Champions. The HS Boys Track finished in 2nd place at the WCAC Meet, in 3rd place State Qualifying Meet and sent 8 events to the State Track Meet. The JH Girls Track team took 1st place at WCAC Meet. The HS Girls Track earned 1st Place at the WCAC Meet, 4th place at the State Qualifying Meet and sent 6 events to the State Track Meet. Sophomore Keaton Kester earned the State Champion title in the 100 and 200 meter dash.



The boys golf team finished in 4th place at the WCAC Meet as did the girls team. Ben Clement and Kari Coulter earned 1st Team All-Conference honors, and Lexie Kliegl was named 2nd Team All-Conference.

Summer Learning Tips for Parents

The following material was taken from the Iowa Parent Information Resource Center. Visit the PIRC website, www.iowaparents.org for more information.

Summer months are often filled with sports clinics, camps, library reading clubs, trips to the swimming pool and family vacations for many school-age children. But for some children, summer break means extra time in front of the television or computer screen with little parental supervision. And there are other children whose parents would like to help, but they don't know how or don't realize the importance of staying academically stimulated.

Why does it matter?

Students who do little during the summer months to stimulate their minds experience what is known as "summer slide." This is when they lose academic skills, mostly in the areas of math and reading, and then experience setbacks when they return to school in the fall. The setbacks force teachers to spend about four to six weeks at the beginning of the school year refreshing students and bringing them back to where they were at the end of the previous academic year. For example, students in the Grand Rapids (Michigan) school district were found to have lost about 40 percent of what they learned from the previous school year, according to a study done between 2003 and 2004.

And the U.S. Department of Education has reported that students' reading skills fall behind about 25 percent each summer. The average student also loses about 2.6 months of grade-level equivalency in math computation skills during the summer.

In addition to brain activity, children also need to participate in physical and social activities during the summer to keep their bodies strong. Much of a child's social stimulation can be received through interaction and activities with family members. Also, parents need to help their children prepare for the next grade level during the summer months. This is increasingly important for those children who will enter kindergarten or the next academic stage such as middle or high school.

What can parents do?

Arne Duncan, secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, said families need to use the summer months to spend time with their children. They need to turn off the television and instead visit museums, parks and libraries. Each child should have a library card, and families should "find ways to continue to learn and to learn as a family all summer," he said.

Research has shown that summer reading offers one of the greatest benefits because it improves comprehension and vocabulary regardless of the subject. Reading is most effective when a parent is involved, according to a Harvard University study. There are numerous activities parents and other adults can do with children regardless of financial status. These ideas include:

- **Read:** Parents should read to their child every day. Children improve more quickly when an adult asks questions about the material and makes the child re-read difficult passages. Books are too difficult for a child if he or she does not understand five or more words in a 100- word section. Also, set an example and make sure the child sees you reading.
- **On the road:** Play "I Spy" with road signs for numbers, colors and shapes. Ask older children to estimate and calculate the travel time to a destination.
- **Get outdoors:** Take children to parks and trails for walks or to ride bicycles, or plant a garden or flowers together. Spend time before the outing to gather information and ask children about the plants and wildlife they encounter.
- **At the ballpark:** Teach young fans how to calculate statistics such as RBIs or ERA. Suggest that they read a book about baseball before the game to teach kids more about the sport and to brush up on reading skills.
- **Volunteer:** Ask a friend or relative to host a child at his or her workplace for a day, or take your child to pick up litter or volunteer at a soup kitchen or senior center.
- **In the kitchen:** Allow a child to help out by measuring ingredients and reading recipes. Ask more challenging questions such as how many pints are in a quart and how to divide ingredients.
- **Online:** Numerous universities and community colleges offer free online courses, some of which can be downloaded to portable devices. Websites such as readingrocket.org can give parents reading tips to help their child at various ages.
- **Move it:** Attend summer music festivals with your children and dance together. Sign up your child for summer swimming lessons or other athletic events.

- **Get prepared:** Establish a school-night routine a couple of weeks before school starts that includes earlier bedtimes.
- **Be involved:** Attend back-to-school and orientation nights to meet teachers, and learn about school and classroom expectations.
- **As a family:** Plan and cook meals together, share family traditions/customs, or tell stories and reflect upon fun times.
- **Play games:** Tell jokes and riddles and share trivia; also, play board games or other games together. Another way to get the brain working is to play thinking games such as categorizing items such as animals or foods, and doing word clusters.
- **Turn it off:** Have at least one full week with no television or video games.

Summer 2016 Earlham Cardinal Youth Athletic Camps

Sport/Grades	Grades	Dates	Times
Boys Basketball	3-8	June 21-23	1200-4:00 PM
Running Camp	2-8	June 27-30	9:30-11:30 AM
Volleyball	3-8	August 1-2	9:00-11:00 AM
Football	3-6 7-8	August 13 August 1-5	9:00 AM - Noon 8:00-11:00 AM

For more information, visit the school website at home.ecsdcards.com to find a camp brochure or contact Chris Caskey, Athletic Director, at ccaskey@ecsdcards.com or 515-758-2214 x440.

Get the *Cardinal Chatter* delivered to your mailbox or inbox!



We will mail three to four newsletters to all district residents each year, but this newsletter is published monthly throughout the school year to keep our school community updated on our progress as a district. Copies will be available at local businesses and it will be posted on the school website, but you can elect to have the Chatter delivered directly to your home via email or mail!

Simply go online to <http://goo.gl/dJ08ds> or call the district office at 758-2214 to get signed up to receive all future issues!

Looking for more information about our school?

Check out our school website at home.ecsdcards.com for more announcements, calendar of events, staff directory and more.

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Permit #11

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