

# Cardinal Chatter



April 6, 2014 Issue 9

## Earlham Community School District, Earlham, Iowa

### PBIS SET Visit

On Thursday, March 27th, Earlham Schools were visited by two state PBIS representatives to conduct a formal evaluation. The School-wide Evaluation Tool (SET) is "designed to assess and evaluate the critical features of school-wide effective behavior support across each academic school year" (national PBIS SET document).

Earlham Schools PK-8th grades have been implementing PBIS (Positive Behaviors Interventions and Supports) for 18 months. The PBIS team determined that it was time for a formal evaluation to insure that the program is being implemented with integrity throughout the school, and to provide feedback to the team prior to moving to the next phases of PBIS with tier two interventions and classroom expectations.

Currently, PBIS is taught and behavior expectations are reinforced for the various common areas such as hallways, lunchroom, recess and auditorium/assembly behavior. Additionally, tier one interventions are those that are used for all students to reinforce correct behaviors. Tier two, and eventually tier three, are for the smaller group of students that may need more intensive assistance and reinforcement in order to model expected behaviors.

According to the actual SET evaluation tool, the SET results are used to:

- assess features that are in place,
- determine annual goals for school-wide effective behavior support,
- evaluate on-going efforts toward school-wide behavior support,
- design and revise procedures as needed, and

- compare efforts toward school-wide effective behavior support from year to year.

The state representatives interviewed students, staff members and administrators, as well as examining a variety of documents including behavior expectation lesson plans, PBIS team yearly action plans, discipline reports and much more. While the team will have to wait for the formal report to be delivered, both representatives spoke very highly about Earlham Schools and how impressed they were with our positive, welcoming culture, the embedded core values of being respectful, responsible and proud, and all of our documentation. The representatives were especially amazed with our original and separate PBIS logo that easily identified PBIS over other school symbols and posters. They felt our school was more than prepared to enter the next phases of PBIS implementation.

### Elementary Family Math Night

PK-6 parents and students are invited to have some fun and learn more about the Everyday Mathematics curriculum by experiencing it first hand during Family Math Night on April 8 from 6-7 PM at the school.



Students and parents will participate in interactive math activities in the student's classroom. "Money" can be earned in each classroom to "buy" ice cream sundaes, which will be served in the commons.

All students who attend math night will receive a math goodie bag to take home.

## JMC Parent Access



Parents can take a more active role in their student's life at school and help team with teachers for increased success by utilizing JMC parent portal online.

JMC allows parents to check their students' progress in each of their classes.

Additionally, parents can set preferences on JMC so that they will automatically receive an e-mail if their student falls below a specified percentage in a course.

JMC also allows parents to check their children's attendance and their lunch account balance. Parents can even track if their child is choosing ala carte or seconds at lunch or eating breakfast and lunch at school.

To access JMC, simply navigate to the link provided under the "Parents" tab on the school website, and enter the log in information provided by the school.

If you would like further assistance with using JMC, our School Board is comprised of all parents who are happy to give you assistance. Feel free to contact Board Members Teresa Waldron, Kathy Woolcott, Steve Willem, David Morford or Andrew Arnburg or the school to help with JMC parent access.



## Everyday Math

A preliminary analysis of 2014 Iowa Assessment results show an increase in the number of students in the advanced proficient range in grades 4, 5, 6 on the mathematics test.

Iowa Assessment proficiency is based on National Standard Scores by subtest, test period, and test level. The attachment below shows the breakdown of these scores by grade level.

Graphs depicting results by grade and by class for elementary math can be found on the school website. Teachers will be analyzing data to make instructional decisions in their classroom and to set building goals.

If you have questions about the results, please contact the school.

## HS Career Exploration

Four high school students attended the AutoRama World of Wheels Student Career Day in Omaha on Friday, March 28th.

This event provided the students with the opportunity to explore exciting careers in the Automotive Aftermarket industry. Speakers encouraged students to pursue their passions wholeheartedly. Students also had a special preview into the car show.

A group of students attended a Career Exploration Day at Southwest Community College in Creston, IA, on Friday, April 4th. Students registered for seminars in the fields of Health Sciences (Nursing), Welding, Automotive Collision & Repair, and Agriculture.

## Technology

Beyond just acquiring and implementing technology, Earlham must be a leader in technology to be successful.

Six staff members will be presenting at the annual Iowa 1:1 Conference in Des Moines on April 11: Kasey Moon, Dan VonRentzel, Alli Waugh, Justin Johnson, Mike Rogers and Cory Houghton.

To keep our place on the cutting edge of technology we must constantly be pushing boundaries and showing how we integrate technology into instruction at Earlham to other educators in the state. In addition, those attending the conference will have the opportunity to learn from other educators about classroom technology integration.

## Parent/Student Reunification Drill

Another informational meeting for the upcoming reunification drill will be held on April 24 at 6 PM for parents and emergency contacts to further explain plans and answer questions about the protocol for reunification. On May 2 at 2 PM the live Parent/Student Reunification Drill will take place. If you are a parent, please remember to make proper arrangements for this afternoon to pick up your child(ren) from the school following the reunification procedures.

## 2014 Iowa Assessment Data Snapshot

Results from the Iowa Assessment, taken in February 2014, arrived during the last week in March. Initial analysis of the data shows student growth in many areas.

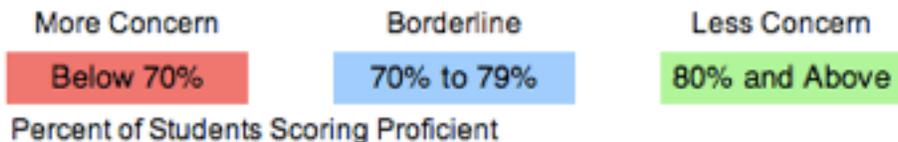
The chart below shows the percent of students in each grade level scoring in the proficient range for their grade level. Proficiency on the Iowa Assessment is based on National Standard Scores by subtest, test period, and test level.

Traditionally, students in grades 3-11 take this standardized test, but this year, second grade students also took the Iowa Assessment. This was an additional evaluation tool to gauge student achievement and growth, as well as to help familiarize students with the standardized testing format.

Results from standardized tests are one data point teachers can use to measure student growth and understanding. By looking at patterns in student performance over time, educators can begin to evaluate the fidelity of the curriculum as well. Earlham teachers will spend time during professional development and team meetings breaking down the data by test, content area, classroom, and sub-group to help define instructional goals and needs for the remaining year, as well as upcoming years.

## Building/Grade Level Summary Percent of Students Scoring Proficient Earlham 13-14

| Building      | Grade | IA Reading<br>M | IA Mathematics<br>M | IA Science<br>M | IA Social Studies<br>M |
|---------------|-------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Earlham Elem. | 02    | 78%             | 91%                 | 89%             | 82%                    |
| Earlham Elem. | 03    | 79%             | 76%                 | 97%             | 85%                    |
| Earlham Elem. | 04    | 81%             | 87%                 | 100%            | 87%                    |
| Earlham Elem. | 05    | 85%             | 91%                 | 96%             | 80%                    |
| Earlham Elem. | 06    | 71%             | 74%                 | 83%             | 65%                    |
| Earlham HS    | 09    | 89%             | 80%                 | 84%             | 91%                    |
| Earlham HS    | 10    | 85%             | 87%                 | 85%             | 83%                    |
| Earlham HS    | 11    | 80%             | 91%                 | 80%             | 76%                    |
| Earlham MS    | 07    | 71%             | 86%                 | 76%             | 81%                    |
| Earlham MS    | 08    | 79%             | 81%                 | 85%             | 79%                    |



## From the Board Table

At their meeting on March 12, 2014, the Earlham School Board received updated information on student scores on Skills Iowa. Skills Iowa is a web-based tool used as a formative assessment to provide data and feedback to students, parents and staff in the areas of reading and math. This assessment has been used by the District for grades 3-6 for the past three school years.

The Skills Iowa assessments are ongoing checkpoints for students to assure that the Essential Concepts and Skills are being learned. Teaching staff can use this data to drive instruction and since the data is individualized to the student, teachers can identify those students who need additional supports as well as those that need to be challenged. The Skills Iowa assessments are given monthly for students in reading and three times per year for math.

The results shared were from the midyear assessment. The assessments taken were a science and social studies nonfiction text assessment, a fiction text assessment and a mid-year math assessment. The Earlham students performed above the Skills Iowa state average on all four of the assessments given. The grade level goals for grades 3-6 are in conjunction to the Skills Iowa math end-of-the year assessment.

The next regular Earlham Community School Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the school library.

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## Purple Comet! Math Meet

Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 27 Earlham HS students participated in the Purple Comet! Math Meet. In teams of 5 or 6, they tackled 30 questions in 90 minutes, competing online against 2108 teams (including middle school) from 36 countries. The students were challenged with many of the questions beyond the scope of our curriculum. The contest continues around the globe through April 10<sup>th</sup> after which the results are announced.



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



We will publish this newsletter 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](http://home.ecsdcards.com) for more announcements, calendar of events, staff directory and more.