

### High School News



#### News from Mrs. Bond

##### English 11

The year has started off smoothly and the students are actively reading from their early American project books. The class must read this genre book as well as an American Romanticism book by the end of the quarter. In addition, they have projects to complete over both books. Needless to say, the class is spending a lot of time reading their books. In addition to completing books, we are progressing through the early American unit in our literature book and are currently reading *Christopher Columbus's Journal*.

Another aspect of English 11 in language. The students are reviewing the parts of speech at the present time. We just finished covering the adjectives and will be on to adverbs very soon.

We also have been studying vocabulary. The idea is to give the class college preparatory vocabulary words that will help them prepare for the ACT test and college. The class has a weekly lesson and test over ten words.

Composition 1 is a new class this year. The class itself is not new but dual credit offering for both Composition 1 & 2 is new. Dual credit means the students get credit for high school as well as earning a college credit for each course too. Gaining college credit is a great opportunity for the eleventh and twelfth grade students at Ed-Co and my students are working very hard in the class.

##### English 10

This class has started their project books too. They must read two books this quarter from either an African author, Asian author, Russian

author or Hispanic author. The class is studying world literature and this assignment is a way to expose the students to cultures other than their own. The group has until the end of the quarter to get the two books read and their projects completed.

English 10 is also reviewing the parts of speech and is just finishing up on adjectives. They will be starting verbs and adverbs very soon.

The final part of English 10 is vocabulary. This class is also working with college level vocabulary words to prepare them for the ACT tests and college.

Overall, this quarter is going smoothly, I am very pleased to have such fine young ladies and gentlemen in my classes.

#### News from Mrs. Ehlers

##### *Web Design/HTML*

Students working in Web Design class started creating web pages from raw code and progressed through the basics of coding tags into formatting tools, backgrounds, and tables. Some realized how frustrating it is for web pages to not work as typed but most have seen success and persevered through troubleshooting.

The class will next advance into learning how to use a web editor software called Adobe GoLive. The curriculum comes with some data files that will help students with the skills to create a website with a WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get) type of software.

##### *Pre-Employment Strategies*

A new class to Ed-Co this year, Pre-Employment Strategies includes the skills to get a job and keep a job. The first unit, Soft Skills has students evaluating their communication skills, attitude,

problem solving skills, and professionalism. Much like in the workplace, their unit project is an evaluation of these skills by their current bosses (their classroom teachers). Students will compile the data/results of the evaluations that will provide areas of success as well suggestions for improvement.

### *7<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer*

New to the high school, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are learning how to care for their new computers and how to navigate the many programs needed for success in junior high. We've started with a unit on Internet Safety and Your Digital Footprint. We learned more about their email accounts and how to send a proper email. Having this class for only a quarter, we will spend about a week each learning the basics of the MS Office Suite of Word, Excel, and Power Point.

### FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America)

Membership is forming now for the 2015-2016 Ed-Co FBLA chapter. If you (students) or your child (parents) would like to join, there is still time! See Mrs. Ehlers or a member of our officer team for a registration form. Dues to join are \$20 which includes \$10 for state and national dues and \$10 for a chapter tshirt. Fall activities are rapidly approaching so don't miss out on Fall Leadership Conference (in Des Moines) or the School Cents Halloween party at Lindale Mall. Join today!

### **News from Mrs. Ostwinkle**

We have had a great start to the school year—it is hard to believe it is over halfway through September as I write this. We have a few aesthetic changes in our room this year. The whole room was painted a nice blue color, which was chosen because light blue is a calming color, particularly for students on the Autism Spectrum. I find it also calms me! We also have a

new heating and cooling unit in our room, which has made the first month of school very comfortable. So far, we have spent much of our time getting back into the swing of our routines. We do a "Daily Write", and we also do a "Daily Language Fix" which are short exercises in which students must find the grammatical errors. We are working on many levels of math, and some students work daily online in the program ALEKS which tracks their progress, and makes sure they know what they need to know before they move on to the next concept. In this way, I am able to identify problem areas and focus on those for instruction. Some students are working on their money skills, some on telling time, and all are practicing writing checks as they earn money in my room by completing their required tasks and are allowed to shop in the Twinkle Store on Fridays. It is a great motivator to get things done, and also a good lesson in saving money for something one wants.

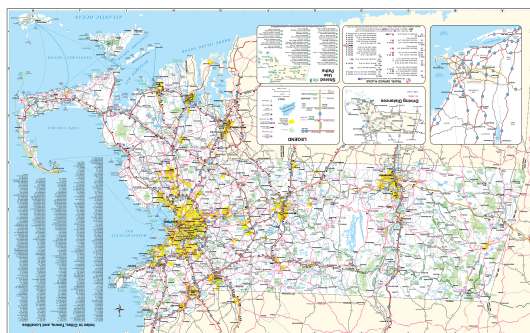
Everybody reads something every day. We have several students reading different books from the Skeleton Creek series; these books are a little creepy, but very interesting and mysterious, and include online videos throughout. Just lately, we started a cooking project in Life Skills in which every student submitted three recipes that they were interested in making. Mrs. Ostwinkle chose one from each student and they have been cooking up a storm. We have had chocolate pie, homemade French fries, monster cookies, pepperoni pizza, and stir-fry. Still to come: peanut butter cup cookies, brownies, fruit-filled pastries, and strawberry pie, and birthday cake. Our next cooking project will revolve around cooking in the microwave and a series called Look and Cook which provides illustrations for all steps in cooking everyday things in the microwave. As one of our associates said, "Every student ought to have that cookbook—especially those in college!" Homecoming and Halloween are two events on our horizon, and then we will prepare to feed the staff (and ourselves) with our big Thanksgiving dinner. I guess the theme

at the moment is food! Actually, the theme is LEARNING and that is something we do every day.

### **News from Mrs. Simon**

It is hard to believe that the 2015-2016 school year is already under way. The students have been busy reading informational texts and learning hands-on activities. They have researched several states to see what things they could do in each state that they would enjoy doing in each state. They then had to learn how to read an actual map and understand all of the keys and information on a map to help them later with the project. The students eventually had to plan a trip to the states to do the things that they researched and found from each state. The students had to have an itinerary along with the stops along the way. The students had to calculate their mileage to see how far they have traveled each day and on the total trip. The students are now reading a novel about an explorer that goes to Alaska to find gold. There is a map that goes along with the novel and they will journal about the novel along with their own thoughts of how they would survive in Alaska looking for gold.

Some of the students have completed college entrance exams to help them see how ready they are for college and we will plan tour Hawkeye Community College and University of Northern Iowa (UNI) in the next couple of months.



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

October is Bullying Prevention Month. Encourage students to wear Blue every Monday in October to support Ed-Co being a Bully free school!

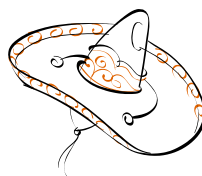
Red Ribbon Week, a Drug Prevention Campaign is Oct 26-30. Wear Red Oct 30 and get the conversation going.

Did you know: Children of parents who talk to their teens regularly about drugs are 42% less likely to use drugs than those who don't.

PSAT Testing Oct. 14th 8:30am. \$15. Juniors are highly encouraged to take this, they will be entered into the National Merit Scholarship Program through taking the test.

Business and Industry day is Oct. 8th during the school day, for all Juniors to learn about future career paths and opportunities in the area. Have your students dress for success!

If your 11th grade child would like more information about college-credit courses, career coaching, job shadowing opportunities, etc please encourage them to join Youth Career Connect. Juniors will learn more on Oct. 8th during an informational meeting during advisory.



### **News from the Spanish room**

This semester, I have levels 1 and 3 in Spanish. All are very good classes with a number of good things happening. In Spanish 1, we have learned some of the introductory basics like numbers and colors, clothing, descriptive words and school schedules. Next we will be working

more with verb conjugation, where we change the form of a verb to actually show who is doing the action. It's pretty tricky stuff and the kids are doing real well.

In Spanish 3, we have talked about some new verbs and their forms, had an animal project and are working on conversational skills. We have created a list of topics to discuss and maybe debate, working on giving our opinions and agreeing or disagreeing with another person. We will continue to build on the vocabulary that they already have and add a number of new vocab topics as well.

Adiós y buen día,  
Señor K.

### **News from Mr. Lutgen**

It has been a great start to the school year in the History Department. At the moment I have World History, Psychology, and Government. In World History we have begun our large presentation we do. The students select a time period and conduct research. When they are done they must present that information to their classmates via an electronic presentation. We then create a classroom Symbaloo so everyone can see his or her classmate's presentation. Currently we are studying Ancient Rome. We are looking at what caused Rome to fall from an Economic, Political, and Social perspective.

In Government we have taken a long look at the American Bill of Rights and have studied where these ideas have come from. We looked at the shortcomings of the Articles of Confederation and are now looking at the Plans to change the Articles, the New Jersey Plan and the Virginia Plan. We will be taking part in the Know Your Constitution Essay Contest, presented by the Iowa Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division. The top 100 essays from across Iowa will be selected to attend a luncheon in Des Moines.

From those 100, five will be chosen to represent Iowa in Washington, DC.

Psychology is looking at learning and motivation at the moment. What is the best way to have people learn to do certain items, and how can we motivate people to do things. We have also started our surveys. The students will hand out surveys to a number of their classmates and then look at the data they collect and decide whether or not they proved their hypothesis.

### **News from Mrs. Bergan's Foods Labs**

BOIL, BLANCH, PARBOIL, SIMMER, POACH, STEW, PRESSURE COOK, STEAM, BAKE, ROAST, BROIL, GRILL, FRY, SAUTE', BRAISE, STIR-FRY,. How are each of these done? Why are each performed? What types of foods are suited for each? You can just "google it" but would you really understand the the how, why and what?

Advanced Foods students have been busy in the kitchen labs learning just that. After studying about heat transfer and the different types of cooking methods, students choose recipes with specific cooking method parameters and apply what they have learned in a lab.

Understanding cooking methods will expand their cooking knowledge so students will be better prepared to make healthy and relevant choices as they cook for themselves or their families in the future. In our fast paced world, so many individuals and families rely upon convenient processed food meal options. These options may be convenient but come with other costs. One of them literally is the consumer cost of prepared food items compared to "from-scratch" options. Another major cost is from a nutritional aspect. Fast food and processed food contain high amounts of sodium, added sugar, and fats that contribute to many of our diet related health problems faced by Americans. To save money, students have learned how to apply the principle of braising to take a more

economical cut of meat and prepare it utilizing the slow cooker or crockpot. Using a slow cooker to make Beef Stew or Pulled Pork requires a bit of planning but also allows individuals to put a home-cooked healthy meal on the table in a short period of time after a busy day at school or work.

Advanced Foods students have also been studying about the benefits of pressure-cooking. This cooking method has almost become a lost art or at the very least been contained to use in food preservation or canning. When asking someone what they know about pressure cooking they would likely share some explosive horror story of days gone by that has contributed to the intimidation of using a pressure cooker. New age pressure cookers offer safe and convenient benefits that actually fit into the American fast paced lifestyle. With just a little training a lost art can move from a new fad to a healthy and convenient cooking method to help families balance work and family schedules.



### **Ed-Co Volleyball Pink Event "No One Fights Alone"**

Ed-Co vs. South Winneshiek Tues. October 6<sup>th</sup>

#### **"Pink Event" EFFORTS**

Variety of Silent Auction Items-Bidding during HS Vball games on Oct. 6th

Cake/Dessert Silent Auction-Volleyball players will be making a variety of cakes and hosting a silent auction during the October 6th game

Soup Supper on the night of the game Oct. 6th – 5:00-7:30 (Free-will donation)

Volleyball Head Raffle-Winners drawn during the JV warm up Oct. 6th



### **Elementary News**

#### **News from Mrs. McCool**

With the end of the first quarter quickly approaching, it's hard to believe that we're one-fourth of the way through the school year! We began by reviewing common area plans for the bus, hallway, and playground. We also reviewed classroom rules and expectations, along with the characteristics of an Ed-Co Viking – respect, a positive attitude, cooperation, honesty, and responsibility. During the first week of school, many staff members signed a pledge to be positive this school year. Personally, I'm positive it's resulted in a positive change! We have been asked to utilize technology for daily lesson planning and Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). I have been inspired to access electronic versions of the CORE and Essential Elements, along with updating an accommodations document on the Google drive and creating another document for direct instruction. While I was initially hesitant and undecided on how to best create what I needed, through repeated attempts and continual improvements, I know my instruction has benefitted from these practices. Similarly, much like students may be anxious in the first few days of a new school year, once they've settled into a

new routine, the possibilities for learning are endless. I'm positive I'm doing my part! How about you???



### **News from Mrs. Amling**

The new school year is off to a great start and the time is flying by. Thanks to all the parents who attended the open house. It was great to meet you.

We would like to welcome a new student to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Brooke is joining us from North Linn. It is great to have her with us! Brooke says she loves Ed-Co because, "I've made lots of new friends".

We enjoyed having Grandparents come and spend part of the day with 4<sup>th</sup> grade. We know how special and important these grandparents are to our students. Please visit our websites and take a look at our pictures with our grandparents.

Something new and exciting for our students is the opportunity to read books that are in the Children's Choice program. These books are voted on by young readers as some of the best! You may hear your son/daughter talk about these books at home. Fourth graders say they like the new books and like that they can challenge themselves to read all twenty of them. The prizes at the end of the year motivates us too!

Another new and exciting learning addition is the ST math program. This program allows students to practice their math skills on a computer. You may hear them talk about a character named Jiji. Students say they like the

new program. Some of the reasons are as follows; we can do it on our own, you have some choice, makes you think, and is for sure a challenge!

We also had a very special visitor. Leon Logothetis; author of The Kindness Diaries came and shared his amazing story with us. We are so very lucky and happy that he took the time to stop at the Colesburg elementary. We thoroughly enjoyed our time with him. As Leon says, "Kindness is the best medicine."

And last but not least: student council. Fourth through sixth grade students have the opportunity this year to form and be a representative on an upper elementary student council. New and exciting things are happening!

Let's Make it a Great Year :)



### **News from Mrs. Pierschbacher**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are on their way to the symphony! The Dubuque Symphony Orchestra offers free Arts Trek concerts for all 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are learning about American composers. They will then travel to Dubuque to see the symphony perform on Thursday, October 1. The students will get to hear music by the composers they have studied.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students are learning about the instrument families. They will learn about how the sound is made for each instrument family. Students will even get to try to play some themselves! They will then see the Dubuque Symphony perform on Wednesday, November 4.

The Arts Treks concerts are a wonderful opportunity for students to hear music they may not otherwise hear on a regular basis. We are

very grateful to the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra for offering these concerts to our students

Don't forget, the Winter Concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Colesburg gym. We look forward to seeing you then.



### **News from Mrs. Meyer**

Hello from the Library! This is Mrs. Meyer and I am the new Teacher Librarian for the Elementary and High School. I have been busy cataloging all of the new books that were ordered, so please stop by and check them out. I am always looking for new ideas for books or series that the students want to read, so send them my way if they have an idea. My morning is spent between the two libraries, and my afternoon is busy doing a new math program called ST Math. Your child may have talked about Jiji at home. Jiji is a penguin that leads them through their math problems. This program is a brain based program, where the students learn from their mistakes to help them solve problems. It can be very challenging. We are hoping in the next month to have a link on our Ed-Co main page to ST Math, so the students can access it from home.

### **News from Mrs. Brady**

We are having a great time in third grade!

We had an awesome time at Plagman's Farm last week! At the farm, we learned about how many things were made from old times such as, a blacksmith, how butter is made, and how they cut wood. We also have a country dance, and we rode on a buggy. We attended a one room school house and learned that students long ago used a

feather to write with. Thank you so much to the parents who joined us!

We also learned about Tall Tales from a similar time period, such as Johnny Appleseed and Paul Bunyan. We used the reading strategies of sequencing, visualizing, and compare and contrast. We became dictionary detectives to study our vocabulary to work on using dictionaries to improve comprehension.

In science, we have been learning about magnets and electricity. We have learned that it takes several components to make a light bulb work. We learned that a magnet will attract and repel, and we learned that there are only certain metals that it will attach to.

In social studies, we have been learning about states, countries, and continents. Each student has even sent a own Flat Stanley to a friend or relative. This will help us learn about different parts of the country or the world through our own family members and friends.

We are enjoying homecoming this week, and we will soon be visiting a Titanic exhibit.

Thanks for reading and have a great day!

### **News from Ms. George**

On Friday, October 9, the 3rd grade students will be traveling to the Mississippi River Museum in Dubuque to view the Titanic Exhibit. This experience has been provided by an anonymous donor through the Farmers Savings Bank in Colesburg. This generous gift will help students tie their Reading and Social Studies Curriculum with the actual artifacts on the topic. We can't thank these amazing donors enough for their generous and giving spirit in helping our students to have enriched learning experiences at Ed-Co Elementary School.

**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.