

# Cardinal Chatter



March 1, 2014 Issue 8

Earlham Community School District, Earlham, Iowa

## Parent-Student Reunification Drill

*FEMA defines parent-student reunification as “a common procedure implemented after an incident or emergency. A reunification area away from the incident is established for parents/guardians to reunite with their children. Parent-student reunification may be needed if the school is evacuated or closed as a result of a hazardous materials incident, fire, school violence, or other hazard.”*

### Drill Scheduled for May

The district Safety Committee has collaborated with local law enforcement to create a reunification plan. They plan to run a reunification drill on May 2 to test these plans.

Parents received notification of this drill via letter at the end of February. The drill requires every student to have a reunification release form completed by parents and returned to the district. During the drill, every student is expected to be picked up by a person listed on this form. Students who drive to school will be released at the conclusion of the day.

During this drill, PK-12 grade students will be evacuated for a fire drill, and then relocated to the football field. Staff members will supervise students and manage the reunification process. Local law enforcement, firefighters and emergency responders have been invited to participate as well.

Parents and community members are strongly encouraged to mark this date on the calendar. Informational meetings are planned for April 3 and April 24 from 6:00-6:30 PM to share more details about the reunification process. Information will also be communicated through online and print articles, emails and letters in the upcoming weeks.

As with all drills, the safety of students is the number one priority. Practicing these procedures is necessary to better prepare students and staff for any event that may render the building unsafe for occupation.

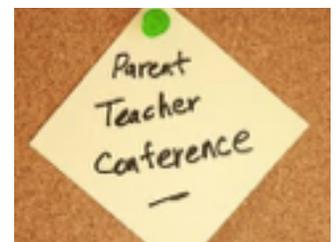
### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parents are encouraged to attend conferences on March 11 or March 13 from 4-8 PM.

Conferences are an opportunity for parents to ask questions about school policies or programs, share information about their children with teachers, and ask questions about student progress.

Parents are encouraged to ask specific questions, such as

- What are my child’s strengths and weaknesses?
- How does my child get along with classmates?
- Is my child working up to his/her ability? Where could s/he use improvement?
- What can we do at home to support what you are doing in the classroom?



If you have not received communication from your student’s classroom teacher about scheduling a conference time, please contact him or her to do so.

## ECSD Selected as TLC Grant Recipient

Mr. Wright is pleased to announce that the Earlham Community School District is in the first group of Iowa school districts selected to launch teacher leadership systems next school year.

Teacher leadership systems will allow teachers to work in greater collaboration with colleagues and school administrators to improve instruction and increase student achievement. Out of Iowa's 346 school districts, 146 applied to start teacher leadership systems in 2014-15 and 39 were selected. Of those, two districts will share teacher leadership systems. A list of all selected school districts is at the end of this press release.

"This is an exciting educational opportunity to our district," said Wright. "We are looking forward to implementing the plan, and I would like to thank all those involved in writing our proposal."

Teacher leadership systems are the centerpiece of Iowa's historic 2013 education reform package. They stand to be the foundation for implementation of other state reforms, such as high academic standards. With higher expectations for all students today, it is critical to better support the complex work educators must do.

Teacher leadership systems will be phased in over the next three years across Iowa, with the goal of all districts participating by 2016-17, although whether to do so is a local decision. The Commission on Teacher Leadership and Compensation recommended which districts should be in the first group. Iowa Department of Education Director Brad Buck made the final decision.

Our district's teacher leadership model includes two instructional coaches who will work closely with classroom teachers to better meet the individual instructional needs of students. Other leadership roles include a technology integrationist to help teachers and students effectively use instructional technology, mentor teachers to assist teachers new to the profession and district, and CLT facilitators to lead teacher teams. Teacher leaders will be paid stipends in exchange for taking on extra responsibilities.

Districts that applied were required to set a vision and goals for the teacher leadership system in their community. Requirements include setting a minimum salary of \$33,500 for full-time teachers, providing intensive mentoring for new teachers, and adopting a rigorous selection process for applicants for teacher leadership roles.

Districts selected will receive about \$309 per pupil next school year to implement their teacher leadership systems. The annual cost statewide is nearly \$50 million in FY15, growing to about \$150 million annually in the third year. After the initial year of district implementation, their teacher leadership funding rolls into the Iowa school finance formula.

The next step for school districts is selecting teacher leaders. Gov. Terry Branstad's FY15 budget recommendations include \$4 million for the Iowa Department of Education, working with Area Education Agencies, to provide technical assistance and leadership development for the districts in the first group implementing teacher leadership systems in 2014-15.

The selected districts, enrolling about one-third of Iowa students, are:

Benton	Earlham	Le Mars	Panorama	Van Meter
Bettendorf	East Marshall	Linn-Mar	Pella	Waterloo
Burlington	East Union	Marshalltown	Rock Valley	West Des Moines
Cedar Rapids	Gilbert	Mount Pleasant	Roland-Story	Western Dubuque
Colo-NESCO	Greene County	Muscatine	Saydel	Winterset
Council Bluffs	Hudson	North Polk	Sioux City	
Davenport	Humboldt (in collaboration with Twin Rivers)	Norwalk	Southeast Polk	
Delwood		Oelwein	Twin Rivers (in collaboration with Humboldt)	
Dubuque	Johnston	Ottumwa		



## “Pop” Wright Speaks to Students

Rodney “Pop” Wright, former Drake basketball player and professional basketball player, spoke to 9-12 grade students about drug and alcohol abuse on Feb. 27.

Wright shared his personal story with students during the assembly. "Since the age of 12, Pop had been abusing

drugs and in high school added alcohol to the mix," the program's brochure reads. "After doing and dealing drugs for years, losing his dream basketball career and

surviving gunshot and stab wounds, Pop's drug and alcohol habit was brought to a halt when he was arrested for check forgery in 1985."

Following that arrest and more than a year of rehabilitation, Wright began to turn things around, starting his non-profit P.O.P. program (Positive Outreach Program) in 1988 for at-risk students.

During the program, students and staff were asked to volunteer to share their personal definitions of chemical abuse and drug and alcohol related deaths.

Wright now lives in Des Moines and travels throughout the Midwest speaking with kids about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.



## Everyday Math

Throughout the year, teachers have been measuring each student's progress toward grade-level goals in math.

They frequently make notes of children's progress while observing them working on Math boxes.

Teachers evaluate children's responses during group work or games and oral or written responses. There are Progress Checks for each unit and Beginning-of-Year, Mid-Year, and End-of-Year assessments for evaluating individual progress.

These assessments are used to determine whether certain topics need review and whether particular children need additional help or challenge.



## Journalism Elective

A new elective, Broadcasting & Media, co-taught by Mrs. Sheffield and Mrs. Gulley, is being offered this semester.

The course exposes students to broadcast journalism and media, including the technology used in these fields. Students build technology, reading, writing, research and analytical skills.

On Feb. 18, the class visited KCWI and talked with Jason Parkin, Jackie Schmellen, and other *Great Day* crew members.

Thus far, students have learned the basics of videography, iMovie, and journalism and created four videos and a news article. Plans are to produce a feature article, documentary, commercial and a newscast.



## Technology

Parents, students and staff recently received an email with a link to an anonymous survey regarding their technology use.

In their most recent meeting, the Technology Committee discussed their Vision, Mission and definition of Technology Literate, and determined that administering this survey would be beneficial.

The survey, administered by a third party, BrightBytes, will help the Technology Committee and district make smart technology decisions that improve student learning outcomes in significant ways.

Data from this survey will be one component used to help shape the future direction of technology use at ECSD.

# Mark your calendars!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Mini-Golf

**Tuesday, March 4th**

6:00-8:00 PM

*An 18-hole Mini Golf Course, hosted by the Earlham Golf Team, will be held throughout the school. The cost will be \$5 per person or \$15 for a family. Putters will be provided, though admission is \$1 off if you bring your own. A concession stand will be waiting for you at the "19th Hole" when you finish. There will also be an irons only "Driving Range" set up in the Practice Gym (\$5/bucket).*

### 7-12 Variety Show

**Friday, March 7th**

7:00 PM in the Auditorium

*The Variety Show is a concert featuring vocal/instrumental solos, duets, percussion ensemble, and the High School Jazz Band.*

### 7-12 Band Concert

**Monday, March 10th**

7:00 PM in the Auditorium

*The Middle School and High School Bands will be performing "Music from the Movies." The concert will include movie soundtrack highlights from The Hunger Games, Les Miserables, Disney's BRAVE, and the Blues Brothers.*

### EDance Spring Show

**Friday, March 14th**

7:00 PM in the Auditorium

*The show is an annual fundraiser for the HS Drill Team. The proceeds are used to pay for all expenses the following year. Admission costs are \$5.00/Adult and \$3.00/student. The show will feature, EDance, EDance Coed, Kidz Camp Dancers, House Band, and a few other surprise performers.*

### No School

**Teacher Compensation Day:** Friday, March 14

**Spring Break:** Monday, March 17- Friday March 21

### Earlham Co-Ed Early Bird Track Meet

**Monday, March 31**

More school events can be found online at [home.ecsdcards.com](http://home.ecsdcards.com)

# Winter Sports Season

## WRAP UP

### CHEERLEADING



*Bottom row:* Alexa Losee, Kirsten Morford, Katelyn Miner, Mikala Golightly, Kelli Crabbs. *Middle row:* Danielle Davis, Carolyn Anderson, Maddie Kinnick. *Back row:* Coach Danielle Strasser, Peyton Sprague, Manager Caitlyn Cox

### GIRLS BASKETBALL



**Varsity Record:** 13-10 overall, 8-8 in conference

**JV Record:** 6-6

**Season Highlight:** Scoring 90 points against Ogden and breaking the school record for points in a game

### BOYS BASKETBALL



**Varsity Record:** 14-9 overall, 12-6 in conference

**JV Record:** 5-8      **Freshmen Record:** 8-2

**Season Highlight:** Six game winning streak to close the regular season

### DRILL TEAM

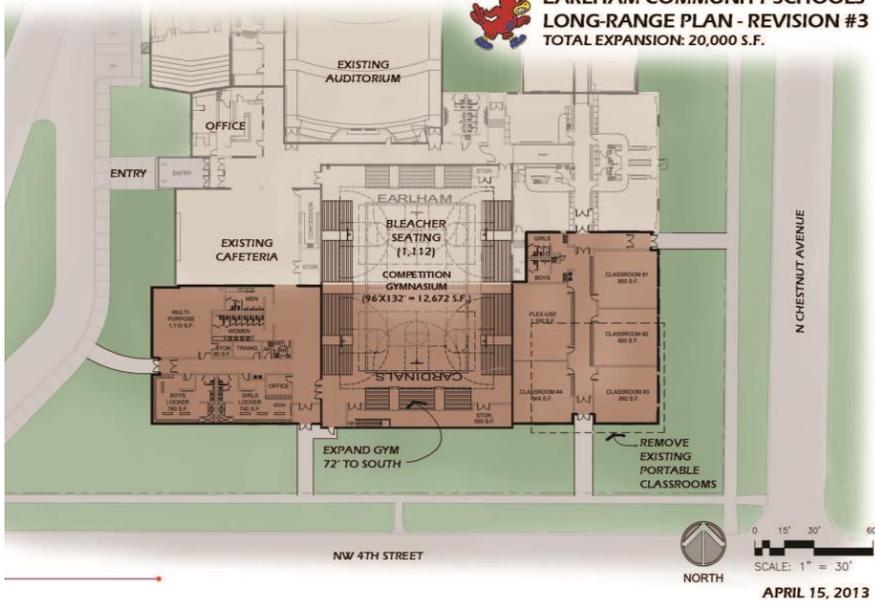


EDance received a Division I for their Prop and Military Routines at State Competition.

The team also received an Academic Excellence award for the teams overall GPA.



**EARLHAM COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**LONG-RANGE PLAN - REVISION #3**  
 TOTAL EXPANSION: 20,000 S.F.



**Addition of Elementary Classrooms and Remodeling of the Competition Gym as presented in 2001**

**Addition of Approximately 20,000 sq.ft.**

**March 6,  
@7:00 PM**

**Open to the Public**

**Ask Questions, Tour the Current Facilities**

# **PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE EARLHAM SCHOOL BOND ISSUE INFORMATION MEETING**

*The Earlham Community School District believes the ultimate purpose of education is to challenge all students to reach their highest levels of achievement possible in order to become life-long learners.*

**March 6, 2014**

**7:00PM**



For more information visit, [www.ecsdcards.com](http://www.ecsdcards.com)

**EARLHAM COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

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Earlham, Iowa 50072

515-758-2214

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## From the Board Table

At their meeting on February 12, 2014, the Earlham School Board approved a resolution calling for a special election for the proposed project to add elementary classrooms and remodel/expand the current practice gymnasium. The project also includes restrooms and other associated supporting spaces so that the current practice gym can become the competition gym for extracurricular activities. At their meeting on January 22, 2014, the Earlham School Board was presented with a petition with over 200 signatures of registered voters in the district requesting that this project be placed on the ballot. The special election is scheduled for an April 1<sup>st</sup>.

State law requires that not just a majority but a 60% supermajority of the voters must approve this project for it to pass. The project received 52% approval by the voters this past September. If the project were to be approved by the voters, the District would use General Obligation Bonds not to exceed \$4Million to pay for the project. The funds for the General Obligation Bonds would be repaid with property taxes.

During the meeting, Mr. Wright shared a Property Tax Impact program to demonstrate the potential property tax increase if this project would receive the required voter approval. Several examples were shared for residential, commercial and agricultural property owners.

The next regular Earlham Community School Board meeting will be held on Wed., March 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the school library.

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## Sub-district FFA Competition Results

On February 25, several FFA members, led by teacher and advisor Zachary Irving, competed at sub-districts in Creston. Results are as follows:

- Jared Dory received bronze in Ag Broadcasting
- Rachel Hoy received silver in Job Interview
- Lexie Kliegl, Kennedy Morris, McKenzie von Rentzell, Jake Kinsey, Thomas Payne, Kate Collins, Kelli Crabbs comprised the Conduct of Meeting Team and received silver
- Cassie Bond received gold and will advance to Districts in Creed Speaking

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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!

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.