

High School News



News from Mrs. Simon

The students enjoyed reading “Jason’s Gold” by Will Hobbs. The students read other short stories about the Klondike and how it was to prospect for gold during the gold rush. The students were able to watch a video about the Klondike and the gold rush. Some other topics that the students read about were: different countries, horses, camping, ice fishing, stock cars. The students worked on reading strategies to help improve reading comprehension along with writing about each book. Some of the students are reading about an Iowan that hiked the Appalachian Trail in the book called, “A Walk In The Woods” by Bill Bryson.

The students work on some math strategies to improve their math skills. The students learn about real-life scenarios/problems that focus on math to help the students connect the importance.

The students toured Hawkeye Community College and University of Northern Iowa (UNI) to compare the two colleges and to learn about their different programs.

News from Mrs. Meyer

The 8th grade students worked on various dimensional projects during the 1st quarter of the year. They were challenged when they had to complete a self-portrait. The students did an awesome job on this project and they were on display for a couple months in the commons. Some other projects they completed during 1st quarter was a spooky house and a rhythm people project. For 2nd quarter, we transition to doing three-dimensional projects. They learned about the Day of the Dead celebration that the Mexican culture celebrates through creating a Day of the

Dead mask. The 8th grade students are currently finishing a paper mache sculpture that is inspired by the artist Keith Haring. Look for these to be on display in the commons by December 11th.

Two-dimensional art is taking place this quarter. This is a high school class available to 9-12 grade students. Various two-dimensional mediums and skills are explored in this course. So far the students have completed a self-portrait, a perspective drawing, a colored pencil animal drawing, and an oil pastel landscape. They've been given some opportunity to add their own creative touches to their pieces. Other areas that will be explored during this course are zentangles (pen and ink designs), watercolor, acrylic, and the printmaking process.

The second quarter welcomed the 7th grade students to art. They have been working on the monochromatic portrait painting that has been done in past years during 7th grade. Prior to starting the project, students learned how to shade, draw using the grid method, and to mix various tints and shades of a color. These are coming along great and will be on display once completed this month.

Art Club News:

This year has been a record making year for Art Club with 43 members. Art Club has been busy this year through making crafts and art items to sell at the fall Stop 'n Shop. Money being raised this year is being put towards a trip to Omaha, NE. There are 32 members that are attending this trip the weekend of March 18th. While in Omaha, they will see the Joslyn Art Museum, the Broadway "Cinderella", and the Omaha Zoo. They are very excited and are thankful for the support received from the community as the funds raised help keep the cost of the trip down for members so that more are able to attend. Art Club will be hosting a craft day again at Aunt Necee's for kids

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on Dec. 5th from 9am-noon. We will also be working to finish the EMS mural this month. Do you have a project or idea for Art Club? If so, please contact Mrs. Meyer (mmeyer@edge-cole.k12.ia.us).

Yearbook News:

The 2015-2016 Ed-Co Yearbook "Color My Future Bright" is in progress. Reminder if you'd like to get \$5 off this years book (\$25), you need to get orders in by Dec. 31st. After the first of the year, the price will be \$30 a book. You can go to <http://community.pictavo.com/> to order a book online or you can find order forms in the high school office.

Also, senior parents please make sure to get senior portraits into Mrs. Meyer ASAP. They can be emailed directly to me (mmeyer@edge-cole.k12.ia.us). Senior parents can also order senior ads at this time by visiting <http://community.pictavo.com/>. They need to be ordered by the end of February. Reminder senior ads include a yearbook with the price. If you are having any problems using the website, please contact Mrs. Meyer.

As always, the Ed-Co Yearbook Staff appreciate any photos you'd like to share to be used in the book.

News from Mrs. Janssen

Congratulations to the following students who have been accepted into honor bands so far this year:

Loras College Junior High Honor Band – October 30

Jessica Avianeda, flute
Maddy Streicher, flute
Madison Nurre, clarinet

Carson Kirby, trumpet
Hunter Thompson, trombone
Ethan Staner, percussion

Loras College High School Honor Band – November 6

Mazie Nurre, clarinet
Morgan Vorwald, clarinet
Jordan Kuehl, alto saxophone
Lexi Ihde, trumpet
Becca Schiffman, trombone
Anna Dolan, trombone
Jenna Ries, percussion

NEIBA Junior High Honor Band – December 5

Carson Kirby, trumpet

NEIBA High School Honor Band – December 5

Mazie Nurre, clarinet
Becca Schiffman, trombone

UIC Honor Band – January 18

Maddison Barnhart, flute
Morgan Vorwald, clarinet
Mazie Nurre, clarinet
Jordan Kuehl, alto saxophone
Lexi Ihde, trumpet
Becca Schiffman, trombone
Anna Dolan, trombone
Jenna Ries, percussion

On Wednesday, November 11, the Junior High and High School Bands performed in the annual Veteran's Day assembly in Edgewood. Thank you, veterans, for your service. We enjoyed playing for you!

All bands have been working very hard to prepare for our Winter Concert. This 5th-12th grade concert will be held on Monday, December 14 at 7:00 pm in the Edgewood Gym. Come support the band and hear some beautiful holiday music!

News from the Counseling office

We would like to thank the following community members for helping bring R5 Productions and their Walk a Mile program to our school to help educate our students and staff on the topics of respect, bullying, and diversity:

- Col. Fred and Ellen Phelps
- Layton & Barb Hansel
- Arthur & Jackie Johnson
- Fannon Welding
- Edgewood Locker
- Ed-Co Booster Club
- Ed-Co Education Association
- Cheri Clark
- Elise Bergan from the Chamber of Commerce for her efforts!

The Counseling Theme for December is “Giving” and December 5th is International Volunteer Day. Students will be provided with information on how they can volunteer and get involved in our community. Please contact me if you have a volunteer opportunity for our students that you would like me to share.

Did you know:

- Teens say the benefits received from volunteering are: Learning to respect others; learning to be helpful and kind; learning to understand people who are different; developing leadership skills, becoming more patient, and having a better understanding of citizenship.
- Youth who volunteer gain important job skills and experience, while exploring career options and expanding their social circle and social awareness.

- Youth who volunteer are more likely to do well in school, graduate and vote.
- Youth who volunteer just one hour or more a week are 50% less likely to abuse substance and engage in other destructive behavior.

The Holidays are quickly approaching!

As in previous years, Ed-Co is doing a Christmas for Kids collection. Any contributions will be gladly accepted and are kept anonymous. If you would like to contribute to the fund please send your donation to the High School by Wednesday, December 9th.

Senior Parents and Students Save the Date:

A representative from the Iowa College Access Network (ICAN) will present information on Financial Aid, Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the High School IMC.

On the same day during advisory Juniors will meet with ICAN to discuss college readiness.



Elementary News

News from Mrs. Mather

The social studies students are learning about Ancient Egypt. We are having wonderful discussions about pharaohs, mummification, the Great Pyramid, and much more.

Also the Social Studies students will be competing in the National Geography Bee. We will start the competition with 51 students, and then narrow it down to a single winner in the 6th grade. After we have our one champion from the class, they then will complete a written examination that will be sent to the National Geography Bee Association in Des Moines. After hearing their results sometime in April, we will hopefully have a 6th grader making the trip down to compete at the state level sometime in May! Good luck to all the 6th graders!



News from Mrs. Trenkamp

Most parents want to encourage their kids and motivate them to be the best they can be. But, in attempting to do so, well-intentioned parents sometimes end up discouraging their kids instead. Here are 4 ways that can discourage your child for you to avoid:

1. You offer too much help. So, your child wants to learn how to rollerblade. You wisely bundle him up in a helmet and pads and walk with him outside. At that point, he wants to try on his own. But you start shouting suggestions, walking along beside him and instinctively reach for him every time he falters. To you, this is just safety 101. To him, it's you showing that you don't think he can do it on his own.

The same thing can happen when your child is working on a paper for school, trying a new hairstyle, or learning a new skill. You see all of the ways to make their task easier and more efficient and you tell them all of your ideas. Unfortunately, your offer of help sends the message that you don't believe in them. Your child will either say something like, "I can do it

myself!" Or, they'll give in to your suggestions, do it your way, and miss an opportunity to grow.

2. You compare them to others. Sure, you're just trying to motivate them by pointing out the successes, or failures, of others. "Josh, I noticed that Caden stands with his feet a little further apart when he's batting. You should try it, too." Or, "Sophia, your sister had that project when she was in second grade. Let me find her old project for you to review."

Again, your intentions are noble, but by comparing your child to someone else, you're telling them that they are not good enough.

3. You always expect more. There is a time and place for everything. But, when your child tells you they got a B on a really hard test, it is not the time to say, "That's great. Do you think you can make an A next time?"

Our children want us to praise them for their hard work and success, without having us always look for how to make their performance even better. So if your son tells you his coach thinks he's really coming along with his football training, don't jump in and suggest ways he can do even better. Let your child bask in the praise, minus any ideas for improvement you might have.

4. You minimize their victories. This can happen in a couple of ways. First, you just don't realize what a big deal it is to them so you offer half-hearted comments. To prevent this from happening, really tune in. If your child is soft-spoken, you might need to really listen to see if something is important to him. If it is, lavish him with praise.

The other way parents minimize their children's victories is by being too busy or distracted to fully join in the celebration. This one can be tough. You've just walked in the door when your

daughter wants to show you her 10-page project with a million details. As much as you want to put her on hold, give her the praise she's craving.

Also, please encourage your child to read every night. If possible, take the time to read to them or ask them about their book that they are currently reading. Enjoy this valuable time you have together. Thanks for all you do for your children! Mrs. Trenkamp

Mrs. Askeland's Preschool News

Preschool has been a busy place while studying Pumpkins! We've had so much fun exploring pumpkins and discovering things about them! We made a study web in which we recorded all that the children knew about pumpkins. We added to this throughout the study. We had fun playing in our pretend Pumpkin Patch and read many great non-fiction and fiction books. We made and ate pumpkin pancakes and pumpkin pie in a bag-yummy! We also did a science experiment with our rotting Jack-O-Lantern and wrote about what the inside of a pumpkin looks like. What a fun study with lots of great learning going on!

The week of Thanksgiving we celebrated by having an indoor picnic for lunch. We also learned the word "gratitude" and made Gratitude Stones. We discussed things that we are thankful for. It is nice to help instill thankfulness into our young children!

After Thanksgiving break we will be starting a Ramp Study. Some of the children have been making small ramps with our wooden unit blocks and we think they'll be very interested in this!

As you can see, we are very busy in preschool!

News from Miss Glime

We are enjoying having Mrs. Jill Cordes in our classrooms for the last seven weeks. Mrs. Cordes is completing her student teaching assignment from William Penn University. Mrs. Cordes has been writing lesson plans, teaching individual students and small groups of students, and meeting with general education teachers. We will miss Mrs. Cordes when she leaves Ed-Co Elementary in December!

Mrs. McCool and Miss Glime have been attending training for Alternate Assessments. These assessments are given to those children, who would not benefit from completing the Iowa Assessments. These children are identified based upon criteria provided by the Iowa Department of Education at their IEP meetings. Essential Elements are identified for each child. Instruction is provided during the school day focusing on these essential elements or skills. The child is able to take a practice test to acquaint them with the format of the test on the computer. The child then will complete the actual assessment after further instruction. These Alternate Assessments allow us to have a screening tool to monitor the progress and learning of each identified student.

News from Mrs. Pickart

Reading at Home:

Family members who read to and with children foster their children's literacy by: increasing understanding of stories, enhancing oral language, and building vocabulary.

Create a Special Reading Area:

Talk with children about finding or creating a place in their home that is a comfortable, quiet spot for reading.

Collect Books:

Gather books, newspapers, and magazines and place them on a table or bookshelf in their special reading place.

Schedule a Quiet Reading Time:

Even small amounts of time reading together are worthwhile. Sharing a book for ten or fifteen minutes goes a long way to promoting a love of reading.

Talk About What You Read:

Talk with your children about books and other print material and share what they are reading.

Reread Favorite Books:

Expect children to have favorite books and to say, "Read it again." Children love to hear books with rhyme, rhythm, and repetition read to them over and over again.

Read Books That Last for Days:

Children enjoy continuous stories, and they are eager for the next installment.

Read chapter books with your children.

Research on Reading to Children

"Children must have access to books if they are to read. But books in themselves are simply not enough. Children also need to have a caring adult to read to them and talk to them, preferably every day."

National Research Council,

Starting Out Right: A Guide to Promoting Children's Reading Success

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National Research Council,

Starting Out Right: A Guide to Promoting Children's Reading Success

Reprinted by Kathy Pickart

News from Mrs. Brady

It's been a great month in third grade! It has been very busy and the days are flying by.

We started the month with a trip to the symphony in Dubuque. The students loved the songs they played, especially the Star Wars Theme. They also were introduced to all the instruments in each section, like the woodwinds, brass, and strings. We learned to say 'bravo' when we enjoy to music and to ask for the musicians to play more.

Third grade completed a huge project about penguins. Students worked in pairs to research a different type of penguin, such as Little Blue, Emperor, or Macaroni. They each made their own project to go with the research. The students were so creative with the projects! The projects ranged from making a board games, models, and flip books.

This month, in social studies we learned about traditions and history of Thanksgiving. In science, we learned about several of the habitats around the world. We learned what kinds of animals and plants live best in different climates. We also learned about adaptations and defense mechanisms.

Also, we took a lot of important tests! We took the Iowa assessments and the NWEA MAP tests. Each of these tests' results are reported the state, so they are very important. The subjects tested were Math, Reading, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. Thank you to the parents who sent wonderful snacks to help the students get motivated!

The third grade teachers would also like to thank all the parents and family members who attended conferences! It is such a great time of the year, when we can all work together as a team to discuss all the awesome growth!

News from Mrs. Ramsey

What's the matter? The fifth graders have learned that matter is everything! They have focused on three big ideas about matter including matter has properties, matter has parts, and matter changes. Students brainstormed researchable and testable questions related to these big ideas about matter that were researched and tested. Learning about some of their favorite properties had them using science tools such as balances to find mass and beakers and graduated cylinders to find the volume of irregular-shaped objects. Students became experts about the property of pH as they used litmus paper to find if several liquids are acids, bases, or neutral. Some of the researchable questions students had taught us that our eyes, blood, and swimming pool water all have close to neutral for a pH. Students used marshmallows and toothpicks to create models of atoms, elements, and compounds. Students became aware the elements amazingly make up everything in the universe and became familiar with the periodic table as they learned about 28 of the elements that are most commonly used in our lives. Some of the favorite parts of our study of matter happened as students experimented with how matter changes in chemical and physical changes. Making polymers using a glue solution and a Borax solution was a highlight to see how in this chemical change, a new substance was produced. Students also practiced their reading fluency in science class as they did daily choral readings of several poems about matter including, "The Chemical Change Poem" and "Elements for Sale." Two quotes students enjoyed relating to their study of matter are, "Never trust an atom. They make up everything" and "Atoms are what makes us all matter." I think we all agree matter sure does matter!

News from Superintendent Busch

As 2015 winds down, it is a time to reflect and a time to dream of the future. Thanksgiving allowed us to be thankful for what is so special to us. The holiday season will be upon us in no time and we will look for the future as we make resolutions for 2016!

I am thankful for students that excel inside and outside of the classroom, staff whose expertise in the classroom is exceeded by only their dedication to their students, and most of all the community support of the school district. Thanks!

The district is working to get information out about the Early Literacy Progression legislation. The goal of the Early Literacy Progression legislation is to make certain we are identifying students who may need a boost in reaching grade level reading goals at the earliest possible age and closing the gap by the end of third grade. Research shows that reading proficiency by third grade is an important predictor of school success. Early identification and support of a child who is a struggling reader is essential and increases their chances of success. We look forward to partnering with families in order to improve child's reading skills. To learn more about the new laws and how they impact students, visit the link below:
www.iowareadingresearch.org

On November 18th, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt administrative rules (IAC 281.12) that implement the Smarter Balanced Assessments as our state accountability assessments beginning in May of 2017. The rules are subject to review by the Legislature's Administrative Rules Review Committee before they can take effect. Once in effect, the district, in collaboration with the AEA system and the Iowa Department of Education, will remain as proactive as possible to provide

the right supports and resources to ensure successful implementation of a new assessment.

The Smarter Balanced Assessments offer significant improvements over our current state test because they:

- Reflect the expectations outlined in our state standards for what students should know and be able to do to succeed in school and in life.
- Ask students to demonstrate high levels of knowledge and skills.
- Provide teachers and parents with a more detailed and immediate picture of skills that their students have mastered, as well as those areas where students are struggling.
- Provide teachers with a digital library of resources, including model lessons and professional development.

Thank you for allowing us to educate your children this year. As always, I ask that you please become involved with the educational opportunities for our young people and assist us in making Edgewood-Colesburg the best school in the State of Iowa. I thank you for taking the time to read these articles as we proceed through a very exciting 2015-2016 school year. If you have ideas for improvement or areas of concern, please contact me by phone at 856-2415 or e-mail at rbusch@edge-cole.k12.ia.us.

Your Partner in Education,

Rob Busch

Edgewood-Colesburg Community School Emergency School Closure Process

As the winter weather season blows in, Edgewood-Colesburg Community Schools will continue to evaluate the process it uses to

decide when to close schools due to bad weather and how to best alert parents and students about the closure.

The district is aware of the implications of emergency school closures. We realize when schools shut down parents must make alternative plans, bus and food services must be altered, class and test schedules must change, and events must be canceled. We also feel strongly that our students' education can best be served when they are in class; however, safety is our number one priority. We will always do what is best to safeguard the well-being of our students and staff, but sometimes closing schools is not the obvious choice. The school district covers almost the width of an entire county. There have been times when the weather has changed, road conditions have deteriorated, or a storm has stalled over the area that a last minute decision has been made to close. These late decisions are made to protect our students and staff. There are many factors that are considered.

The images of our bus drivers on slippery roads, of young children standing at frozen bus stops, and teens, or their parents, driving in hazardous conditions is always present when the decision is made to close schools. Once the decision is made, the Edgewood-Colesburg Community Schools must disseminate the message quickly to the media, staff, and parents.

You can obtain school closings, late starts, early outs, and cancellations at the following locations:

Text messages are available through Edgewood-Colesburg Community School Web Site at www.edge-cole.k12.ia.us **and also the Iowa School Alerts program at** <https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov/>

KWWL-TV 7

KMCH- 94.7 FM Radio

KCRG-TV 9

KCTN- 100.1 FM Radio

KGAN
TV 2

*Some stations get the information on air faster than others. The best advice is to listen to more than one so our information is not overlooked.

Since the family is the primary protector, they will need to decide what is best for their children regardless of any decision by the school district. The option to keep children home when weather conditions are extreme is always at the family's discretion and the school understands and respects the decision. The family can contact the school and arrange for an excused student absence. All families should make advanced arrangement for their children in case of school closures and for the rare situation when it is necessary to close school because of a power failure or another circumstance. Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home and how to contact parents and guardians. Make sure your family contact information, including work telephone numbers, are kept up-to-date with the school.

During cold weather you should always make sure your child is dressed appropriately. Bulky coats and boots can be stored in classrooms, or other areas designated by the principal in addition to student lockers so don't be afraid to bundle them up.

Working together we can ensure the safety of the Edgewood-Colesburg Community Schools during the hazardous weather season.

Do We Know How to Reach You?

Have you moved, changed home or cell phone numbers, or added a cell phone? Have you changed jobs? Are the emergency contact people the same? If any of these has changed, please

remember to call the office to let us know, so that we can reach you in an emergency.

Dressing for the Weather

Families are reminded to be sure that your children are dressed for the weather. As the weather gets colder, a warm coat, hat, and gloves are very important. Many children report to the staff because they forgot these things or could not find them in the morning and would be late for the bus. We always remind them that setting all their belongings together by the door before they go to bed would prevent early morning searches. This also helps children learn organizational skills.

Classroom temperatures from room to room and individuals' comfort levels vary so warm shirts and sweaters over t-shirts are also important each day. If the room is warm, the outer shirt can be removed. However, on cold days, a t-shirt is almost never warm enough in some rooms.

Supervision at Sports Events

Athletes, coaches, parents, teachers, and administrators appreciate the level of support provided by the student body. Fan support can make a difference in close games, but problems can arise when a minority of students fail to conduct themselves as spectators at events. A small number of students do not sit and watch the game, as one might expect, but are constantly in the halls and the concession area while the game is in progress. This presents a supervision problem.

The administrators feel parents of children in elementary school or younger are responsible for their child's behavior while they are at school events. This requires your child to remain in the gym while the game is in progress, unless it is between games or at half-time. We suggest that if younger students attend activities without the

parent, that there be someone in charge of them, and the child can tell school officials who the person is. Junior high and high school students are also expected to observe the proper behavior.

When the season begins this year, we will be vigilant about enforcing the rules. If any student is found to be constantly violating this rule after a warning, s/he will not be allowed to attend the next home game. Repeated violations will bring about more serious consequences, including the possibility of not being allowed to attend any more games for the duration of the season.

We are asking for the cooperation from both students and parents in helping make supervision at sporting events a task that can be handled easily. We will announce this policy to all students prior to the start of the basketball season. We hope that parents will support us in this matter.

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The school district does not discriminate in its education programs or educational activities on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, color, national origin, gender identity, religion, creed, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, marital status or disability. Students are educated in programs that foster knowledge of, and respect and appreciation for, the historical and contemporary contributions of diverse cultural groups, as well as men and women, to society. Students who feel they have been discriminated against are encouraged to report it to the school district Affirmative Action Coordinator. The Affirmative Action Coordinator for each building is the principal. Inquiries may also be directed in writing to the Director of the Region VII Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 310 W. Wisconsin Ave., Ste. 800, Milwaukee, WI, 53203-2292, (414) 291-1111, or the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA, 50319-0146, (515) 281-5294.