

## High School News



### From the counseling office

February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month. One in three teens in the U.S. will experience physical, sexual or emotional abuse from someone they are in a relationship with. We will have classroom lessons on this topic for multiple grades this month.

### **SENIORS:**

Majority of scholarship applications are due in the spring. Please get your Ed-Co scholarship application in by February 17<sup>th</sup> (This was emailed to all students). Also make sure you are checking the scholarship page on the High School website under "Guidance" for additional scholarships available to you!

### **8<sup>th</sup> grade girls:**

Eight 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls who expressed interest will be attending the Introduce a Girl to Engineering event at Rockwell Collins on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Students will be working in female engineer-led groups to visit engineering areas, participate in an engineering product build, have lunch and hear about the rewards that a career in engineering may provide. Contact Mrs. Dowell if you are interested in attending, there may still be room!



### **Edgewood Open Gym Nights-6-8pm**

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>

### **Colesburg Open Gym Nights-5-6:30pm**

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>

Please bring your own ball and a clean pair of tennis shoes. This is a privilege, please be respectful of this opportunity.



## **Large Group Speech Contest Results**

**Conference Jan. 14**

### **Received I ratings:**

Group Improv  
Choral Reading "*No one EVER Forgets a Villain*"  
Ensemble Acting "*The Doctor Will See You Now*"  
Ensemble Acting "*The Sneeze*"

### **Received II ratings:**

HS Reader's Theatre "*Hairball*"

### **JH Reader's Theatre groups:**

#### **Received I ratings:**

"*First Appendectomy without Anesthesia*"  
"*While Trolling Through the Park*"  
"*Parent Exchange*"

#### **Received II ratings:**

"*The True Story of Little Red Riding Hood*"  
"*Allison and the Magic Lamp*"

### **District January 21**

Advancing to state contest February 4<sup>th</sup>

**Choral Reading** "*No one EVER Forgets a Villain*"- Erica Voss, Marissa Vorwald, Kelsi Askeland, Mallory Zieser, BryLyn Clute, Payton Rochford, Dani Childers, Natalie Palmershiem, Delaney Bergan, Kenzie Schmitz, Kyann Brayden, Maddy Harris and Mazie Nurre

**Ensemble Acting** "*The Doctor Will See You Now*"- Morgan Fannon, Sadie Abitz & Sarah Ostwinkle

**Group Improv** - Elliott Meyer, Sadie Abitz, & Ethan Streicher



These students will travel to Dubuque Senior February 4<sup>th</sup> for state contest. Good Luck!



### **News from Mrs. Kintzle**

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost half over. As the semester draws to a close, my Individualized Reading and Creative

Writing classes are wrapping up. Writing students are finishing up their final pieces by making some last minute revisions. In reading, students are finishing their last books and projects.

Individual Speech season has just begun. This year I am coaching with Mrs. Thier. We have just over 20 kids participating with some of them entered in more than one category. We will head to our first competition on Monday, February 20 at North Fayette Valley. The students have a lot of hard work and practice ahead of them. We have a great and talented group of students this year and I know they will do well.

Seventh graders are beginning a nonfiction unit. During third quarter they will be reading nonfiction. They will start by exploring the nonfiction section of the library and learning how to select nonfiction books that will be of interest to them. At the end of the unit, each student will choose one nonfiction book to create a book trailer about. The trailer will demonstrate the student's comprehension of the novel and will serve as a book preview to other students.



### **News from Mrs. Thier**

The 8th Grade History class does a great job discussing topics in class and forming opinions about America's history. Recently the 8th graders have been learning about the events that lead up to the American Revolution. Students are seeing both sides of issues and understanding why the colonists are felling frustration.

The history class even experienced what it felt like to be taxed for living life and owning certain things. The class was given candy and told that they couldn't eat it until they paid their taxes.

Some students lost candy for having blue eyes, some for having a brother and others for having a pencil. The students were able to relate to the colonists and the taxing they were experiencing during this time.

In Geography the 7th graders are looking at how borders are determined. We have learned about borders in countries and borders in school districts to name a few. Part of our unit has also focused on the problems that borders can cause and who has control over certain landmarks. These topics and the students' interest in class have made for some great conversations and debates.



### **New at the High School**



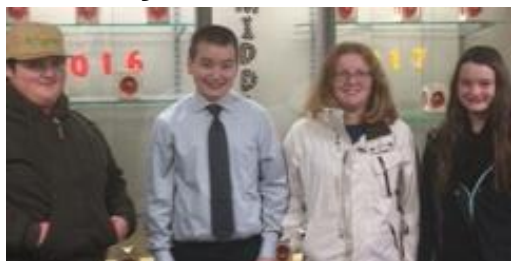
Did you know the HS music department recently took delivery of a new piano? It's a beautiful

instrument and one 7th grade student said "I think we even sound better too!"

Mrs. Bergan's room now has a new sink, blast chiller and convection oven funded through Perkins grants. This will set the room up for industry standards in the food service business.



## ***JH Honor Band***



On Saturday, January 21st, four Ed-Co junior high students attended the Marion Honor Band at Vernon Middle School in Marion, Iowa.

Abbie Sullivan and Sophia Wilson, both clarinet, were accepted into the Seventh Grade Honor Band.

Carson Kirby, trumpet and Hunter Thompson, trombone were accepted into the Eighth Grade Honor Band.

All four students got to work closely with their directors for the day, Nathan Sletten and Jayson Gerth, the seventh and eighth grade directors respectively. Having never met before, each band rehearsed for five hours before putting on a fantastic concert that evening.

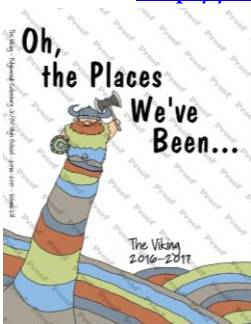
## ***Yearbooks:***

Yearbooks are available to order for \$30. Order forms can be found in the office or you can order online at <http://community.pictavo.com>

### ***Senior Parent Yearbook Reminders:***

Senior Recognition Ads can be created now online at <http://community.pictavo.com>. These

must be completed by Feb. 28th and the prices of the ad INCLUDES a yearbook with them. Don't want to create them yourself? Email Mrs. Meyer photos/message and send check to school. Questions? Contact Mrs. Meyer



## **Elementary News**

### ***Viking of the Week January 23-29***

Kaitlyn Kloser is a great little girl! She comes to school every day with a smile on her face. Kaitlyn is willing to work in all subjects. She is attentive in class and participates fully. She always puts forth her best effort. Kaitlyn is kind to her peers, always willing to help them when needed. She greets everyone in the hall and is always willing to stop and chat about her dog, Floyd, and her puppy, Jake. Kaitlyn's parents and brothers are great supporters of Kaitlyn, helping with homework and transporting her to summer school and the Viking Power Hour. Congratulations, Kaitlyn, on being the first Viking of the Week!



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

It's hard to believe, but I have surpassed 20 years of teaching, much of it in the field of special education.

Over those years, I have seen many positive changes, along with some things that continue unchanged. After three years of substitute teaching locally, I was hired as an elementary special education teacher here at Ed-Co. My first year, there were 28 students on my roster, basically the size of a general education class list. While numbers have decreased over the years, I credit that to improved teacher training, allowing for differentiated learning, meaning students are given many different opportunities for acquiring learning. Still, there are students who struggle with learning.

Recognizing that universal principle, the district has taken noticeable measures to improve student learning. From interventions targeted specifically at individual learner needs to a new series focusing on skills and strategies rather

than simple memorization to additional learning programs for recognized subcategories of students, today's education is much different than that of a mere 20 years ago. Likewise, Ed-Co Elementary has adopted a new curriculum of seven habits for highly effective learning that provides a new mindset for future success. Students are expected to be proactive, begin with the end in mind, put first things first, think win-win, seek first to understand, then to be understood, synergize, and sharpen the saw. Learning and applying these habits will give our students advantages for life, not only in educational endeavors, but also in workplace success, potential relationships, and most importantly, in interactions with and teaching their own future children.

Knowing all of these new happenings in our building, I can't wait to see what the next 20 years will bring! I have a friend currently struggling with her daughter's special education service provider, having moved from a local district that they were unhappy with to a larger district that they are even unhappier with. It makes me appreciate what we can have and can offer our students as a small, local district. With my own child at Ed-Co, I know not everything is perfect or will be, as is life, but I see the amazing efforts put forth by a staff who truly cares and wants the best for each and every learner, and I am extremely grateful and proud to be part of the Ed-Co community. Go Vikings!



### **News from Ms. Johnson**

In technology at the elementary we are currently working with Code.org and Scratch. Last year, I was able to go to a coding workshop and learn tools to help our students grasp the concept of coding and learned games to help students understand how coding relates to things they do every day. I am excited to share that with some of the games I learned from the workshop and implemented into class time, even the youngest students in preschool and kindergarten are able to

participate and begin understanding the concept of coding.

All of the elementary students have worked on grade level tasks or games in class to understand what code is and learn words like algorithm (a list of steps) and loop (repeating something over and over again). When playing the games on Code.org or using Scratch the students are able to understand the code language as it is used throughout the games or activities used in class. One thing I enjoy about Code.org is many of the games students play have characters that are familiar to the students.

In preschool, students have been working on learning what the words code and program mean. Students even got to "program" Mrs. Askeland and Miss Mary so they would walk on the X's and to the square! Preschoolers have been working with the *Kodable* game off of Code.org. Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are excited to help characters from the movie "Moana" steer their boats and catch fish.

In 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades, the students have been introduced to Scratch. Like Code.org, Scratch teaches basic computer programming to the students. With Scratch, students have the freedom to choose the character (or sprite), decide how far and fast the character will move, and have the character speak or make a noise. The students spent some class time following tutorials to gain a better understanding of what each command does and were also given the opportunity to try out their own ideas as well.

If you want to learn more you can go to Code.org or Scratch ([scratch.mit.edu](http://scratch.mit.edu)) and have your students show you what they can do or even try it for yourself!





**News from Mr. Busch**  
**The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of School Finance.**

The February 7<sup>th</sup> bond referendum has shined additional light on school funding issues in the Edgewood-Colesburg Community School District. What makes the conversations so very difficult to comprehend are the various funding streams that school districts operate from. The two areas of current focus are the general fund and the debt service (bond issue). For more information about school finance, please view <http://www.iowaschoolfinance.com/schoolfinancebasics>.

The **general fund** revenues come from state aid, property taxes, income surtaxes, federal funds, grants, and donations. These dollars are used to pay staff, energy cost, curriculum and supplies, and transportation costs. The key elements are number of students and the State set cost per student for the general fund. **Debt service** funds are used to cover the cost of the construction of buildings from property tax. Property valuations in the school district are key for the debt service.

Over the past three fiscal years – FY15, FY16 and FY17 – the school board has taken action annually to pre-pay principal on the original bonds, reducing overall interest repayment costs to our taxpayers. Through that prudent process of the board, the total interest cost on that final payment due in FY2018 has been reduced by \$20,475.

The Iowa Legislature annually determines the state cost per pupil, which pays for the annual cost of doing business in Iowa schools. In recent years, Iowa's state cost per pupil has experienced record low increases. In six of the last seven years, the rate of growth in the state cost per pupil has been lower than the cost increases typically experienced by school districts.



Ed-Co's general fund is currently financially strong. Ed-Co's Unspent Authorized Budget (UAB) percentage is in the top 71 schools in Iowa. The estimate for FY16 is at 25.6%. The recommended percentage is between 5-15%. With a decline in enrollment and low increases in the growth of cost per pupil the district must take measures to "right size."

Two factors that have negative effects on the general fund are transportation cost and inequity funding per student. Due to the configuration of our district, we spend approximately \$130,000 above the average to transport our students and this comes from our general fund. Another issue that affects Ed-Co is the cost per pupil. For the 2016-17 school year, 164 districts are at the state minimum per pupil of \$6,591. Unfortunately, Ed-Co is one of those. The maximum is \$6,766, which is \$175 higher per student. If Ed-Co had access to this funding it would be an additional \$70,000. There is currently a class action suit brought by families in the Davenport School District addressing this inequity. As with any budget, it is better to make adjustments before there is a crisis. Please contact legislators to continue to address this concern.

If approved, the proposed project will be completed from the debt service fund. These improvements should deliver relief for the general fund by lowering the energy cost. The project would also provide a more secure and comfortable learning environment. The investment in facilities will continue to draw the strong open enrollment into the school district, which is keeping the program offerings for all students viable. The district will continue to find ways to think creatively about delivering programs and working with other districts, but keeping facilities up to date is an investment in the future that will improve our district's ability to work with others down the road.

If you would like to learn more about issues facing rural schools and the Edgewood-Colesburg School District, more information is available through the Rural School Advocates of Iowa (<http://www.rsai.org/annual-meeting.html> ) and the Iowa Association of School Boards ([www.ia-sb.org](http://www.ia-sb.org) ).

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 2016-2017 school year. If you have ideas for improvement or areas of concern, please contact me.

Your partner in education,  
Rob Busch  
563-856-2415  
[rbusch@edge-cole.k12.ia.us](mailto:rbusch@edge-cole.k12.ia.us)

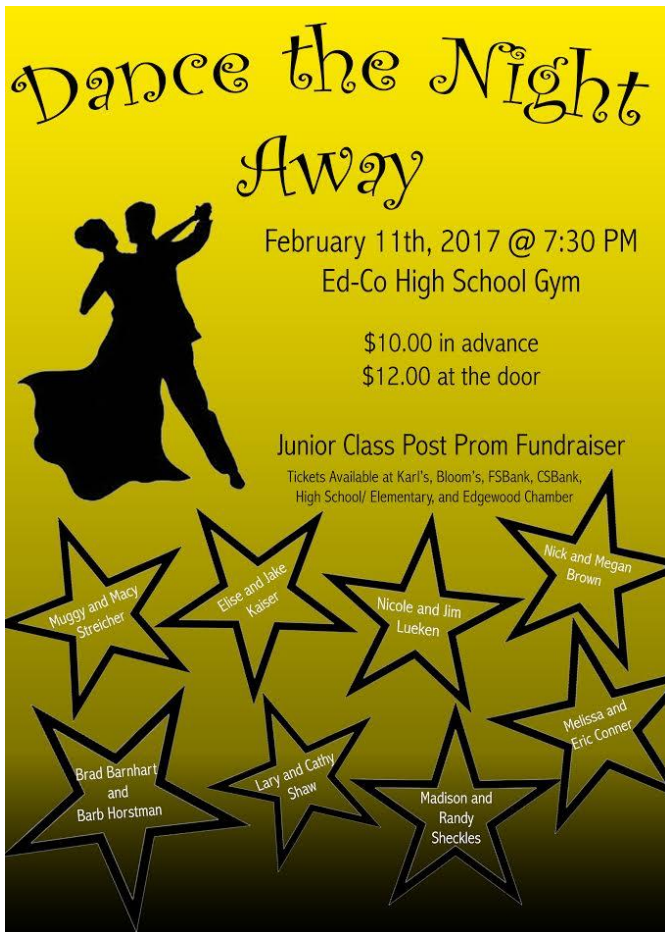
**NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION**  
**Code No. 102.E1**

Students, parents, employees and others doing business with or performing services for the Edgewood-Colesburg Community School District are hereby notified that this school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age (except students), religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, creed, socioeconomic status, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs and activities.

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age (except students), religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, creed, socioeconomic status, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment in its hiring and employment practices. Any person having inquiries concerning the school district's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), § 504 or *Iowa Code* § 280.3 is directed to contact:

Karla Trenkamp,  
District Equity Coordinator  
409 East Street  
P.O. Box 125  
Colesburg, IA 52035  
563-856-2415

[ktrenkamp@edge-cole.k12.ia.us](mailto:ktrenkamp@edge-cole.k12.ia.us)



**Dance the Night Away**

February 11th, 2017 @ 7:30 PM  
Ed-Co High School Gym

\$10.00 in advance  
\$12.00 at the door

Junior Class Post Prom Fundraiser

Tickets Available at Karl's, Bloom's, FSBank, CSBank, High School/ Elementary, and Edgewood Chamber

Muggy and Macy Streicher  
Elic and Jake Kaiser  
Nick and Megan Brown  
Nicole and Jim Lueken  
Melissa and Eric Conner  
Brad Barnhart and Barb Horstman  
Lary and Cathy Shaw  
Madison and Randy Sheekles



## *February Calendar of Events*

\*Events are subject to change. For the most up to date information go to [www.edge-cole.k12.ia.us](http://www.edge-cole.k12.ia.us)

### **Feb. 1**

1:30pm-Dismissal

### **Feb. 2**

4:00pm-JH Boys BB @ Springville

4:00pm-JV Girls BB vs. Starmont @ Edgewood

5:00pm-JV Boys BB vs. Starmont @ Edgewood

6:15pm-V Girls BB vs. Starmont @ Edgewood

7:45pm V Boys BB vs. Starmont @ Edgewood

### **Feb. 3**

4:00pm-7<sup>th</sup> grade Boys BB vs. South Winn @  
Colesburg

4:00pm-8<sup>th</sup> grade Boys BB @ South Winn

4:00pm-JV Girls BB vs. South Winn @ Edgewood

5:00pm-JV Boys BB vs. South Winn @ Edgewood

6:15pm-V Girls BB vs. South Winn @ Edgewood  
(Senior Night)

7:45pm-V Boys BB vs. South Winn @ Edgewood  
(Senior Night)

### **Feb. 4**

State Large Group Contest @ Dubuque Senior

12:00pm-HS Wrestling Sectionals @ Cascade

### **Feb. 6**

PK-1<sup>st</sup> grades to Cedar Falls

4:00pm-JH Boys BB vs. East Buchanan @ Edgewood

4:00pm-JV Girls BB vs. Springville @ Colesburg

5:00pm-JV Boys BB vs. Springville @ Colesburg

6:15pm-V Girls BB vs. Springville @ Colesburg

7:45pm-V Boys BB vs. Springville @ Colesburg

### **Feb. 7**

All Day- Bond Referendum Voting

4:00pm-8<sup>th</sup> grade Boys BB @ Clayton Ridge

4:00pm-7<sup>th</sup> grade Boys BB vs. Clayton Ridge @  
Colesburg

### **Feb. 9**

4:00pm-JH Boys BB vs. North Linn @ Colesburg

7:00pm-V Girls BB vs. East Buchanan @  
Edgewood (Regionals)

### **Feb. 10**

4:00pm-JH Boys BB @ Alburnett

### **Feb. 11**

12pm-HS Wrestling (Districts) @ Starmont

7:00pm-Dance the Night Away @ Edgewood

### **Feb. 13**

4:00pm JH Boys BB @ Lisbon

TBA pm-V Boys BB (Districts) @TBA

### **Feb. 14**

4:00pm-JH Boys BB vs. Monticello @ Colesburg

7:00pm-V girls BB (Regionals) @ Central Elkader

### **Feb. 16-18**

HS State Wrestling-High @ Wells Fargo Arena-  
Des Moines

### **Feb. 16**

4:00pm-JH Boys BB vs. Central City @ Colesburg

TBA pm-V Boys BB (Districts) @ TBA

### **Feb. 17**

TBA pm-V Girls BB (Regionals) @ Kee High

### **Feb. 18**

All State Large Group Speech @ ISU

### **Feb. 20**

No School-Prof. Development-

4:00pm-JH Boys BB vs. Mac Valley @ Colesburg

4:30pm-Conference Individual Speech @ NFV

TBA pm-V Girls BB (Regionals) @ Oelwein

### **Feb. 21**

FFA-Subdistrict Contest @ Edgewood

TBA pm-V Boys BB (Districts) @ TBA

### **Feb. 23**

4:00pm-JH Solo/Ensemble Festival @ Edgewood

TBA pm-V Boys BB (Districts) @ TBA

### **Feb. 25**

District Individual Speech @ MFLMarMac-Monona

7:00pm-V Boys BB (Substate) @ TBA