

East Central School District

P.O. Box 340
Miles, IA 52064



January 2012

NEWSLETTER

CHANGE TO THE NEWSLETTER

Due to recent changes to our bulk mailing, we will no longer be mailing out the newsletter to every household in the district. We will still continue to post the newsletter on the website and send a copy home with students. **If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter, please contact Tori at the school-682-7131 or tcreger@east-central.k12.ia.us and we will mail a copy to you with our regular mail.**

School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC)

Each year, the SIAC team meets twice a year to discuss issues involving the school.

The School Improvement Team is composed of staff, parents, students, and administrators representing the school and community. The School Improvement Team is responsible to: Focus on school improvement, serve as the district's 280.12/280.18 Committee, recommend and review district goals, review annual student achievement and make recommendations, develop/review long range strategic plan for the district, understand the school improvement process, work collaboratively to support the district and students, review the district MCNS/Equity program, review the district three-year Staff Development Plan, assist in district accreditation processes/plans, connect with community businesses and area service agencies in regard to school improvement efforts, address any committee functions required by the Code of Iowa and the Board of Education, conduct and interpret a community needs assessment every five years as well as use annual data to adjust action plans and timelines, maintain records of meetings.

We would like to set up a meeting in January. If anyone would like to volunteer to be a part of this committee, please contact Tori at the school, 563-682-7131 or email tcreger@east-central.k12.ia.us.



Thank You!!

An update and another huge THANK YOU to all who contributed to our shoe box project. We sent out 30 boxes. They were sent to needy children in India.

East Central Community School District 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.

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East Central/Northeast Feasibility Study

In order to receive supplemental funding through whole-grade sharing, the Department of Education requires schools to submit a reorganization feasibility to the School Budget Review Committee. East Central and Northeast commissioned Dr. Robert Decker, professor of Education Leadership at the University of Northern Iowa to lead this study. Along with his colleagues, Dr. Liz Jurgensen and Dr. Michael Jurgensen, the study team gathered and analyzed information during the spring of the 2010-2011 school year. **The results of the reorganization feasibility study will be presented January 11th at 7:30 p.m. in the Miles gym.**

Farwell Sandy and Wanda!!

For those of you that have stopped or called into the office lately, you will notice that there are different faces or voices answering the phone. After a combined total of 75 years of service, Sandy Hansen and Wanda Koch have decided to enjoy retirement!

We want to wish you all of the best and THANK YOU for all of your wonderful years of service to East Central.



Pam Koch, Superintendent Secretary/Tech Coordinator and Tori Creger, Business Manager/Board Secretary will be in the Miles office. Noreen Newberry, Elementary Secretary will be in the Sabula office from noon to 4:00 p.m.

Library News

Thanks to all who supported us at our annual Scholastic Book Fair. It was a huge success and our libraries will have many new books added to our collections from the proceeds.

Congratulations to the following people who won a free book from the candy cane drawing: Jacelyn Bendixen, Lynne Mangler, Haley Papke, Alecca Gray, Rylieahna Gillen, and Bryn Hartman.



School Dates

Jan 1st—Jan. 4th— Winter Break
Jan. 5th—Wear Your PJs Day!!
Jan. 11th—Early Out
Jan. 11th—Feasibility Study Presentation 7:30pm
Jan. 16th—No School
Jan. 23rd—Board Meeting @ 7:00pm Miles
Jan. 25th—Early Out



OPERATION GRATITUDE

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum is teaming with Operation Gratitude to send letters to Troops this winter, according to an announcement received at East Central this year. It was reported that "Our troops tell us the most cherished items in packages they receive are the personal letters of appreciation from Americans."

Students in both East Central Elementary Centers wrote letters of appreciation to send to the Hoover Museum to help brighten the winter for personnel serving in our military. The letters have been completed and were forwarded on December 20, 2011. Students signed only their first names, and the return address was given for the school, so any replies will come first to Mrs. Briegel, who coordinated the project. Caring is one of the pillars of the Character Counts Program, which emphasizes good qualities for students to develop, along with their academic growth.

CURRICULUM FOR HIGHER LEVEL THINKING



"The P. E. T. S. program is a systematized enrichment and diagnostic thinking skill program that serves the dual purpose of helping in the identification of academically talented students and teaching students higher level thinking skills," according to the authors. PETS stands for Primary Education Thinking Skills and follows a format modification of Dr. Joseph Renzull's Triad Model. The entire class is given the opportunity to experience the challenge of the new thinking skill. Based on teacher observation and student interest, a small group of students then have further opportunity to explore the new thinking skill in a variety of more in-depth activities. The small group may vary from thinking skill to thinking skill.

For the second year at East Central, third graders are being introduced to the the terms convergent, divergent, visual and evaluative thinking through the PETS program. During the three whole group lessons, teachers observe and record responses of students who show potential for the targeted thinking strategy with three small group lessons to follow.

Second grade students also participate in PETS lessons, and have completed the first two units of the four offered in their level book. PETS classes began for both first grade and kindergarten during second quarter. First grade units include: Deductive, inventive, Analytical, Creative, Visual, and Evaluative Thinking, with two whole class and two small group lessons as described above.

In all the lessons for all levels, the characters in the stories and activities are animals with highly developed skills, abilities and thinking strategies. There are many hands-on activities, puzzles, and learning opportunities. For further information about the PETS program you may contact Mrs. Briegel.

REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 19, 2011

The Board met in regular session December 19th at 5:00 P.M in the Miles Building. Members present were Roger Kilburg, Ryan Jargo, Mike Rickords, Mollie Galusha, Jon Wall.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read for approval. Mollie Galusha moved and Roger Kilburg seconded to approve the minutes as read. Roll Call Vote – Galusha-yes – Kilburg-yes -- Jargo-yes –Rickords-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

There were no delegations.

The financial reports were presented for discussion. Ryan Jargo moved and Mollie Galusha seconded to approve the financial reports as presented. Roll Call Vote – Jargo-yes – Galusha-yes – Rickords-yes – Kilburg-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

The monthly bills were presented for discussion. Roger Kilburg moved and Ryan Jargo seconded to approve the monthly bills as allowed. Roll Call Vote – Kilburg-yes – Jargo-yes – Rickords-yes – Galusha-yes - Wall-yes. Motion carried.

Mollie Galusha moved and Ryan Jargo seconded to approve the agenda with no additions. Roll Call Vote – Galusha-yes – Jargo-yes – Kilburg-yes – Rickords-yes - Wall-yes. Motion carried.

Supt.'s report:

- EC/NE feasibility report presentation (01-11-12 at 7:30 p.m.;
- January Board Meeting (01-23-12 at 7:00 p.m.;
- Iowa Superintendents Finance and Leadership Consortium;
- Preschool update;
- Going paperless;
- DE reporting update;
- Announcements.

Mollie Galusha moved and Roger Kilburg seconded to accept the bid from Bayne School and Office Equipment (\$10,750.00) for lunch room tables. Roll Call Vote – Galusha-yes – Kilburg-yes – Rickords-yes – Jargo-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

Mike Rickords moved and Roger Kilburg seconded to approve the recommendation to request Modified Allowable Growth for "At Risk". Roll Call Vote – Rickords-yes – Kilburg-yes – Jargo-yes – Galusha-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

Mike Rickords moved and Ryan Jargo seconded to approve participation in the Iowa Drug and Alcohol Testing Program. Roll Call Vote – Rickords-yes – Jargo-yes – Galusha-yes – Kilburg-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the 1st reading of the 2012-13 school calendar.

Mollie Galusha moved and Roger Kilburg seconded to approve Keith Westercamp as the delegate district nominee for IASB Board of Directors. Roll Call Vote – Galusha-yes – Kilburg-yes – Jargo-yes – Rickords-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

The Board will continue to review the 700 series policies.

Mollie Galusha moved and Roger Kilburg seconded to accept the bid from B & G Automotive (\$325.00) for the 1998 Chevy Lumina. Roll Call Vote – Galusha-yes – Kilburg-yes – Rickords-yes – Jargo-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

Being there was no further business to discuss or act upon Ryan Jargo moved and Roger Kilburg seconded to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call Vote – Jargo-yes – Kilburg-yes – Rickords-yes – Galusha-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

East Central Schools

682-7131 – Miles

687-2427 – Sabula



The East Central School District has signed up to take part in a new notification system offered by the State of Iowa called “Iowa School Alerts.” **This program gives parents, the media and others the opportunity to sign up to receive e-mail notifications directly when we have cancelled classes, or will be dismissing early or starting late due to weather or other factors.** This service, which was developed by IT staff at the Department of Administrative Services, is **free of charge** to you and the school. The State funded the development of this program through the IOWAccess initiative, which seeks to bring more e-government services to the people of Iowa. And because the system is funded and operated by the state, you can be assured that your e-mail addresses will not be sold to anyone and you will not receive advertisements or spam due to enrolling in the program.

Here’s how you can take advantage of this free service & sign up for e-mail alerts:

1. Click on “Sign Up!” in the Main Menu at <https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov>. This will take you to the “Enterprise A&A” screen for the State of Iowa. If you already have an account with the State (say, for another online application), there’s no need to create another one.
2. Follow the on-screen instructions to enter your name and e-mail address, and create secret questions and your password. This step involves obtaining a code from an e-mail sent to you to confirm your registration.
3. Once you have created and confirmed your account registration, you will be taken back to the School Alerts site where you can click on “My Subscriptions” to add the school districts/buildings you would like to receive notices for. Once you’ve selected a school, you are asked to enter the e-mail addresses or cell phone addresses where you would like notifications sent. You can add as many e-mail addresses as you’d like! (Please note that some wireless services providers may charge you for receiving e-mails or text messages. You are responsible for those charges.)

We will still make sure that local media outlets are notified when there’s a change in our classes so notices will still be made on the television and radio, but we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to be directly notified as well!

If you have any questions about signing up for Iowa School Alerts, please contact Neil Gray or Pam Koch at school (ngray@east-central.k12.ia.us or pkoch@east-central.k12.ia.us) or e-mail schoolalertsinfo@iowa.gov

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment to another district can be rescinded at any time. It doesn’t matter if a student has been registered in another district or starts the school year in another district— parents/guardians have the right to re-enroll their child in their school district at any time. To rescind one’s open enrollment, parents/guardians simply need to notify the resident district in writing.

UNSCHEDULED EARLY DISMISSALS

If it becomes necessary to dismiss school early because of hot weather, snow, water problems, boiler failures, or any other unforeseen circumstances; we will notify area radio and TV stations. Please discuss your plans with your children as you make arrangements for their supervision. The following radio and TV stations are notified: KROS & KLNT Clinton, KCLN Clinton, KWQC Davenport, KMAQ Maquoketa, WCCI FM Savanna, WMT radio Cedar Rapids, and School Alerts. East Central is on the same dismissal schedule as Northeast.

