

# Cardinal Chatter



September 4, 2013 Issue 2

## Earlham Community School District, Earlham, Iowa

### School Election is September 10



On Tuesday, September 10, two key issues that will greatly impact the district are on the ballot: School Board Elections and a Bond Referendum.

images of initial design plans. It can be found at <http://goo.gl/3Pkp0t>.

### School Board Candidates

Two seats will be filled in the school board election this year. Incumbents Teresa Waldron and Kathy Woolcott are both running for a second term. Non-incumbants Rex Stancil, Bob Russell, and Tim Hochstetler are also running for election. Please be sure to cast your vote on September 10.

### Classrooms and Gym Expansion

If the bond referendum passes, the portable building will be removed and 6 permanent classrooms and restrooms will be constructed on the south side of the building. Additionally, the practice gym will be converted into a competition gymnasium, and visitor locker rooms, a training room, an office, and a flex space will be added.

In addition to gaining space, student safety will be increased as elementary students will no longer have to move between buildings throughout the day. A new gymnasium will double the current seating capacity and provide handicap accessibility.

The presentation shared at the meeting on August 22 contains specific details relating to the project and

### Professional Development

Each Tuesday morning, PK-12 staff members meet in the auditorium at 7:45 for “Huddle”, a ten minute professional development session based on mini-lessons from Todd Whitaker and Annette Breaux’s book *The Ten-Minute Inservice*.



Learning focuses on a variety of topics ranging from classroom management, to student motivation, to parent engagement, to meaningful lesson planning. These sessions are intended to promote professional growth and improve school climate for all.

## Friday Fun with PBIS



On August 16, PK-8th grade students got a very fun, activity-filled kick-start to the 2013-14 year with a huge PBIS Welcome! With year two of the program started, students have once again been practicing positive behavior expectations and

earning Cardinal Compliment Cards. The staff, all in their PBIS shirts, showed their appreciation for the wonderful behavior with lots of fun activities.

Grades PK-4th grade enjoyed activities ranging from blowing bubbles and creating sidewalk chalk art to playing



## Everyday Math

*Everyday Mathematics* is based on the idea that mastery of mathematics concepts and skills comes with repeated exposure and practice, not after just one lesson. To help children develop mastery, mathematical topics are introduced in an informal way, and then presented numerous times in different contexts with gradually more formal, directed instruction.

When children revisit topics, they make new connections and gain different insights. Children regularly review and practice new concepts through activities, games and assignments. This gives them sufficient time to internalize and master the concepts and skills that are the designated goals for their specific grade level.

If you have any questions about Everyday Math, please contact the school.



## Assessments

Each year, our students take standardized tests to help gauge both academic growth and the instructional needs.

In addition to the Iowa Assessments, DIBELS are given to K-6 students three times per year to measure reading skills. These students also take monthly Skills Iowa tests, short assessments designed to measure student understanding of Core skills in math and reading.

Secondary students take Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) twice per year to monitor student growth and understanding of Core Skills in reading, language, science and math.

Assessment results are combined with classroom data to help provide a complete picture of each student's skills and abilities and to plan instruction.

with the colorful parachute and ball games. They moved from station to station to experience all the activities.

5th and 6th graders had the coolest activity: a Pool Party at the City Pool. They splashed and jumped in and really got to enjoy the last moments of summer with their classmates.

The Middle School reinforced teamwork with their activity time by doing each portion of the afternoon in advisory groups. They played sheet volleyball, bag toss, ladder golf and competed in several water-inspired relays on the football field.

It was a terrific day filled with smiles and wonderful behavior. Thanks to all for being Respectful, Responsible and Proud.



## Technology

Our new green screen room, which will be available for use by all teachers and students, is nearly ready.

This classroom will have a green screen, teleprompter, lighting and almost everything a small audio/visual operation would need to produce a video.

An elementary field trip to KCCI studios is being planned so students can see how the technology is used in "the real world." A new course, Broadcasting & Media, will be offered to HS students and will use the room frequently.

We hope that this will give all students an opportunity to create a wide variety of professional, high-quality videos as well as give interested students some vocational experience in video production and design.

# Spotlight on...

## HIGH SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULARS

### Student Involvement



Because the skills, lessons and relationships developed in extra-curricular activities, such as athletics, speech, drama, jazz band, Student Council, and drill team, often have a positive impact on student achievement and school climate, the HS building has had a climate/participation goal for three years.

During 2012-2013, **89%** of the 9-12 student body participated in at least one extra-curricular activity, which exceeded the building goal set by the HS staff.

With a larger HS student body starting the 2013-2014 school year, **61%** of these students are participating in volleyball, football, the fall play, Student Council, and flags. The goal for this year is to encourage student involvement and maintain the 89% participation rate achieved in 2012-2013.

### Marching Band



The Earlham High School Marching Band has been working hard to prepare for this year's show, *The Music of Billy Joel*. Songs featured in this year's show include "We Didn't Start the Fire", "Piano Man", "My Life", "Only the Good Die Young", "Air Dublinesque", and "Just the Way You Are".

The Marching Band is under the direction of Mr. Nate Sletten and Mr. Lee Plummer. The Color Guard is under the direction of Ms. Sammy Nelson. Senior Rebecca Johnson is this year's drum major. The HS Marching Band will be previewing segments of their 2013 show at home football games in preparation for the Iowa High School Music Association's State Marching Band Contest held on October 19 in Waukee, IA. Come out and cheer on the band! *Photo courtesy of Shannon Payne*

### 2012-2013 Athletic Achievements



- Girls Cross Country, Basketball and Track Teams and Boys Track Team qualified for State competitions.
- Boys Basketball advanced to District Semifinals.
- Girls Golf member advanced to Regional Finals.
- Baseball advanced to District Semifinals.
- Softball advanced to Regional Finals.
- West Central Athletic Conference All-Sports Champions
- Recognized by the IHSAA for not having an ejection of a coach or athlete
- Coach Caskey named Softball Conference and Regional Coach of the Year;

Coach Braet named Cross Country Conference and Regional Coach of the Year; Coach Sheffield named Girls Basketball District Coach of the Year

## MS Students Learn & Give Back



Middle School students and staff went to Des Moines on Friday, August 30, for “real-world learning.”

First, students went to the Iowa Hall of

Pride and participated in a variety of interactive exhibits ranging from singing the songs from the state choir competition to trying their hand at announcing the play-by-play of a game. They were able to analyze and discuss famous Iowa citizens and

their contributions to the state, nation and world. They will follow up this exciting visit with writing about famous Iowans in class.

The second part of the day involved volunteering to package meals for starving people around Iowa, the nation and the world. The middle school students and staff packaged over 6,300 meals while they volunteered during their shift. They worked as teams measuring soy protein, rice, dried vegetables and vitamins into a bag before weighing it, sealing it and packaging it to be sent where it is most needed. Students learned valuable lessons about volunteering, being good citizens and serving others, while rocking to 80's music and having loads of fun!



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## Want to continue to receive future issues of the Chatter?

Just let us know!



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.