

# Cardinal Chatter



November 4, 2013 Issue 4

## Earlham Community School District, Earlham, Iowa

### Our Students Give Back

*Volunteering and donating provides students with real-world experiences and global connections.*

#### Habitat for Humanity Volunteers



On October 10, 38 HS students and 10 adult chaperones volunteered with Habitat for Humanity in Des Moines. After learning about the mission of Habitat for Humanity

and AmeriCorps, as well as how the organizations help the community, the volunteers received job assignments and got to work.

One group of students spent the day laying sod at three new homes built during Habitat's *Rock the Block* event. Two other groups relocated to two older homes in neighboring areas to paint the exterior, while another relocated to a third older home to complete staining.

#### “Socktober” Donations

During the last two weeks of October, the Elementary Cardinal Council collaborated with the High School Student Council to promote participation in “Socktober”, a sock donation drive

spearheaded by Kid President using social media like youtube and Twitter.

After watching Kid President's “Socktober!” video, PK-12 students were challenged to use the power of social media in a positive way and meet the goal of collecting at least 100 pairs of new socks, 100 new hats, and 100 new pairs of gloves to donate to the Youth Shelter Services in Des Moines.

Students donated 317 items--43 hats, 58 pairs of gloves, and 216 pairs of socks--during this event. More information about this event can be found on YouTube and Twitter by searching “Socktober”.



### Professional Development

During each PD day, teachers are spending time in Collaborative Learning Teams (CLTs) to analyze student data to help make instructional decisions that will positively impact student achievement.

State law mandates 36 hours of teacher collaboration time outside the regular school day; this time is very beneficial for our teachers and students.

## PBIS Mini Troopers

The October PBIS Celebration had two main focus points beyond the usual awarding of certificates for students having zero major or minor referrals and zero late work. First, Kid President gave us inspiration for "Socktober", our Fall service project.

The second part of the celebration included guest speaker Iowa State Trooper Joel Ehlers talking with the kids about "stranger danger", safety at Halloween, cyber-bullying and internet safety and more. The highlight of his talk came with a question and answer session. Middle school kids' hands shot up in the air just as much as the Kindergartners later in the day. Great questions, and so many that Trooper Ehlers will be invited back to school for more discussion with the middle school later this year. New Mini Troopers sporting their hats include: (L to R) 1st grader Caleb Smith (PK-2 celebration), 8th grader Chad Allsup (6-8 celebration), and 3rd grader Karry Goff (3-5 celebration).



## Everyday Math

Math games reinforce concepts in a valuable and enjoyable way. They are designed to help children practice their basic fact and computation skills and develop increasingly sophisticated strategies. For example, some games give children experience using a calculator, while other games emphasize the relationship between the money system and place value. Games also lay the foundation for learning increasingly difficult concepts.

Children are often asked to play *Everyday Math* games with family members as a part of their home practice. As you learn to play the games yourself, you will begin to understand some of the ways games help children learn mathematics.



## HS MTV Time

High school advisory groups, commonly referred to as MTV groups, meet for 17 minutes daily.

This time provides students with a support system for success in high school and activities designed to help them build skills to prepare for life and situations beyond high school. Advisors are advocates for their advisees by monitoring their advisees' achievement and encouraging them to develop effective communication and interpersonal skills.

These skills are fostered through a variety of activities, learning opportunities, discussions and competitions.



## Technology

During technology class, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students have been learning how to create word documents and practicing their keyboarding skills by writing letters to soldiers. These letters provided a very brief introduction and an inspirational message for a deployed soldier.

While creating the letter, students learned how to format a letter and modify text using Google Docs in their Google Drive. Along with the letters, the students used [recitethis.com](http://recitethis.com) to create a poster with a joke or quote, chosen by the students, to attach to their letter. The students enjoyed expressing their creativity and knowing that their letter would help make someone's day!



# Fall Sports Season **WRAP UP**



## MS Volleyball

**Record:** 7th Grade 5-3  
8th Grade: 3-5  
**Number of Participants:** 28  
**Accomplishments:** Great improvements in the fundamentals of volleyball, working together as a team, and the strategy of the game. By the end of the season each girl could serve the ball over the net!



## MS Football

**Record:** 7th Grade 3-3  
8th Grade: 6-0  
**Number of Participants:** 27  
**Accomplishments:** 8th grade team completed their MS career with an 11-0-1 record, allowing only 4 touchdowns in 2 seasons. All boys in the 7th grade participated in either football or cross country.



## MS Cross Country

**Meets Ran:** 6  
**Number of Participants:** 7  
**Accomplishment:** Times improved for all runners.



## Varsity Volleyball

**Record:** 14-6  
**Number of Participants:** 29  
**Accomplishments:** Finished 4th in the conference, won 1st round regional game, offensive threats and defensive improvements; played with a TEAM concept  
**Post-Season Honors:** Team Academic Achievement Award with 3.595 combined GPA; 1st Team All Conference: Alex Potzner; 2nd Team All Conference: Jess Igarashi; Honorable Mention: Ari Brightman, Anna Anker



## Varsity Football

**Record:** 3-6 (Season), 3-4 (District)  
JV: 7-2  
**Number of Participants:** 40  
**Accomplishments:** The team finished the regular season 7th in the state in rushing offense in Class A. Max Kasap was 3rd in Class A in rushing yards.  
**Post-Season Honors:** Nine team members made the All-District Football Team.



## HS Cross Country

**Meets Ran:** 8  
**Number of Participants:** 15  
**Accomplishments:** Boys team placed in top 3 at all but two meets and won the Creston meet. Kristen Weber placed 16th at State with a time of 15:43.  
**Post-Season Honors:** Weber, Allen Schmidt, and Morgan Allen earned All-Conference honors.



## Our Teaching Staff by the Numbers

### Professional Growth

42% of our teaching staff are currently taking classes for license renewal, graduate credit or professional growth.

### Additional Duties

40% of our teaching staff are coaches, sponsors or advisors of at least one extra-curricular activity.

### Gender

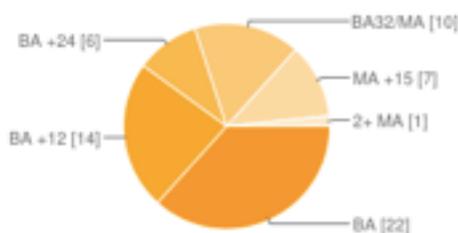
65% of our teaching staff are female.

### Highly Qualified Teachers

100% of our staff are highly qualified teachers.

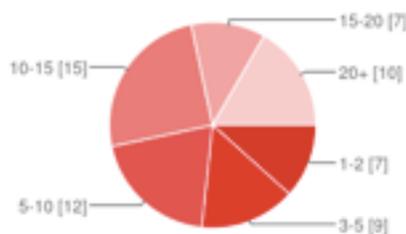
See the graphs at right for additional information about our teaching staff. Note that years experience and years employed by ECSD include the current year in the calculation.

Level of Education?



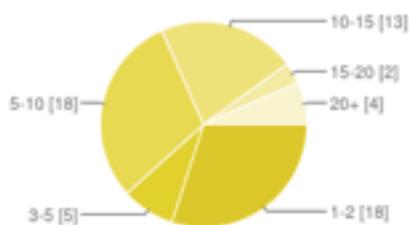
BA	22	37%
BA +12	14	23%
BA +24	6	10%
BA32/MA	10	17%
MA +15	7	12%
2+ MA	1	2%

Years experience?



1-2	7	12%
3-5	9	15%
5-10	12	20%
10-15	15	25%
15-20	7	12%
20+	10	17%

Total years employed at ECSD?



1-2	18	30%
3-5	5	8%
5-10	18	30%
10-15	13	22%
15-20	2	3%
20+	4	7%

## 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.