

High School News



News from Ms. Simon

The students are working on researching and writing about real life events and places. The students are able to learn about things that are relevant to adulthood and their civic responsibilities. The students were able to implement some of the previous reading strategies that they have worked on earlier this year.

The students continue to 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 of math skills in adulthood.

The students will be able to tour NICC (Northeast Iowa Community College) Calmar campus on March 3. This will help the students assess another college to see what will best fit their needs.

The students and families can learn about various agencies that can assist with students transitioning to adulthood.

As an instructional coach, I have observed a lot of wonderful things that are taking place in other classrooms that are engaging students and helping the students be critical thinkers.

Upcoming Dates:

March 3- NICC Calmar tour

March 17- Family Transition Fair

News from Mrs. Wille

SPEECH and DRAMA happenings...

Large Group speech wrapped up with 5 groups attending state contest in Waterloo on February 6. Thanks again for all the support, our kids work hard and it is exciting to have so many people in our communities following our successes.

Individual speech is in full swing. Our conference contest is February 22 at Turkey Valley. On Monday evening we will have 7 JH students perform as well 26 HS students. The HS students will travel to Maquoketa Valley on February 27 for district contest. Any student receiving a one rating at districts will advance to state contest on March 12 in Dubuque. ALL contests are open to the public!

Drama, Drama, Drama - YES it is that time of year already - Spring play! Auditions are planned for the week of March 1st. We are putting on a comedy of horrors titled Flue Season. You won't want to miss this so mark your calendars for April 8th and April 9th.

Mrs. Wille's classroom

My new semester of classes has brought among some changes to my day to day happenings. I went from a rather large chemistry class to a group of 12. WOW what a change, still challenging but a bit more relaxed and fun! I am collaborating with one senior on an AP chemistry course.

In chemistry we are studying the structure of the atom and soon we will discover how atoms bond and form compounds.

In physics I have a new group of students and it is fair to say this physics gig is a bit easier the second time around. I have actually enjoyed the content I'm sharing with my freshman but is has

been a challenge relearning physics. We are currently studying the law of inertia.

In 7th grade life science we are currently studying plants and will soon be on to the animal kingdom.

News from Mrs. Meyer

Art News:

The art classroom this quarter is full of high school students taking various art courses. The courses being offered this quarter are Graphic Arts, 2D Art, 3D Art, and Advanced Arts. There are lots of great projects being created and that have been on display in the commons. Graphic Arts students are currently working through various lessons that are teaching the students the tools and techniques within Adobe Photoshop. They will apply what they've learned to create Graphic Arts Projects during the last few weeks of the course.

Students in 2D Art have completed a self-portrait using drawing pencils and a colored pencil animal drawing. They are currently working on oil pastel landscapes, which are full of color. Other upcoming projects include: zentangle drawing (pen/ink), watercolor painting, acrylic painting, and a relief printmaking project. Look for all of these to be on display in the commons once completed.

Here are a couple photos from 2D Art:

Allison Tibbott is working on finishing up her tiger drawing using colored pencil.



Noelle Kerns lays out guides for her final oil pastel landscape drawing before starting.



The 3D Art class is a very full class that has been very focused while working on their clay projects. The students are in the process of completing the following items in clay: tiki sculptures, birdhouses, gnomes, and planter

pockets. This process takes quite some time since we have to make sure the clay projects are completely dry before firing in the kiln and some will revisit the kiln after being glazed. While the students wait for the different stages of the ceramic process, they are starting on an altered book project. This project is very unique in that students have to reuse old books to create a piece of art. They are encouraged to use various materials and to come up with a theme, which promotes advance though process and problem-solving skills. They will also complete a wire sculpture and if time they will complete another 3D art project. Look for these to be on display in the display case in the commons once they are completed.

Evan Ronnebaum, Ryan Walters, and Alex Hansel work to develop the base for their tiki sculptures.



Advanced Arts students are working on various projects that interest and challenges them. They complete an electronic portfolio for the class that focuses on creativity, presenting, responding, and connecting. The portfolio consists of their artwork, a biography, and a written artist statement.

Upper Iowa Conference Art Show:

The conference art show will be taking place at the Postville YMCA from March 7th-10th. Times have yet to be decided by Postville as to when the show will be open to public. Please watch on

the sign, in the paper, and on Facebook. There will be various pieces from this quarter and previous quarters going to the show. Some of the artwork after the show will be put on display in the library and possibly some area businesses. All work from the show will be featured at the District Art Show.

1st Annual District Art Show:

The Art Club will be holding the first District Art Show from Thursday April 7th-April 9th (during the spring play). Work will be on display from Kindergarten to 12th grade. Pieces will be on display in the gym and in the commons. Watch for more details and reminders towards the end of March.

Art Club News:

Some of the senior Art Club members have been working hard to find time to complete the Edgewood EMS mural. Watch for photos of the finished product in the newspaper and on Facebook. On March 18th and 19th, there are thirty Art Club members taking a trip to Omaha, NE. While in Omaha, we are visiting the Joslyn Art Museum, seeing the Broadway musical "Cinderella", and attending the Omaha Zoo. Other upcoming events: the District Art Show (April 7-9th) and our end of the year gathering where we will finish the mural that has been started in the weight room.

Here is a photo of this years Art Club Members:



(front; L-R) Maddy Harris, Kolton Moser, Allison Voss, Delaney Bergan, Kaitlyn Ronnebaum, Allison Bolsinger, Taylor Bockenstedt, Alysa Steger, Alley Burgin, Olivia Bailey, Kaden Jones, Chloe Carithers, Ashley Clinton, (middle) Andrew Askeland, Sadie Abitz, Kyann Braden, Danielle Childers, MacKenzie Schmitz, Emma Ehlers, Mariah Hummel, Kennedy Bahls, Hayle Pillard, Jenna Ries, Emily Sherrets, Madison Sheckles, (back) Katie Snook, Erica Voss, Kelsi Askeland, Josephine Cialfi, Liz Meisner, Nicole Synder, Allison Tibbott, Allie Schmitt, Maddison Barnhart, Lexi Ihde, Miranda Barnhart, (not pictured) Akaisha Buzynski, Carter Aulwes, Hanna Hess and Kody Deutmeyer

News from the Counseling office:

Students will begin registering for next year's classes soon! This will be completed with Mrs. Dowell the first few weeks of March. Please take some time to plan out your son or daughters schedule with them to help them make informed decisions.

8th Grade Parents - Save the Date

Freshman Orientation will be held in the music room on Thursday, March 17th from 7-8pm. This meeting will provide you and your child with information that will be beneficial in developing

their 4 year plan. Staff members will be sharing information about classes offered.

8th grade students will also be attending a Career Fair at Upper Iowa University on Wednesday, March 23rd to learn more about planning for their futures!

The Counseling topic in March is Substance abuse. We will have a Speaker come to Ed-Co to discuss drunk driving and the group YODA (Youth Opposing Drugs & Alcohol) will be helping get the word out about the negative effects of substance abuse.

New Club start-up: Gay Straight Alliance or GSA is a new club at Ed-Co. These types of clubs are very common in schools across the U.S. and they are for people who identify as LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) or who simply support people who are LGBT.

THIS IS NOT JUST FOR STUDENTS WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBT! A large majority of this club is going to be ally based. There are many different topics that GSA touches on such as Sexual Orientation, Domestic Violence, Abuse, Bullying, Tolerance, Politics (LGBT related), to name a few. Please contact Mrs. Dowell for more information. The goal of GSA is to reduce the amount of discrimination within our school and create a safe environment for all students.

Elementary School News

News from Mrs. Mather

The Social Studies class recently competed in a National Geography Bee. During our final round of competition our two semi-finalists were Mason Ashline and Ike Jones. Ike was our over-all class winner! He then completed a computer examination. It was then sent into the National Geography Bee Association. We are now waiting

to hear his results. Hopefully Ike is asked to compete at the state level in April. Good luck Ike!!

News from Mrs. George

We are going to conclude our all school unit on Fabric Art with a Quilt Show, Friday, April 1st from 1:30 to 3:00 pm in the School Cafeteria. We will be featuring quilts from students, staff, and the Heartland Quilters. The show is being sponsored by the Ed-Co Elementary Art Department. It is open to the public.

News from Mrs. Ramsey

Where might you find fourteen landfills in one room? It's the fifth grade science classroom, and the landfills happen to be models of the real things. These models have been important parts of the fifth graders' study of ecosystems and how human activity can affect the Earth. The landfills were a part of learning to protect our ecosystems. Twelve various kinds of trash were buried in each model landfill. Students watered their landfills over several weeks. Then it was time to dig up the trash and see what materials decomposed completely, partially, and not at all. Students discovered the accuracy of their beginning claims about how the materials would decompose then created final claims supported by evidence about what kinds of materials decompose faster than others. Most students concluded that the manmade materials of plastic and foil would not decompose at all while natural food items and thin paper items would decompose partly or completely. Students will hopefully be thinking twice about their trash, what will happen to it in our ecosystem, and the importance of recycling. The landfills are just getting started with what we will use them for to learn. Next, red worms will be added to the soil in them to facilitate a worm bin and a composting container. Next, we will form a pond in the soil, sprinkle seeds around the soil, and

wait for the pond to become a marsh and then a prairie as it evaporates and we continue to give it a rain shower with spray bottles. This will show us firsthand how Earth changes and areas go through succession. Finally, the former landfills will become the home for some plants as we use questions, claims, and evidence to conduct plant experiments by growing plants under various experimental variables. Just think of all of the things that we can learn from a container of soil!

News From the Library

Exciting things have been taking place in the library! We are gearing up for an author visit on March 10th. Tina Wagner, the author of the Puddles the Skunk books will be visiting us to share her experiences in writing books. She will be visiting our Kindergarten through 3rd grade classrooms, and rumor has it, she might be bringing along Puddles the skunk! April is reading month. It's just around the corner and in celebration of this Cathy Shaw will be coming from the Edgewood Library to compete in a "Battle of the Books" with our 1st through 7th grade students. We will be reading books and "battling" with some questions about each of the books. Young people who read outside of class daily are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age. Visit the library and we can get you hooked up with a good book.

News from Superintendent Busch

School boards across Iowa are required by law to approve a budget for the upcoming year in April. Last year, school boards around the state including Ed-Co's approved budgets not knowing how much money would be appropriated for those budgets. Finally in July, Iowa's school boards learned that the per pupil Supplemental State Aid (SSA) would increase by 1.25% and

that one-time funding that had been approved by the legislature had been vetoed by the governor. The 1.25% per student increase in SSA for Ed-Co was \$2,911 because of the trend of declining enrollment. The one-time funding of \$45,613 that was vetoed by the governor could have been used for textbooks, technology, and other educational resources.

The same situation seems to be happening this year. Schools approach budget preparation time without knowing what the Iowa Legislature will provide in general fund financial assistance. By law legislators are supposed to set the level of Supplemental State Aid (SSA) eighteen months out. If you remember, after last year's session, many legislators and the governor did everything but promise the SSA would be set during the first thirty days of the session. That deadline has passed with no agreement.

What does the future hold? The Iowa House recently released budget targets that maintain a 2% increase to SSA, while many in the Iowa Senate are promoting 4 percent. Governor Branstad originally proposed a 2.45% increase, but more recently he has said this amount would be a "stretch" due to decreased revenue estimates. If the legislature would happen to complete their session without reaching a compromise, the funding increase would be ZERO percent. Under most of these scenarios, Ed-Co will have very slight increase of funding due to our continued declining enrollment. That's right, whether our per-student funding increases by 0%, 2%, 2.45%, or even if it increases by 3%, our projected revenues will only increase by \$899. If by a miracle the legislature would pass the recommended 4%, revenues would increase by \$19,721. Increases in expenditures usually are in the \$80,000 to \$100,000 range.

What can you do? Connect with a policy maker: Go to the Iowa Legislative Website and look up

your senator/representative <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/Legislators/senate.aspx> Do one (or more) of several things:

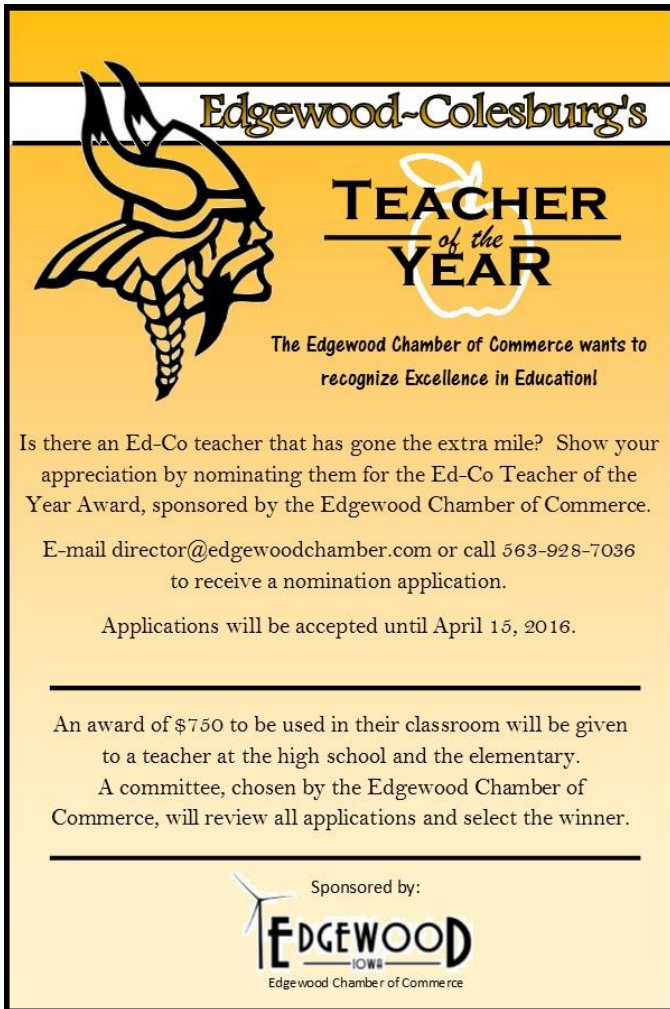
1. Send them a thank you note for their service. Let them know their job is tough and you can empathize. Ask them to support an increase in the state cost per pupil no lower than 4%. Check out the UEN web page for recent <http://www.uen-ia.org/legislation.htm> call to action on school aid for talking points.
2. Sign up to get their newsletter.
3. Click on their name, go to their website or do a Google search and see what you can learn about their educational background or experience.
4. Send them an email or letter asking a question about education. (Could be as simple as "how do you best like to get information about how the issues before you may impact your schools?")

If you have concerns or questions about your child's school performance, please contact the school staff involved. We are here to provide the best learning environment possible. 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

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.



The poster features a yellow background with a black border. At the top, it reads "Edgewood-Colesburg's" in a stylized font. Below this is a graphic of a cornucopia overflowing with corn cobs. To the right of the graphic, the words "TEACHER of the YEAR" are written in a large, bold, serif font. Below the graphic, it says "The Edgewood Chamber of Commerce wants to recognize Excellence in Education!". The main text of the poster asks if there is an Ed-Co teacher that has gone the extra mile and encourages nominating them for the award. It provides contact information: E-mail director@edgewoodchamber.com or call 563-928-7036 to receive a nomination application. Applications will be accepted until April 15, 2016. A horizontal line separates this text from the next section, which states that an award of \$750 will be given to a teacher at the high school and the elementary. A committee chosen by the Edgewood Chamber of Commerce will review all applications and select the winner. Another horizontal line follows, leading to the sponsor information: "Sponsored by:" followed by the Edgewood Iowa Chamber of Commerce logo, which includes a wind turbine icon and the text "EDGEWOOD IOWA Edgewood Chamber of Commerce".

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