

OCTOBER 2010

**SENIOR PICTURES NEEDED!**

The yearbook staff needs one color and one baby picture of each senior. If you haven't made an appointment yet, you better hurry!

**YEARBOOKS**

The 2009-10 yearbooks have arrived! If you ordered one and have not received it yet, please contact Whitney Tyler at the High School. There were a few extra sent, and they will be available for \$25.00.

**PSAT TEST**

The 2010 PSAT/NMSQT will be offered at East Central on Wednesday, October 13. This test measures the verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities that are important in college work. It is geared towards juniors. A \$13 fee will be charged and must be paid prior to the test. Students may sign up in the high school office.

**PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held Monday, October 25 and Thursday, October 28 from 4-8pm. There will be no school on Friday, October 29.

**BAND NEWS**

October will be a busy month for the East Central Raider Regiment and the East Central Middle School Marching Band. The Raider Regiment and the Middle School Band will travel to Bellevue, Iowa on October 2 to participate in Marchin' and Movin' on the Mississippi. The parade begins at 10:30 and includes both the high school and the middle school bands, and the field competition begins at 1:00 for the Raider Regiment. Individual performance times have not yet been promulgated.

On Oct. 9th the High School Band will travel to Cedar Rapids to perform at the State of Iowa Marching Band Festival at Kingston Stadium. As of yet, performance times and competing bands have not been set.

On Oct. 19, both bands will host their own stadium concert in the high school gym. We hope that many of you can get out to see our bands perform this season.

A lot of hard work goes into each performance, and the students appreciate seeing many friendly faces at the performances throughout the year.

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## **From the Desk of the Counselor...**

Here are some important items/dates to be aware of for the month of October:

### **Attention seniors!**

Take the ACT again or for the first time. By the time you receive this newsletter, December 1<sup>st</sup> is the next test date. You must register by November 5<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) to register.

If you haven't done so already, choose at least three colleges to visit

Call the admissions office for an appointment

Visit with students and faculty

Talk with them about special financial aid information for their school and/or special application procedures required

***FINANCIAL AID NIGHT is EARLY this year- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM -MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! THIS IS FOR SENIORS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS.***

### **Juniors...**

The PSAT will be given Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. This test measures critical thinking, math problem solving, and writing skills. This test is not necessary to take to get into college; however, it is an annual, academic competition among high school students for recognition and college scholarships. The PSAT is the qualifying test for entry to the 2011 National Merit Program. If you are interested, please contact me for more information. You can check out their website at [www.collegeboard.com/psat](http://www.collegeboard.com/psat) for sample questions and more details.

Also, pay attention to ACT registration and test dates as well. You should be taking this now so by the time you are seniors, you are ready to apply, get accepted, and get going out of here! It's time to start thinking about this.

Watch announcements for when colleges are visiting East Central and plan accordingly if you would like to visit with the representative. Many are scheduled during homeroom/seminar times, and if you travel frequently during those times, let me know so I can get information for you!

### **Sophomores:**

On Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> we will be going to Clinton Community College for a Sophomore Career Fair. Stay tuned for more information on this. We leave at approximately 8:30 that morning, eat lunch in town, and be back for last block for sure. I will be around with sign-up information for sessions.

Have a great fall!!!!



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## **TALENT SEARCHES OFFERED**

East Central students have been notified of two academic talent searches that are available for qualifying students. These students have the opportunity to take above-level, or out-of-level, testing through the searches. Seventh graders who received 95% or above on prescribed parts of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) during the previous two school years are invited to participate in the Talent Identification Program (TIP) from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Registration materials were sent home with qualifiers in September. Congratulations to the eight seventh graders who qualified.

The University of Iowa, through the Belin-Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development, offers the Belin-Blank Exceptional Student Talent Search (BESTS). Students qualified for this above-level testing opportunity by scoring 95% or above on the selected parts of ITBS from last school year. The BESTS tests are offered for qualifiers in grades four through nine. Thirty-seven students from East Central have received the qualifying scores. Information packs and registration materials will be sent home with students as soon as they are received from the University of Iowa, Belin-Blank Center.

## **PIONEER DAY**

On Friday, October 8, East Central fifth grade students will attend the Pioneer Day as guests of Preston Elementary School. During the day they will observe various presenters showing the skills and processes used by pioneers, including broom-making, caning, apple-butter preparation, mountain dulcimer musical instrument, and others.

Students will walk to the Thresher Grounds (weather permitting). They will wear clothing representative of pioneer times, and will bring their lunches, non-refrigerated, of course.

In the afternoon, Tommy Russell, caller from Eldridge, Iowa, will teach some square dance figures, and some local square dancers will demonstrate some of the dance moves. All students will have an opportunity to experience a real square dance.

Dear Parent/Legally Authorized Adult:

Between September 27th and October 29th of 2010, your child/children will be invited to join their 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade classmates in completing the 2010 Iowa Youth Survey Online. Since 1975, students in Iowa have been filling out this questionnaire to provide information about their values, beliefs, attitudes, and activities. **Participation in the survey is anonymous and strictly voluntary, and no student is required to fill out the questionnaire.** The survey will take one class period, approximately 45 minutes, to complete.

Purpose of the Survey:

The 2010 Iowa Youth Survey is directed by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Division of Behavioral Health in collaboration with the Iowa Departments of Education and Human Rights (CJJP), and the University of Iowa. Your school district has signed up to administer the survey for 2010.

The purpose of the survey is to collect information about Iowa youth so we can better understand their beliefs, values, and decisions about what makes them feel secure, strong, and safe in their communities, schools, and families. In addition, information is collected about their ideas on alcohol, tobacco, drugs, bullying and harassment, and violence prevention. The information collected will help the state planning agencies, our schools, and local community task forces put together valuable future programming. It is important to ask children to tell us what is good and working about their life in Iowa, and what needs improvement, in their eyes.

The Attorney General for the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has developed a plan for making sure that the survey is voluntary and has parent approval. This plan is called a “passive consent” procedure and it has three parts:

1. An Information Summary to give you the basic information about the survey. (Included)
2. An opportunity to read the survey questions at your child's school before your child/children volunteer to answer the questions.
3. An opportunity for you to provide written refusal if you ***do not*** want your child/children to participate in such a survey.

## **Part 1. The Information Summary**

### *Parental Rights:*

- You have the right and the responsibility to be informed about that which your child volunteers to participate in school.
- You have the right to receive accurate information, about the Iowa Youth Survey questionnaire, in order for you to make good decisions for your family.

### *Iowa Youth Survey Content:*

Some of the areas on the questionnaire will have sensitive questions about tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, sexual values, and thoughts on violence and safety. It is important to remember that our school children do not live in identical environments. All children and families do not have the same beliefs, attitudes or values. Your child/children may make very different life choices than other children. If we are going to plan programming that keeps all children safe and connected to their families, schools and communities, we need to know what all Iowa children are thinking, saying and doing.

### *Confidentiality:*

All information collected will be anonymous. Students will not put names, birthdates, or any other way to identify them on the survey, and all questionnaires will be confidential. Information from the 6th graders will be added together and reported as a school district group. The same will be true for the 8th and 11th grades. All data will be held in the survey data base until all schools have completed the surveys. It will then be sorted and analyzed.

### *Compensation:*

There will be no compensation or reward for students participating in the survey.

### *Voluntary:*

- All students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades will be invited to fill out the Iowa Youth Survey questionnaire. Students will have the right to refuse to answer any questions on the survey. If students decide they want to change their mind and quit answering the survey, during the survey, they may do so.
- If, as a parent or legally authorized representative, you do not want your child/children to participate, you must send the school the *Refusal of Consent* form provided in this letter, and your child/children will be provided a neutral activity during the survey class period. There is no penalty for anyone who decides not to participate.

### *Risk:*

There is no direct risk involved in filling out the survey. Students may find some questions uncomfortable to answer. They may leave blank any question they do not wish to answer.

### *Benefits:*

There will be no direct benefits to the students the day of the survey. The data collected throughout the state will provide schools and communities with the information they need to provide programs that will support schools, communities and families in keeping their children safe and hopeful about their future. The data is vital for grant writing purposes.

Questions regarding the Iowa Youth Survey Online are encouraged. Please contact your school principal, Linda McGinnis, at the Iowa Department of Public Health, 515-281-5444, email: lmcginni@idph.state.ia.us or DeAnn Decker, Iowa Department of Public Health, 515-281-0928, email: ddecker@idph.state.ia.us.

**Part 2: Reviewing the Survey**

A copy of the Iowa Youth Survey Online will be available to preview at the school office. It must be reviewed there and not taken home. **It will not be available for view online prior to administration, nor will it be emailed to parents.**

**Part 3: Refusal of Consent**

I have read the Information Summary provided. I understand that my child/children's participation in the survey is strictly *voluntary*. I also understand my right to review the survey at the school office and District Administration Office from the date of school registration in August through September, 2010. I **do not** want my child/children listed below to participate in the 2010 Iowa Youth Survey Online. I understand that a neutral activity will be provided for them during the survey time and that there is no penalty for my family members not participating. I understand that this refusal of consent needs to be received by the district no later than **October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010**. Please return to the building principal.

Names of child/children who ***will not*** participate in the 2010 Iowa Youth Survey Online:

\_\_\_\_\_

Child Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Grade

\_\_\_\_\_

Child Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Grade

\_\_\_\_\_

Child Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Grade

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date