

February 2010

Kindergarten Registration

Parents/Guardians should call the Miles center at 563-682-7131 as soon as possible to notify the school your child is eligible and to receive a registration packet. The packet will give specific information regarding the schedule. Prospective students must be 5 years old by September 15, 2010.

Pre-School Registration

Interested parents may call the Miles Center to register students for the 2010-2011 East Central Pre-Kindergarten. Students should be the age 4 by September 15, 2010. The following information is needed: student's name, birthdate, parents name, address, and phone number.

Parents and Seniors-Class of 2010

Please mail financial aid forms as soon as possible. Feel free to call or see Mr. McDonough or Mrs. Friedrichsen if you have any questions. Graduation will be held Sunday, May 16, at 3 pm.

Report Cards

Report cards were mailed out in January.

Make Up Days

The make up days for the days we missed in December will be Tuesday, April 6th (A Day), Friday, May 21st (A Day), and Monday, May 24th (B Day).

The East Central Community School is an Equal Opportunity- Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate in its educational programs and activities on the basis of race, national origin, color, religion, sex, age, or handicap. For more information, please contact the superintendent's office.

THE EAST CENTRAL NEWSLETTER ISSUE 157/157 PUBLISHED IRREGULARLY BY
THE EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, PO BOX 367, MILES, IA 52064

Art News

The 8th grade art classes had a great time in the snow Thursday, January 14. By working in tag-team groups, they were able to share their cooperative efforts and talents to sculpt something from a seemingly thick mound of snow, in the parking lot of the Clinton National Bank branch in Sabula. The designs were thought about, drawn individually by each student, discussed as realistic enough to mold in a 40 minute period and whether it represented our school, the bank or the community and then voted on. The designs the two classes came up with were a billfold with money sticking out and the East Central Raider's swords and shield. I am very pleased with their team work and creative leadership when they work together. It was a great chance for the students to interact with the community. I am very grateful that the bank was gracious enough to host this project. Earlier in the school year, in the fall, Houzenga approached the Sabula City Council and was given approval for the 8th grade art class to do some community beautification and outreach in the Maude Brooks Park. The students surveyed the site, made the decisions and did a great job painting the fence surrounding the park. In the spring of 2010, this project will turn into a real life math problem, as they will be scaling a model design for the council to approve of a mosaic that will appear on the fountain's walls.

Iowa Test of Basic Skills/Iowa Test of Educational Development

Beginning the first part of February, students in grades 1-8 will be taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills; students in 9-11 will be taking the Iowa Test of Educational Development. These tests are extremely important in helping establish the direction of education in our district, as well as the state of Iowa. They measure individual, grade level, and school growth in the core areas of mathematics, reading, and science.

Because of the importance, we are asking that parents/guardians and students take the necessary steps to achieve success on these tests. It is vital that students get plenty of sleep (at least 8-9 hours). Eating correctly is another important criteria; eat a good breakfast and be sure to eat nutritional foods regularly. Preparing for the test at home might involve doing more reading than usual, doing everyday math problems (balancing the check book, helping with the grocery shopping, etc.) or enrichment activities in reading and math that are available from the teachers.

We appreciate this broad-based effort to help our students achieve at a higher level.

2009-2010 HIGH SCHOOL COLOR AND HARDCOVER YEARBOOKS ON SALE!

Now is the time to order your 2009-2010 yearbook. The 2009-2010 yearbook will be in the same format as last year. It will be in full color and have a hard cover. The book will contain 96 pages. The price will be \$25.00. The book will include PK-12 grades.

NAME: _____

GRADE: _____

FROM THE DESK OF THE COUNSELOR...

Where do I start? So much going on right now- sit back, read, and take it all in!

ACT- Next test dates: April 10th (whew, it's not the same day as Prom!) and June 12th. Registration dates are March 5th and May 7th respectively.

Juniors- Plan on taking the test one of these dates and register on-line at actstudent.org

Register on-line or get a packet from my office.

Seniors: Local scholarships will start to pick up- keep your eyes on the scholarship folder, as it will soon fill up!

Thank you to those parents and students who attended the financial aid meeting in January. Seniors who need additional information, please see me ASAP.

Don't forget, you can apply for your pin number while waiting for your tax appointments to file the FAFSA!

High School, Middle School, and Elementary Students will be taking the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills(ITBS) /Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITEDs) during the month of February. Please do your best on these not only for yourselves, but also for our school to assess your needs as students.

For the fourth year, we will be taking juniors who are interested to Maquoketa for an “**Apprenticeship Day**” where students can attend forums that discuss different types of employment, training, apprenticeships, etc. Building and Construction Trades Apprenticeship Programs, Rock Island Arsenal, Alcoa Aluminum Works are just a few that were represented last year. The date has not been set for this yet, but info. will be in the announcements.

A big thank you to former students who took time out of their winter vacation and work schedules to speak to our seniors and participate in our first **Alumni Focus Group** event on Dec. 18. The purpose was to gain insight from alumni regarding their personal experiences transitioning from EC to college, military or the working world, so that the faculty and staff can help to better prepare students for real-life experiences after high school. They spoke about what prepared them for the real world while they were in high school both academically and socially. They were also asked to discuss the advantages as well as disadvantages of graduating from a small school, strengths, weaknesses, successes, failures, etc. The seniors had to write reflections on the event, which they found extremely meaningful. We are planning on doing this again next year!

8th grade students have begun working on their core curriculum plan that includes items to “check off” their list while they are in high school. The plan includes:

- *Career options

- *Coursework needed in grades 9-12 to support their postsecondary education/career options

- *A timeline for each student to complete all of the components before graduation

- *A parent’s signature and the signed plan is included in the student’s cumulative record.

8th graders have done this in the past, but working through the interest inventory as well as having time to do more research on various careers is a huge positive in this process.

The website we use with our post-secondary and career planning is:

Ihaveaplaniowa.gov This website is awesome! It has tons of information related to careers, colleges, and job openings across the state. Parents, ask your kids about it and I bet they can show you some cool things available on this site. You may even learn what your child has planned for his/her future that you didn’t know!

Have a “sweet” February!

2009 Dubuque Racing Association Grants

Miles and Sabula elementary students are benefiting from the 2009 DRA Grant funds awarded to the East Central Community School District. The Miles Elementary Center was able to purchase a 15-laptop wireless lab and cart so that students and staff have internet access in their own classroom. The Sabula Elementary Center was able to add cameras to the security monitoring system already in place in the Middle School. Thanks to the generous funds from the Dubuque Racing Association, East Central’s elementary students have a better learning connection to the world outside of the classroom and a safer and more secure learning environment in our classrooms. Thanks DRA!! We appreciate your support!!

REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 21, 2009

The Board met in regular session December 21st at 5:00 P.M. Members present were Mollie Galusha, Andrew Naeve, Steve Gendreau, Warren Koch, via phone, and Jon Wall.

The minutes of the previous meetings were read for approval. Andrew Naeve moved and Jon Wall seconded to approve the minutes as read. Roll Call Vote – Gendreau-yes – Koch-yes - Naeve-yes – Wall-yes – Galusha-yes. Motion carried.

The financial reports were presented for discussion. Mollie Galusha moved and Jon Wall seconded to approve the financial reports as presented. Roll Call Vote – Galusha-yes – Wall-yes – Naeve-yes – Gendreau-yes – Koch-yes. Motion carried.

The monthly bills were presented for discussion. Warren Koch moved and Mollie Galusha seconded to approve the monthly bills as allowed. Roll Call Vote – Naeve-yes – Wall-yes – Koch-yes – Galusha-yes – Gendreau-yes. Motion carried.

Jon Wall moved and Andrew Naeve seconded to approve the agenda with no additions. Roll Call Vote – Naeve-yes – Wall-yes – Koch-yes – Galusha-yes – Gendreau-yes. Motion carried.

Supt.'s report:

- (a) Report by Jon Wall on the IASB Convention;
- (b) Report by Mr. House on Quiz Bowl-12 schools completed- East Central placed 4th;
- (c) Annual progress report by Mr. McDonough;
- (d) Report by Mr. McDonough on Maquoketa Area Grant of \$2,800;
- (e) Desk donation by Willie Hansen;
- (f) Make up days will be January 18th and April 6th.

There was no old business to discuss or act upon.

Steve Gendreau moved and Warren Koch seconded to appoint Dick Keeney, Vicki Johnson, and Andrew Naeve to serve on a joint committee to study whole grade sharing and reorganization with Northeast and Preston Districts. Roll Call Vote – Gendreau-yes – Koch-yes – Wall-yes – Naeve-yes – Galusha-yes. Motion carried.

Warren Koch moved and Jon Wall seconded to approve Kathryn House as assistant boys basketball coach. Roll Call Vote – Koch-yes – Wall-yes – Naeve-abstain – Galusha-yes – Gendreau-yes. Motion carried.

Warren Koch moved and Mollie Galusha seconded to approve participation in the Iowa Drug & Alcohol Testing Program. Roll Call Vote – Koch-yes – Galusha-yes – Gendreau-yes – Wall-yes – Naeve-yes. Motion carried.

Jon Wall moved and Andrew Naeve seconded to go into closed session for the evaluation of personnel at 5:50 p.m. Roll Call Vote – Wall-yes – Naeve-yes – Galusha-yes – Gendreau-yes – Koch-yes. Motion carried.

Mollie Galusha moved and Andrew Naeve seconded to reconvene into open session at 6:15 p.m. Roll Call Vote – Galusha-yes – Naeve-yes – Gendreau-yes – Koch-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

Being there was no further business to discuss or act upon, Mollie Galusha moved and Andrew Naeve seconded to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call Vote – Koch-yes - Naeve-yes – Wall-yes – Galusha-yes – Gendreau-yes. Motion carried.

REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 21, 2010

The Board met in regular session January 21st at 7:00 P.M. Members present were Mollie Galusha, Andrew Naeve, Steve Gendreau, Warren Koch, via phone, and Jon Wall. Also present was James House, Neil Gray, Matt McDonough, Brian Galusha, Gary & Lisa Holdgrafer, Anton Green, Troy Rittmer, Marci Rickords, Laura Horst, and Brenda McKone.

The minutes of the previous meetings were read for approval. Warren Koch moved and Mollie Galusha seconded to approve the minutes as read. Roll Call Vote – Gendreau-yes – Koch-yes - Naeve-yes – Wall-yes – Galusha-yes. Motion carried.

The financial reports were presented for discussion. Andrew Naeve moved and Jon Wall seconded to approve the financial reports as presented. Roll Call Vote – Galusha-yes – Wall-yes – Naeve-yes – Gendreau-yes – Koch-yes. Motion carried.

The monthly bills were presented for discussion. Jon Wall moved and Andrew Naeve seconded to approve the monthly bills as allowed. Roll Call Vote – Naeve-yes – Wall-yes – Koch-yes – Galusha-yes – Gendreau-yes. Motion carried.

Mollie Galusha moved and Jon Wall seconded to approve the agenda with no additions. Roll Call Vote – Naeve-yes – Wall-yes – Koch-yes – Galusha-yes – Gendreau-yes. Motion carried.

Supt.'s report:

- (a) Principals' report on the 2010-11 calendar;
- (b) January 27th study committee meeting at Northeast;
- (c) 2009-10 – 2010-11 budget projections by Mr. House;
- (d) Make up days for weather – Jan. 18th, April 16th, May 21st, 24th, 25th, and 26th;
- (e) Mollie Galusha presented her book "Shades of Blue" to high school library.

There was no old business to discuss or act upon.

Warren Koch moved and Mollie Galusha seconded to accept James House's resignation as Superintendent at the end of his current contract. Roll Call Vote – Galusha-yes – Naeve-yes – Wall-yes – Koch-yes – Gendreau-yes. Motion carried.

Warren Koch moved and Mollie Galusha seconded to accept Jacquelyn Schipper's resignation as family/consumer science teacher and Cecil Bentley's resignation as K-12 art instructor. Roll Call Vote – Gendreau-yes – Galusha-yes – Naeve-yes – Wall-yes – Koch-yes. Motion carried.

Dept. of Education's "Race to the Top" application and memorandum was discussed and decided not to file.

Andrew Naeve moved and Jon Wall seconded to approve early graduation for Luke McDonough. Roll Call Vote – Wall-yes – Koch-yes – Gendreau-yes – Galusha-yes – Naeve-yes. Motion carried.

Warren Koch moved and Jon Wall seconded to approve doing some repairs to the school owned house. Roll Call Vote – Koch-yes – Wall-yes – Galusha-yes – Naeve-yes – Gendreau-yes. Motion carried.

Being there was no further business to discuss or act upon, Warren Koch moved and Mollie Galusha seconded to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call Vote – Koch-yes - Naeve-yes – Wall-yes – Galusha-yes – Gendreau-yes. Motion carried.

Alumni Game

The East Central Athletic Boosters will be hosting their annual Alumni Games on Saturday, March 27. The games will start around 6:00 pm with volleyball, followed by girls and boys basketball. Any alumni interested in participating needs to contact Duane Garien at dgarien@east-central.k12.ia.us or 682-7762, Dick Keeney at 682-7667, or contact the school at 682-7131.