

Cardinal Chatter



February 7, 2014 Issue 7

Earlham Community School District, Earlham, Iowa

Teacher Leadership & Compensation Plan Update

House File 215 requires all school districts to implement a new system for compensating teachers by the 2016-2017 school year. The state has allocated \$50 million per year for the next three years to fund this new Teacher Leadership & Compensation system.

Application Submitted

The Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) Committee completed and submitted the district's application for the Teacher Leadership and Compensation Grant from the Department of Education. The application meets legislative requirements and includes the following:

1. A minimum salary of \$33,500 for the lowest paid teacher in our district
2. Improved support for entry into the profession or the district
3. Multiple, meaningful teacher leadership roles
4. Rigorous selection process for teacher leadership roles
5. Aligned professional development

The state mandates that leadership roles comprise 25% of the current teaching staff. In our proposed plan, 30% of the teaching staff will have the opportunity to fill leadership roles. Teacher leadership roles include instructional coaches at each building level, a technology integrationist, mentor teachers and CLT facilitators.

The Department of Education received 146 applications, representing 2/3 of Iowa's student population. The state plans to award grants to districts representing 1/3 of Iowa's student population.

Applications are currently being scored by a state committee. The district will be notified in March if they are selected to receive the grant.

Cardinal Fans Support Coaches vs. Cancer

The HS Basketball teams collaborated with the HS Student Council and the E-Dance squad to sponsor a Coaches vs. Cancer Game on Jan. 17. Cardinal fans showed their support by donating \$416.85 to the American Cancer Society.

Donations were raised during a 46-second drill at half-time of the girls basketball game by passing buckets through the crowd. Glow sticks were also sold to fans to be used by the audience during the E-Dance half-time performance during the boys' game.



Student Council Member and basketball player Kristen Weber presented the donation check to American Cancer Society representative Caryline Clark.

Speech Team Performs at State

On Jan. 25, 24 high school speech performers traveled to Perry for the S.W. district IHSSA speech contest. Six group entries performed and of those six, four will advance to the state meet in Ankeny on Feb. 8.

Groups receiving a "II" rating were: John Tibben, Stephen Woolcot and Grant Becker - Improvisational Acting. Brenna Rice, Andrew Papousek, Chris Knight and Melanie Montgomery - Improvisational Acting.

Groups receiving a "I" rating and advancing on to state were: Rachel Follmer and Lauren Thompson - Ensemble Acting - *Anna and August*. Jenette Follmer, Jordan Pohlman and Tiffany Smith - Ensemble Acting - *Love's Labour's Lost*. Lucas Morrison, McKensie Morrison, Cole Ridgely and Noah Wright - Improvisational Acting. Choral Reading - *To This Day* - Jenette Follmer, Taylor Aquino, Emilie Palmer, Alex TeKippe, Cole Ridgely, Jacob Ladwig, Katie Steward, Tiffany Smith, Kirsten Morford, Grant Becker, Jordan Pohlman, Lauren Thomson, Olivia Smith and Morgan Allen.

At state competition, the Improv group received a "II" rating, while the two ensembles and choral reading groups each received straight "I" ratings.



6th Grade Band to Perform at Iowa Bandmasters Convention

The Earlham 6th grade band will be performing at the Iowa Bandmasters Association Conference on Thursday, May 15th at 3:00 PM. The performance will be held in the Iowa Ballroom at the Downtown Marriott Hotel in Des Moines.

Performing at the IBA convention is one of the highest honors that a band can receive in the state of Iowa. The band sent in a recorded audition and were selected for the conference by a committee of educators from around the state.

All In for a Positive Change



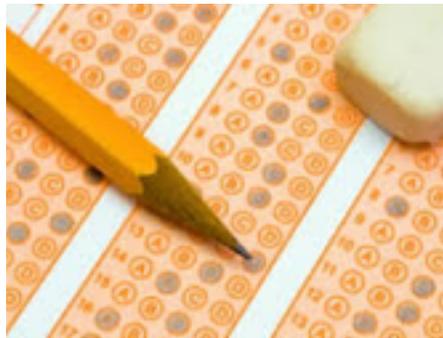
PK-8th students kick-started the new year by returning to school for PBIS Boot Camp. With their teachers in tow, kids went around the building with an iPad and scanned QR codes to re-visit our Earlham Core Values of Being Respectful,

Responsible and Proud. They also quizzed each other on expected behaviors in the common areas of our school. All champions received cookies!

For our January celebration, 3-5 and 6-8 students had a wonderful opportunity to watch the High School Choral

Reading performance about bullying. With masks, poetry and iPads that displayed images of children at times and at other times words that are hurtful, the high school speech group shared a powerful message. Our students could easily see how harmful bullying could be and were quickly reminded of how to treat others in a positive, respectful manner at all times.

And, for an exciting conclusion to the month, our PBIS grades competed in Change Wars to raise money for the Madison County Relay for Life and cancer awareness and research. The grand total donated was \$653.00 with the highest donating class being Mrs. Schnell/Mrs. Lily's First Graders. Mrs. Terwilliger's 3rd graders and Mr. Becker's 6th graders came in 2nd and 3rd place respectively. Students were "ALL IN" for others! Thanks to all who participated!



Everyday Math

Everyday Mathematics prepares students for standardized tests through activities that strengthen the skills needed for success on these tests and familiarize them with the standardized test format.

Children play games that reinforce basic facts; frequently discuss and analyze problem-solving strategies; and learn ways to check the reasonableness of an answer.

Throughout the program, children explain their thinking and reasoning in writing. Also, because the program distributes instruction among all the mathematics strands and continually revisits topics, children approach standardized tests without gaps in their basic knowledge.

Iowa Assessments

Students in grades 2-11 begin taking the Iowa Assessments on Feb. 10. Please follow these tips to help prepare your child for testing.

1. Acknowledge test-taking anxiety as normal, but stay positive. Encourage your child to think positive thoughts like "I can do this!"
2. Adequate rest makes a difference! Make sure your child goes to bed at a reasonable time each time.
3. Nutrition also influences how well children do on test; a good breakfast is important, but a large meal right before the test can be distracting.
4. Your child should wear comfortable clothing for long test-taking periods.

Technology

Nicholas Williams joined the staff as a part-time technology assistant. He is from Winterset and will be a huge help with the technology we have.

We would like to thank the School Board for passing the Instructional Support Levy (ISL). This is the lifeblood for all things technology at Earlham.

Recently several of the area technology directors for central Iowa came to Earlham for their monthly meeting and were impressed with the friendliness of staff and students, the amount of technologies as well as breadth in which they are used in the classroom.

The Tech Committee completed all the items that go with students getting new 13" Macbook Airs next year.

From the Board Table

At their meeting on January 22, 2014, the Earlham School Board accepted a petition from the Facilities Committee representative, Bill Herman, with over 200 signatures. The School Board accepted the petitions and set February 12th as the date to consider a resolution to place the elementary classroom expansion and gymnasium remodeling project on the ballot for an April 1st election.

The project that is being proposed is the exact same project that was on the ballot for the September 10, 2013 election in conjunction with the School Board election. The project would include the addition of 5-6 elementary classrooms as well as expand the current elementary gymnasium including restrooms and associated supporting spaces so that the current elementary gym could become the competition gym for extracurricular activities. The petition asked the School Board to approve calling for an election where voters could decide whether or not the District can issue General Obligation Bonds not to exceed \$4Million for this project.

During the September 10th election, 52% of the voters approved the project, but school districts are required to have a 60% approval, also known as a supermajority to issue General Obligations Bonds for a building project.

The next regular School Board meeting will be held on Wed., Feb. 12 at 6 PM in the school library.

Meeting for Parents of '14-'15 Kindergarten Students

If you have a child that will be 5 years of age on or before September 15, 2014, you are invited to attend an informational meeting on Monday, February 17th, 2014 at 6:00 pm to learn about the Earlham Elementary Pre-K and Kindergarten programs.

You will be presented with information about our PreK and Kindergarten programs, our school and our staff by Mr. Hammen, Elementary Principal. You will have a chance to see the classrooms and meet the teachers. There will be paperwork to fill out, so please bring your child's birth certificate and immunization records.

If you cannot make it to the meeting or have any questions, please call or email Megan in the District Office: mfredericksen@ecsdcards.com or 515-758-2214 x121.

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!

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.