

### High School News



#### News from Mr. Hanna

The end of Quarter 1 is upon us and this first part of the school year has flown by. The students have been really engaged so far this year and that really helps make the learning experience flow so much better. We are really blessed with great kids here at Ed-Co and that is one reason I love working here so much!

Street Law was 1<sup>st</sup> quarter this year and went really smoothly. We just finished our unit on Legal Documents and we have learned all kinds of useful legal information this semester. A student favorite activity has to be the mock trial, which was completed a few weeks ago. Students are divided into legal teams and prepare their cases to be presented to me, the Judge and the Jury, which is composed of Ed-Co staff. This years trial was excellent with lots of great testimony and a few good cross examinations that any lawyer would have been proud of. It is truly one of my favorite classes to teach and I will miss it next quarter.

Another class this quarter is America @ War II. This class focuses on all things military including the rank and traditions of the US Military, as well as an in-depth analysis of American wars. We focus on causes and consequences, technological advancements, and interesting trivia of our great military tradition that Americans are so proud of. Students have also been privileged to hear from our men and women in uniform as both the Army and National Guard recruiters have come to speak to the class about opportunities the military provides. It is another great class that I will miss.

Finally we have US History with the freshmen. This class has been doing exceptionally well with their work and they are learning a lot. Our last unit was about the growth of factories in America and how it led to the rise of unions and worker's rights. Students had to create cartoons to show their understanding of key issues and concepts of the unit, and they did a great job, with many great comics that were both funny and showed deep understanding of why this unit was so important to our country. This class will stay with me until after Christmas, so there is much more to come for them.

With  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the school year completed, it is always hard to believe how fast the time goes. We are off to a great start at Ed-Co and next quarter looks to be as good as the last one, hopefully better!

#### News from Mr. Hamann

##### **Mathematical Matters**

For those of you who I didn't have a chance to talk to at Teacher-Parent Conferences, here is a glimpse into what each of my classes is doing this semester. **Algebra III** has been diving into the Common Core and the new textbooks that we are using this year. There have been a few things to work out, but they have been learning a lot and making good use of their time in class. We are currently finishing up conic sections and will be moving into the study of trigonometry as we progress into the second quarter.

The very different study of matrices is what the **Algebra II** class has been digging into as they finish their fourth unit already this semester. The students have been reviewing some of the skills from Algebra I and expanding their understanding as they explore Algebra more in depth. Next up for them is an extensive study of quadratics and polynomial functions.

### **Teacher Leadership System: iCoach**

Some of you may have heard about my new role at Ed-Co this year, but many of you may not be aware that I have another hat that I wear during my afternoons. As a part of the State of Iowa grant-funded initiative, Ed-Co has implemented a teacher-leadership system, and Mrs. Judi Simon and I have been hired as instructional coaches to help with that initiative. There is a lot of paperwork and defining of roles that we are still working through, but in a nutshell I spend my afternoons (Mrs. Simon in the mornings) going out to visit classrooms and assist various teachers with enhancing their practice and setting student goals to better help ALL students learn more. This is PK-12<sup>th</sup> grade, so I travel between the 2 buildings helping out any and all teachers who want some coaching on what can be done to help their students achieve at the highest level possible.

It is a daunting task, and is not without its challenges, but overall I feel as though my job as an instructional coach (iCoach for short) keeps the best interests of our students in the forefront of everything our teachers are doing. I am not alone in this task, as both building have Lead Teachers who are also part of the overall teacher leadership system, and they help with various professional development goals and help keep Judi and I informed on the needs of our teaching staff. Together with the administrators, our team is being put into place to help our students achieve at the highest levels.

If you are curious to learn more about what we do, please visit the State Department of Education's website for Iowa, or feel free to drop me a line or catch me on the job and I can give you more information about what I fill my afternoons doing. I am still a novice at the process, but I am learning and enjoying my time getting into classrooms and learning about the teaching/learning process at Ed-Co. I would be

glad to share with you the things I am learning, but more importantly the things that our students are learning everyday.

### ***News from the Counseling office***

October 28th we will have a school assembly from R5 Productions called Walk a Mile. Mike Donahue is one of the most sought after speakers in the country on the subject of respect, bullying, and diversity. Visit [www.r5online.com](http://www.r5online.com) for more information.

During the month of November we will be focusing on Respecting Differences and being Kind to others. November 13<sup>th</sup> is World Kindness Day and November 16<sup>th</sup> is International Day for Tolerance. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves and put what they learn from the Walk a Mile program to work.

ITBS/ITEDS are the week of Nov. 2-Nov. 6. Make sure your children are well rested and have a good breakfast this week!

Real Life Academy is Nov. 5 during the school day, for all Seniors. Seniors will be guided through various career, personal finance strategies that simulate what life for them may be like in 10 years.



**Elementary News**

**News from Mrs. Putz**

The third grade classes were very fortunate to be able to see the Titanic exhibit in Dubuque. We have been reading about the Titanic in our classes and this was a great experience for our students. They were able to see artifacts, read all about the Titanic, and become a passenger. We would like to thank the anonymous donor who made this possible and the parents who helped chaperone.

We are starting our first research project this year. Each student will be researching a penguin and deciding how they would like to share their information to the class. We will finish the unit by drawing to scale their penguin.

We enjoyed our trip to Osborne. We became bug detectives, went on a hike, toured the pioneer village, had a scavenger hunt, and toured the exhibits.

In science we are learning about animal habitats and just finished graphs in math.

We are looking forward to seeing all our parents at conferences.



**News from Ms. Johnson**

It has been a busy few months in the elementary computer lab! At the beginning of the year all of the classes were very busy testing and will soon be testing again as the new quarter begins.

The kindergarten classes have been working on how to handle the iPads, this has

included shutting them off and turning them on and turning the volume up or down.

In 1st grade we have been learning the different parts of a computer and have learned what searching is and how it helps us. We have been typing and students are learning how to type a sentence, paying attention to spacing one time after each word, how to capitalize the beginning of a sentence, and where the ending punctuation is located on the keyboard.

We are currently working on typing and highlighting to change the text settings in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are typing sentences in Word and we are paying special attention to how to delete words or letters we do not want and how to press enter and begin a new sentence.

In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade we are working on using the home row keys and have been using different prompts to type and practice the home row position in Word. We have also gone over how to highlight text and change the size, font, or alignment of where the text is on the paper.

The 4<sup>th</sup> graders are working on typing stories using proper grammar and spelling and changing the settings in Word.

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are currently working on Power Points and changing the settings in Power Point to their individual liking.

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade we are also working on Power Points but the students are being challenged to apply more changes to their Power Point.

In all the classes, we have been focusing on digital literacy and digital citizenship so the students are equipped with the knowledge to use technology in school and out of school.

As we end another quarter and being a new one, students will again be testing. Please help your students remember the night before testing to get a good night sleep and to eat a healthy breakfast the day of!

### **News from Mrs. Lueken**

During the month of October, the fifth graders were lucky enough to travel on two field trips. The first was to attend the Dubuque Symphony's performance of music from America's history. Students in Mrs. Pierschbacher's music classes were prepared ahead of time by researching the composers and their music while developing keynote presentations about specific composers. Our second field trip was to a performance about "Hiawatha" which was held at the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Theater at UNI in Cedar Falls. This tied right in to our social studies unit on early Native Americans. Students were able to eat their lunches in the UNI-Dome and able to watch a bit of the game LaCrosse on the field at the same time.

Related to this unit, fifth graders have also been researching various early Native American cultures. They are putting into action the five steps of the Writing Process as they learn, including planning, writing a first draft, editing, revising, and finally publishing their four-paragraph essay. This research will aid students in their next adventure, creating an early Native American project. Both the projects and the essays will be on display during conferences in November.

It has been an exciting first quarter! Students have been learning new skills and strategies in literacy, putting them into practice with their individual A.R. books, and also practicing the basics of fluency, accuracy, rate, and reading with expression, all with the intention of becoming better and better readers! Reading, like anything else, takes practice to get better at it! Along the way, we genuinely hope to inspire a lifelong love of reading and the ability to read whatever our lives require of us!

### **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.